

YELLOWSTONE: First National Park

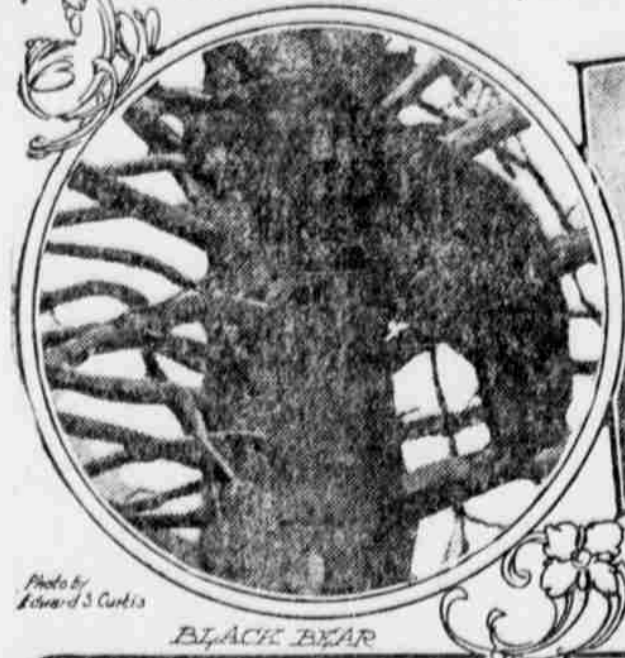


Photo by Edward S. Curtis

BLACK BEAR



Photo by Haynes

JACKSON LAKE AND TETON RANGE



Photo by Haynes

SHOSHONE LAKE TROUT



Photo by Haynes

OLD FASHIONED GEYSER



Photo by Haynes

CLEOPATRA TERRACE—PLATYFOOT HOT SPRINGS



Photo by S. L. Cook

A SMALL ELK HERD



ON YELLOWSTONE RIVER

GOING to "Colter's Hell" this summer? If so, be sure to take with you Uncle Sam's 1920 bulletin, just off the government press. It tells you all about "Colter's Hell"—which is to say, the Yellowstone, oldest and most famous of our 19 national parks.

Why "Colter's Hell"? Well, it's an interesting story and not everyone knows it. The story of John Colter and "Colter's Hell" properly begins away back in 1803, when Thomas Jefferson, our third president, bought the Louisiana territory from Napoleon Bonaparte.

The western boundary of the United States was then the Mississippi, as fixed by the treaty with Great Britain after the Revolution. Jefferson sent James Monroe to France to co-operate with Minister Robert R. Livingston in the purchase of the Mississippi's mouth for \$2,000,000. Napoleon laughed at them. He had just made Spain cede him the Louisiana Territory, intending to establish there an empire to replace that lost to the British in Canada. Then Napoleon saw he must fight the British. He could not fight and colonize, too. So, to spite the British, he told the two Americans they could have all the country between the Mississippi and the Rockies (Texas not included) for \$15,000,000. And he made Monroe and Livingston agree. Jefferson was scared stiff at the act of his agents. There was a nationwide rumpus over the purchase, but congress ratified it and the people finally approved it.

Jefferson had not the slightest idea what the United States had bought and in the spring of 1804 he started the Lewis and Clark expedition from St. Louis to find out. This famous expedition went to the mouth of the Columbia river and returned to St. Louis in 1806, after having been given up for lost. It passed a few miles to the north of the Yellowstone, without even suspecting its existence.

John Colter was one of the private soldiers of the expedition. Before it reached St. Louis he got his discharge and returned with two trappers to the headwaters of the Missouri for beaver. In the spring of 1807 at the mouth of the Platte he met Manuel Lisa and again turned back. Lisa built Fort Lisa at the confluence of the Yellowstone and the Big Horn. Colter, going alone to summon the Crows to the fort for trade, passed to the south of the Yellowstone through Jackson's Hole to Pierre's Hole at the west of the Yellowstone. Returning thence to Fort Lisa, he passed diagonally through the Yellowstone, the first white man to see its wonders.

Colter, after adventures and travels that give him a front rank among explorers of the west, returned to St. Louis in 1810. He recounted his adventures and he told of the marvels of the Yellowstone. St. Louis believed some of his tales of adventure, but would have none of the geysers, boiling springs and paint-pots of the Yellowstone. They derisively dubbed it "Colter's Hell," laughed over it for a time and then forgot it. Gen. William Clark, his commander, was the only one to believe him. On the official map of the Lewis and Clark expedition is a dotted line from Fort Lisa to the Yellowstone and return, with the legend, "Colter's route in 1807."

The Yellowstone was discovered the second time about 1827—this time by Jim Bridger, one of Gen. William H. Ashley's lieutenants in the Rocky Mountain Fur company. Bridger was the discoverer of Great Salt Lake, a map-maker without an equal, a mountaineer, plainsman and guide with no superior. But he had a hobby—big yarns. It is he who made up those classic "whoppers" of the west—the obsidian cliff, boiling spring, echo and alum creek stories. So, when he told about the wonders of the Yellowstone, a scoffing frontier said, with laughter: "Oh, just another of Jim Bridger's yarns."

Warren Angus Ferris described the Upper Geyser basin of the Yellowstone in 1842—and was not believed. Prospectors in the Montana gold excitement of 1862 again described the Yellowstone; they were set down as liars. Newspapers and magazines would not publish the stories; lecturers were stoned. In 1869 the semi-official Montana Washburn-Langford expedition did succeed in getting a hearing. In 1870 the federal government sent an official expedition which officially put the Yellowstone on the map.

Cornelius Hedges, September 18, 1870, by a campfire in the Yellowstone, proposed that the wonderland be made a national park—a play-

ground set aside for the people's use forever. The idea took. Congress established the Yellowstone National park, March 1, 1872.

The establishment of the Yellowstone as a national park after 65 years of "discoveries" was the first time such a thing had been done in all history. The United States set the example which practically all the civilized world has followed.

Uncle Sam's 1920 Yellowstone Bulletin is a fascinating booklet of 103 pages of text, maps and illustrations. It contains everything that the tourist needs to know, from how to get there to a time table of the geysers and from the different kinds of trout to the automobile regulations. The following items are taken from the introductory pages:

The Yellowstone National park was created by the act of March 1, 1872. It is approximately 62 miles long and 54 miles wide, giving an area of 3,348 square miles, or 2,142,720 acres. It is under the control and supervision of the national park service of the interior department.

The Yellowstone is probably the best known of our national parks. Its geysers are celebrated the world over because, for size, power, and variety of action, as well as number, the region has no competitor.

The Yellowstone National park is located in northwestern Wyoming, encroaching slightly upon Montana and Idaho. It is our largest national park. The central portion is essentially a broad, elevated, volcanic plateau, between 7,000 and 8,500 feet above sea level and with an average elevation of about 8,000 feet. Surrounding it on the south, east, north, and northwest, are mountain ranges with culminating peaks and ridges rising from 2,000 to 4,000 feet above the general level of the inclosed tableland.

The entire region is volcanic. Not only the surrounding mountains but the great interior plain is made of material once ejected, as ash and lava, from depths far below the surface. Geological speculation points to a crater which doubtless once opened just west of Mount Washburn.

There are five active geyser basins, the Norris, the Lower, the Upper, the Heart lake, and Shoshone basins, all lying in the west and south central parts of the park. The geysers exhibit a large variety of character and action. Some, like Old Faithful, spout at quite regular intervals, longer or shorter. Others are irregular. Some burst upward with immense power. Others shoot streams at angles or bubble and foam in action.

Geysers are, roughly speaking, water volcanoes. They occur only at places where the internal heat of the earth approaches close to the surface. Their action, for so many years unexplained, and even now regarded with wonder by so many, is simple. Water from the surface trickling through cracks in the rocks, or water from subterranean springs collecting in the bottom of the geyser's crater, down among the strata of intense heat, becomes itself intensely heated and gives off steam, which expands and forces upward the cooler water that lies above it.

At last the water in the bottom reaches so great an expansion under continued heat that the less heated water above can no longer weigh it down, so it bursts upward with great violence, rising many feet in the air and continuing to play until practically all the water in the crater has been expelled.

Nearly the entire Yellowstone region is remarkable for its hot water phenomena. The more prominent geysers are confined to three basins lying near each other in the middle west side of the park, but other hot water manifestations occur at more widely separated points. Marvelously colored hot springs, mud volcanoes, and other strange phenomena are frequent. At Mammoth,

at Norris, and at Thumb the hot water has brought to the surface quantities of white mineral deposits which build terraces of beautifully incrustated basins high up into the air, often engulfing trees of considerable size. Over the edges of these curved basins pours the hot water. Microscopic plants called algae grow on the edges and sides of these basins, painting them hues of red and pink and bluish gray, which glow brilliantly. At many other points lesser hot springs occur, introducing strange, almost uncanny, elements into wooded and otherwise quite normal landscapes.

The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone affords a spectacle worthy of a national park were there no geysers. Standing upon Inspiration Point, which pushes out almost to the center of the canyon, one seems to look almost vertically down upon the foaming Yellowstone river. To the south a waterfall twice the height of Niagara rushes genially out of the pine-clad hills and pours downward to be lost again in green. From that point two or three miles to where you stand and beneath you widens out the most glorious kaleidoscope of color you will ever see in nature. The steep slopes, dropping on either side 1,000 feet and more from the pine-topped levels above, are inconceivably carved and fretted by the frost and the erosion of the ages.

The fossil forests of the Yellowstone National park cover an extensive area in the northern portion of the park, being especially abundant along the west side of Lamar river for about 20 miles above its junction with the Yellowstone. One traversing the valley of the Lamar river may see at many places numerous upright fossil trunks in the faces of nearly vertical walls. These trunks are not all at a particular level but occur at irregular heights; in fact a section cut down through these 2,000 feet of beds would disclose a succession of fossil forests. That is to say, after the first forest grew and was entombed, there was a time without volcanic outburst—a period long enough to permit a second forest to grow above the first. This in turn was covered by volcanic material and preserved, to be followed again by a period of quiet, and these more or less regular alternations of volcanism and forest growth continued throughout the time the beds were in process of formation.

The Yellowstone National park is the largest and most successful wild animal refuge in the world. It is also, for this reason, the best and most accessible field for nature study. Its 3,300 square miles of mountains and valleys remain nearly as nature made them, for the 200 miles of roads and the four hotels and many camps are as nothing in this immense wilderness. No tree has been cut except when absolutely necessary for road or trail or camp. No herds invade its valleys. Visitors for the most part keep to the beaten road, and the wild animals have learned in the years that they mean them no harm. To be sure they are not always seen by the people in the automobile stages which whirl from point to point daily during the season; but the quiet watcher on the trails may see deer and bear and elk and antelope to his heart's content, and he may even see mountain sheep, moose, and bison by journeying on foot or by horseback into their distant retreats.

It is an excellent bird preserve also; 200 species live natural, undisturbed lives. Eagles are found among the crags.

Front fishing in Yellowstone waters is unexcelled. All three of the great watersheds abound in trout, which often attain large size. Yellowstone lake is the home of large trout, which are taken freely from boats, and the Yellowstone river and its tributaries yield excellent catches to the skillful angler.

The criticism often made by persons who have visited granite countries that the Yellowstone region lacks the supreme grandeur of some others of our national parks will cease to have weight when the magnificent Teton mountains just south of the southern boundary are added to the park. These mountains begin at the foot of the Pitchstone plateau a mile or two below the southern gateway and extend south and west. They border Jackson lake on its west side, rising rapidly in a series of remarkably toothed and jagged peaks until they reach a sublime climax, 30 miles south of the park, in the Grand Teton, which rises cathedral-like to an altitude of 13,747 feet.

These amazing mountains are, from their nature, a component part of the Yellowstone National park, whose gamut of majestic scenery they complete, and no doubt would have been included within its original boundaries had their supreme magnificence been then appreciated. Already Yellowstone visitors have claimed it, and automobile stages run to Moran and back on regular schedule. In time, no doubt, part of it will be added formally to the park territory.

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If you are afflicted with Rheumatism, why waste time with liniments, lotions and other local applications that never did cure Rheumatism, and never will? Do not try to rub the pain away, for you will never succeed. Try the sensible plan of finding the cause of the pain. Remove the cause, and there can be no pain. You will never be rid of Rheumatism until you cleanse your blood of the germs that cause the disease. S. S. S. has no equal as a blood purifier, scores of sufferers say that it has cleansed their blood of Rheumatism, and removed all trace of the disease from their system.

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HAD FORGOTTEN THE CLOCK

Little Story Has a Moral for Those Who Fall to Heed the Early Call of Duty.

With a horrified start, John Spooks awoke from a sound sleep and listened.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

Yes; there it was again. It was no dream!

"Good-night!" he cried. "My heart! I never knew before that I had one!"

Thump! Thump! Thump!

"Evelina," cried the unfortunate man to his wife, "my heart's bad! Run round to the druggist's and get me some medicine. Oh, this is horrible!"

Thump! Thump! Thump!

Spooks, lying on his back, felt his whole body rebound with the terrific force of the pumping.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

The very pictures on the wall seemed to sway dizzily with the vibration. The agonized man could stand it no longer. Leaping up in bed, he grabbed the pillow to his heart to smother the sounds of that awful thumping, and found that his alarm clock had been under his pillow ticking harshly.

He had shoved it under there when it had started to ring two hours before.

It is useless to worry and useless to tell a man that it is useless to worry.

His Objections.
The popular author entered the publisher's sanctum, seething with indignation.

"What's this I hear—you want some alterations in my manuscript?" he demanded. "I've made some libelous statements, have I? Where?"

"You have," said the publisher calmly. "Here, on page 30, you say your heroine, who lives in Pittsburgh, 'clutched the air convulsively.'"

"Well, what's wrong with that?" demanded the irate writer.

"And then," went on the man who objected, "on page 40 you say the heroine went and washed her hands. It's a libel on Pittsburgh air, sir."

Our Overflowing Riches.
A Swede in Minnesota, who had but recently arrived there, was speaking enthusiastically to a friend of the wonders of America.

"It ban a fine country, Niels," he said to a friend, "and very generous ban everybody here. I asked at the post office about sending money to my mother and the young man tell me I can get a money order for \$10 for 10 cents."

Two Sides to Every Story.
From the Agony Column—Robert, come home. All is forgiven.

Reply in Same Two Days Later—Madge, can't come home. Cannot forgive myself.—Boston Transcript.

The Modern Table Drink

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