



North Entrance station and arch from just inside the park, 1922.

*Now that a national memorial park has been established for Theodore Roosevelt and the legislation establishing the area provides for a monument to be erected in Medora, North Dakota, we believe that thought should be given to the dismantling of the Roosevelt Memorial Arch, North Entrance, Yellowstone National Park, and the cornerstone*

*laid by Theodore Roosevelt used in the proposed monument in Medora, N. Dak., particularly since the Roosevelt Arch is not well located. Please let us have your and Superintendent Rogers' comments regarding this proposal as soon as practicable.*<sup>109</sup>

Merriam dutifully forwarded the

memo to Yellowstone Superintendent Edmund Rogers, noting in his cover memo that there seemed to be some good reasons not to dismantle the arch, at least not yet. Rogers responded in the same vein, agreeing with Merriam that although the arch had to some extent been marginalized by the new traffic route, the local people would disapprove of its removal:

*While the unrest that was created by Gardiner residents last year over routing outgoing traffic around the Arch resulted in hard feelings of only a few local businessmen, we are confident that any proposal to dismantle the Arch and ship the cornerstone to some other area would result in a very strong and united protest by all residents of Gardiner and a large group of people throughout Montana.*<sup>110</sup>

On the other hand, Rogers said that if a new north entrance road was constructed and the local traffic problem solved, then "it is doubtful that much criticism would be encountered locally to the dismantling of the Arch. We do contemplate, however, that strong pressure would be brought

larly put to use to justify or defend a wide variety of political, social, and economic positions, from the most strident to the most mild-mannered, from the most destructively intrusive to the most light-on-the-land sensitive. In the park's earliest days, "benefit and enjoyment" were often implicitly and simplistically interpreted to mean "profit and convenience" or "advantage and entertainment." As the decades have passed since the park was established, however, the idea and ideals behind national parks have continued to develop and evolve. This has resulted in many other interpretations of these terms, interpretations that are both more challenging and, it seems, more rewarding.

For example, as Yellowstone's world significance as a healthy, wild ecosystem became better known, especially in the past half-century, the public's "benefit and enjoyment" of the park came to depend more heavily on that ecological condition. A Yellowstone without its natural processes functioning (which was the case when fires were suppressed, for example, or when predators were destroyed) is, in effect, less able to teach and inspire than a Yellowstone in which those processes are thriving. Previous definitions of benefit and enjoyment led to garbage-fed bears, encouraged the slaughter of thousands of trout by fishermen who then simply threw

them away, destroyed natural hot spring formations to pipe their water into bathing pools, or otherwise favored treatments of Yellowstone's natural wonders that we now see as heavy-handed, short-sighted, or simply foolish.

In a way, the arch's inscription is itself a kind of challenge to us. Each generation must reconsider the definition of Yellowstone, as our generation is doing right now—in the ongoing controversy over the bison that want to migrate beyond the arch to historic winter ranges farther north. This continuing reconsideration of Yellowstone is a painful and trying social process, but it is also an essential one if Yellowstone is to remain vital and best able to provide each new generation the kinds of benefit and enjoyment they regard as fitting. The quotation on the arch remains as essential a guiding principle as it was a century ago, but its meaning never was simple, and probably never will be completely agreed upon.

<sup>109</sup>For a summary of events leading up to that day, see Michael K. Phillips and Douglas W. Smith, *The Wolves of Yellowstone* (Stillwater, Minn.: Voyageur Press, 1996).

<sup>110</sup>"Indians march from across U.S. to protest bison killings," *Billings Gazette*, February 28, 1999.

<sup>111</sup>"Indians protest killing of buffalo," (Louisville, Kentucky) *Courier Journal*, February 28, 1999.

to bear to have the Arch relocated on the new highway.”<sup>111</sup> If Rogers’s assessment of the local mood was correct, the arch was not quite disposable, but it might be portable.

Of course, none of these proposed or imagined changes were ever made. In 1953, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arch also passed with no celebration in the park, though the appearance of an extended newspaper article in the *Park County News* for April 16, 1953, full of details about the original festivities, suggested considerable interest in the history of the arch and of Gardiner’s “greatest day.”<sup>112</sup> The article stated, “no formal celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the arch is planned, but the traveling public will be reminded of the anniversary in Montana travel literature and special publicity throughout the 1953 park season.”<sup>113</sup> The newspaper account is especially revealing of the sense of tradition that had by this point already grown up around the arch: “Members of virtually every race and country on the globe have passed through the Roosevelt arch [*sic.*] at Gardiner in the past half century on their way to view the wonders of Yellowstone, and they will keep on entering the park through the arch for many ages to come”<sup>114</sup>

Photographs of the arch show changes in fencing and shrubbery over the years, as well as suggesting that at times, at least for special occasions, the arch was even gated. The small walkways, or “pedestrian portals,” on both sides of the main arch were boarded up at various times and in various ways. For many years, the entrance station, from which rangers greeted visitors and collected entrance fees, was located on the west side of the road just within the park from the arch at the current site of the sign that announces one’s arrival in Yellowstone National Park.



Arch Park, spring 2003.

By 1972, when the arch was examined by staff from the National Park Service’s Historic Preservation office at the Denver Service Center, it was described as “generally intact,” except for the loss of the wing wall removed in 1930.<sup>115</sup> There was “some deterioration of the concrete cap and two lower tablets.”<sup>116</sup> More important, the historic structures report said that “The structure has lost much of its significance due to the fact that large numbers of visitors no longer come to the park by train into Gardiner, and consequently the handsome railroad station no longer stands and the park [today’s Arch Park, now restored] is virtually gone. Additionally, much of the automobile traffic now by-passes the arch, and there are currently plans for a new road alignment into Gardiner which would virtually eliminate all auto traffic through this structure.”<sup>117</sup>

But unlike some earlier observers, who saw lack of continued public use as justification for elimination of the arch, the authors of the historic structures report suggested that the arch be “developed as a wayside historical exhibit commemorating the establishment of Yellowstone as the first National Park. The monumental scale of the structure and the sentiments expressed on it would seem to make it particularly appropriate for this purpose.”<sup>118</sup> The authors further stated that the centennial celebration of

Yellowstone, just then about to get underway, would be an especially appropriate occasion to begin such an interpretive development.

Though nothing so ambitious was undertaken that summer, park officials did hold a rededication ceremony for the arch on Sunday, June 18, 1972. Mason Grand Master Arnold G. Beusen led the ceremony, along with other Masons. So as not to disrupt traffic flow at the arch, officials held the

ceremony at the small park nearby. Following a parade that included early Yellowstone stagecoaches, Congressman Richard G. Shoup read greetings from President Richard Nixon and then rain forced onlookers to reconvene at Gardiner’s Eagles Hall. The day’s activities concluded with a barbecue sponsored by the Gardiner American Legion Post. An interesting addition to the activities was the display of a full miniature model of the arch designed by a member of the Montana Masons.<sup>119</sup> In the mid-1980s, the arch finally received much-needed maintenance and stabilization.<sup>120</sup>

The site between the arch and the depot eventually became a town park. By 1972, the Park Service had erected a rustic amphitheater here for evening interpretive programs, and Gardiner residents used the spot for picnic-type festivities. In 1999–2000, a partnership of government agencies including the National Park Service built the (much-improved) “Arch Park” picnic pavilion on the site for \$129,000, and equipped it with interpretive wayside exhibits describing the history of the area.<sup>121</sup>

Last, it is a remarkable footnote to the history of the arch that it did not gain listing on the National Register of Historic Places until 2002. After many years of intermittent paperwork on behalf of this well-earned distinction, the arch was listed not for itself but as a contributing

structure to the North Entrance Road Historic District as of 2002.<sup>122</sup>

### Remembering what the arch meant in 1903

Construction of the arch in 1903 solidified Yellowstone's somewhat abstract northern entry point into a place more defined and tangible, especially when the arch combined with the new train presence and its symbol, the Reamer depot. Completion of these structures seemed to usher the park formally into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, literally and symbolically—literally because it was 1903 and symbolically because the arch represented a step into modernity: trains now came right to the park boundary.

For visitors of 1903 and many years afterward, these edifices may have made Yellowstone seem a little less wild. But at the time they were constructed, the arch and the depot probably did what Chittenden hoped: make the North Entrance to the park more interesting as a place to arrive. The visitor alighting from a train experienced a foreshadowing as he or she stared at the arch. It is probably not straining the bounds of historical interpretation to say that for many visitors, just then arrived in a strange new place, the depot and the arch were an inspiring presage of wonders to come, even a portent of magic and mysteries that might lie in store for them beyond this designated threshold, this newly anointed entryway.

By participating in its dedication, Theodore Roosevelt elevated the historical stature of the arch far beyond the fairly lofty ambitions of its designers. It was no longer just a grand portal into a magical landscape; it was an important object of American culture, swept along in the tide of change that Roosevelt himself was attempting to direct in American society and the world. As Roosevelt was perhaps our greatest conservationist president, the arch, through intimate identification with his legend, could not avoid becoming a powerful symbol of that good cause. And, as Roosevelt himself was a tireless campaigner on behalf of the physical and spiritual benefits of the wilderness, the arch has come to stand for Yellowstone's role as source of serenity and reflection.

The glory days of the arch are long

past. They may already have begun to fade by 1915, when that first Model T Ford drove into the park. Or perhaps they peaked much earlier, on an April day in 1903, when an energetic American president climbed the low, raw stonework of an incomplete pillar to speak of wilderness, and democracy, and the promise of the West. But peak they had. The tracks, trains, and log depot are gone today. The pond, shrubbery, and trees are gone. Most visitors no longer enter the park through the arch; in fact, some may not even notice the arch as they follow another road past the historic structures that now house park and Xanterra staff and offices. The ambience has changed at Yellowstone's North Entrance.

But in 1903, the new arch represented a beginning: a gateway to adventure and wonder. The magnificent, 50-foot high basalt monument offered those who passed through it a promise of excitement strangely combined with a sense of comfort. For those who know its history and honor its legacy, the Roosevelt Arch still offers that same affectionate, hope-filled welcome. ☐

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#### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup>For purposes of this article we will refer to the arch as the Roosevelt Arch. As will be shown below, it was referred to as the Roosevelt Arch as early as 1905 and was at least occasionally also referred to as the Theodore Roosevelt Arch and the Roosevelt Memorial Arch. Other names, such as the North Entrance Arch, Gardiner Arch, Gardiner Entrance Arch, and Chittenden Arch, seem also to have appeared now and then, if only in local conversation. The name seems never to have been completely settled on in local usage, and seems to have evolved over time. The popular *Haynes Guides* (considered for many years to have been the "official" guidebook to Yellowstone) seem to have been a prominent force in that evolution. Editions of the *Haynes Guide to Yellowstone National Park* for 1904 through 1909 referred to the structure only as "The Arch at Northern Entrance" (for example, 1904, p. 14). Beginning with the 1910 edition (p. 11), author Jack Haynes referred to it as the "Northern Entrance Arch." A 1924 newspaper headline (*Livingston Enterprise*, June 21, 1924) makes clear that the name "Roosevelt Arch" was then in use, at least by that newspaper (which mentioned a "ceremony in the shadow of Roosevelt Arch"). In 1939, "North Entrance Arch" was first used in the *Haynes Guides* (1939, p. 36). In 1942, "Theodore Roosevelt Arch" was first used in the guides (1942–43, p. 36), and the guides used this latter name continuously through the last (1966) edition (p. 38). We find no evidence, so far, that any of these names was ever formally preferred over any other. The passing of a century has not settled the question in favor of any single name, though it is our impression that "Roosevelt Arch" is the most popular name today.

<sup>2</sup>The phrase is from "Gardiner's Big Day," *Gardiner Wonderland*, April 23, 1903.

<sup>3</sup>Background on Roosevelt's life is found in many biographies, including Edmund Morris, *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt* (New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1979).

<sup>4</sup>Paul Schullery, "A partnership in conservation...Roosevelt & Yellowstone," *Montana the Magazine of Western History*, Summer 1978, 28(3): 2–15.

<sup>5</sup>Edmund Morris, *Theodore Rex* (New York: Random House, 2001), 214.

<sup>6</sup>Jeremy Johnston, "Preserving the Beasts of Waste and Desolation: Theodore Roosevelt and Predator Control in Yellowstone," *Yellowstone Science*, Spring 2002 10(2): 16–17. The episode of Roosevelt's proposed mountain lion hunt is based on this article, and on Schullery, "A partnership in conservation."

<sup>7</sup>Burroughs later confided that though he was apparently seen as a gentling influence on the sportsman Roosevelt, he also would have liked to hunt a mountain lion. John Burroughs, *Camping and Tramping with Roosevelt* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1907), 6. For the history of predators in Yellowstone National Park, see Paul Schullery and Lee Whittlesey, "Greater Yellowstone Carnivores: A History of Changing Attitudes," in Tim W. Clark, A. Peyton Curlee, Steven C. Minta, and Peter M. Kareiva, *Carnivores in Ecosystems: The Yellowstone Experience* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999), 11–49.

<sup>8</sup>Morris, in *Theodore Rex*, 215, described the *Elysian* as "seventy feet of solid mahogany, velvet plush, and

- sinkingly deep furniture. It had two sleeping chambers with brass bedsteads, two tiled bathrooms, a private kitchen run by the Pennsylvania Railroad's star chef, a dining room, a stateroom with picture windows, and an airy rear platform for whistle-stop speeches."
- <sup>9</sup>Northern Pacific Railway Company, Office of Superintendent, Montana Division, schedule of the pilot train and the presidential train for April 8, 1903. One-page typescript, from collection of Doris Whithorn, Livingston, Montana.
- <sup>10</sup>"Glorious Welcome for Teddy," *Livingston Post*, April 9, 1903, quoted in Doris Whithorn, *Twice Told on the Upper Yellowstone*, volume 1 (Livingston: Doris Whithorn, 1994), 5.
- <sup>11</sup>*Ibid.*, 8.
- <sup>12</sup>Theodore Roosevelt, *The Wilderness Hunter* (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1893), 434-435.
- <sup>13</sup>"Glorious Welcome," in Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 9.
- <sup>14</sup>Secretary of the Interior, *Regulations and Instructions for the Information and Guidance of the Officers and Enlisted Men of the United States Army, and of the Scouts Doing Duty in the Yellowstone National Park* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1907), 19, insisted that "All persons traveling through the Park from October 1 to June 1 should be regarded with suspicion."
- <sup>15</sup>"Glorious Welcome," in Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 11.
- <sup>16</sup>Theodore Roosevelt, "Wilderness Reserves, Part I," *Forestry and Irrigation*, June 1904, 10, 251-255; "Glorious Welcome," in Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 9; "President Roosevelt Has Honored Us by His Presence," *Gardiner Wonderland*, April 9, 1903. Roosevelt's *Forestry and Irrigation* article was reprinted in *Outdoor Pastimes of an American Hunter* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1905), 287-317.
- <sup>17</sup>Roosevelt, "Wilderness Reserves," 251.
- <sup>18</sup>Merv Olson, oral history interview with Clarence Scoyen, audiotape 70-1, October 6, 1970, YNP archives.
- <sup>19</sup>Schullery, "A partnership in conservation;" Johnston, "Preserving the Beasts of Waste and Desolation;" Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*.
- <sup>20</sup>Burroughs, *Camping and Tramping*, 60.
- <sup>21</sup>Burroughs, *Camping and Tramping*, 51-52.
- <sup>22</sup>Max Oelschlaeger, *The Idea of Wilderness from Prehistory to the Age of Ecology* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1991).
- <sup>23</sup>Hiram Chittenden, *Annual Reports upon the Construction, Repair, and Maintenance of Roads and Bridges in the Yellowstone National Park; and the Construction of Military Road from Fort Washakie to Mouth of Buffalo Fork of Snake River, Wyoming, in the charge of Hiram M. Chittenden, Captain, Corps of Engineers, U.S.A.; being appendices GGG and KKK of the Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers for 1903* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1903, 2889.
- <sup>24</sup>*Ibid.*
- <sup>25</sup>Aubrey Haines, *The Yellowstone Story Volume II* (Boulder: Colorado Associated University Press, 1997), 3-255; H. Duane Hampton, *How the U.S. Cavalry Saved Our National Parks* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1971).
- <sup>26</sup>Haines, *The Yellowstone Story II*, 209-255, Paul Schullery, *Searching for Yellowstone* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1997), 115-116. The essential source for the history of road building in Yellowstone National Park is Mary Shivers Culpin, *The History of the Construction of the Road System in Yellowstone National Park, 1872-1966, I: Historic Resource Study* (Denver: Rocky Mountain Region, National Park Service, 1994).
- <sup>27</sup>Hiram Chittenden, *The Yellowstone National Park: Historical and Descriptive* (Cincinnati: Stewart and Kidd, 1895).
- <sup>28</sup>Haines, *The Yellowstone Story II*, 465-466.
- <sup>29</sup>*Gardiner Wonderland*, November 13, 1902.
- <sup>30</sup>Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 2, 18; Haines, *The Yellowstone Story II*, 229. In this matter, as in others dealing with the arch, the administrative record of the park held in the Yellowstone Archives, usually such an excellent source of such information, is regrettably silent.
- <sup>31</sup>Haines, *The Yellowstone Story II*, 229.
- <sup>32</sup>Ruth Quinn, communication with the authors, June 3, 2003.
- <sup>33</sup>We have not seen the Arch House or the neighboring building attributed to Reamer in print, but attribution is and for some time has been made in informal conversations among Gardiner residents.
- <sup>34</sup>Leavengood, "A Sense of Shelter: Robert C. Reamer in YNP," *Pacific Historical Review* 1985: 497, citing interview with Harry Child's granddaughter Jackie Nicholas-Lowe, and Haines, *The Yellowstone Story II*, 229. Leavengood, p. 509, states: "Reamer helped shape the northern entrance to the park and, in 1902, designed the Roosevelt Arch."
- <sup>35</sup>Anne Farrar Hyde, *An American Vision: Far Western Landscape and National Culture, 1820-1920* (New York and London: New York University Press), 1990, 255; David L. Naylor, "Old Faithful Inn and Its Legacy: The Vernacular Transformed," Master's thesis, Cornell University, 1990, 25; Winfred Blevins, *Roadside History of Yellowstone Park* (Missoula: Mountain Press, 1989), 5. We are indebted to Ruth Quinn for much of this information about Reamer and the arch.
- <sup>36</sup>"The Entrance Arch," *Gardiner Wonderland*, March 19, 1903
- <sup>37</sup>*Ibid.* Olin Wheeler agrees in *Wonderland 1904*, (St. Paul: Northern Pacific Railway), p. 34, that the cost of the arch was \$10,000.
- <sup>38</sup>Our thanks to historian Jeremy Johnston for encouraging us to call attention to these misunderstandings. Author Whittlesey has often heard local people and visitors make the claim that TR established Yellowstone. Author Schullery first heard that TR conducted the original explorations of Yellowstone from a Yellowstone visitor in about 1975.
- <sup>39</sup>All quotes in this paragraph from "Local Layout," *Livingston Enterprise*, March 28, 1903, in Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 2.
- <sup>40</sup>"President Roosevelt at Gardiner," *Bozeman Avant Courier*, April 24, 1903; "The Stone is Laid," *Livingston Post*, April 30, 1903. *Gardiner Wonderland*, April 9, and *Livingston Enterprise*, April 18, both reported that work on the arch was being performed under the auspices of N.J. Ness, an architect from St. Paul. Interestingly, the *Railroad Gazette* credited Hiram Chittenden with both designing and building the arch. "Unique Passenger Station on the Northern Pacific," *Railroad Gazette* 36 (April 29, 1904): 316. Nels J. Ness was a prominent "stone contractor" and builder who was active in St. Paul, Minnesota, from 1883 to 1905, and then moved to Helena, Montana. Patricia Harpole, Chief of the Reference Library, Minnesota Historical Society, letter to Lon Johnson, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Montana Historical Society, May 29, 1986.
- <sup>41</sup>"Work Around the Depot," *Gardiner Wonderland*, April 9, 1903. The *Enterprise* published a very similar description nine days later in "Will Be Beautiful. Extensive Landscape Work at the Entrance to the Park," *Livingston Enterprise*, April 18, 1903.
- <sup>42</sup>Workmen constructing the stone wall south of the depot, fencing the new lake, and setting out trees and shrubbery are reported in "The New Depot," *Gardiner Wonderland*, July 2, 1902. Apparently these improvements occurred almost a year before the building of the arch.
- <sup>43</sup>Grace Hecox, "Trip Thro' Yellowstone Park, " 1903, in Doris Whithorn's "Women's Stories of Early Trips Through Yellowstone Park," YNP Library, 4. See also "Some Park Gossip," *Livingston Enterprise*, August 15, 1903.
- <sup>44</sup>Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 44.
- <sup>45</sup>*Gardiner Wonderland*, August 20, 1903.
- <sup>46</sup>*Ibid.*
- <sup>47</sup>Chittenden, *Annual Reports*, 2889.
- <sup>48</sup>*Ibid.*
- <sup>49</sup>Robert E. Miller, *The Hands of the Workmen, A History of the First 100 Years of the Grand Lodge of Montana, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons*. (Helena: The Centennial Committee, 1966), 205.
- <sup>50</sup>*Gardiner Wonderland*, April 30, 1903.
- <sup>51</sup>"Dedicate the Arch," *Livingston Enterprise*, April 18, 1903, in Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 14. Hall lived at Gardiner, while the others all lived at Mammoth except for Brandon, whose residence is unknown. Klamer and Lyall ran stores at Old Faithful and Mammoth. Hall was a Gardiner store owner; Trischman was post wheelwright at Fort Yellowstone.
- <sup>52</sup>Smith was certainly involved in Masonic arrangements for the ceremony and was present at it with Roosevelt, even sitting on the speakers' platform. In 1940, he wrote letters to attorney Oscar O. Mueller, of Lewistown, Montana, about these events. On January 3, 1941, Mueller wrote to park concessioner Jack Haynes and quoted from two of the letters at length. The Smith quote given here is said by Mueller to be part of an excerpt from a March 30, 1940, letter from Smith to Mueller. Through Mueller, Smith's letters give us good information on some peripheral details about the planning of the event. More important, they identify fifteen persons in two of the photographs. See Frank E. Smith, remarks included in [Roosevelt Arch Dedication], letter of Oscar C. Mueller to Jack E. Haynes, January 3, 1941, in Yellowstone Research Library, vertical files. Here is the relevant text of Smith's letters quoted by Mueller. First, here are two paragraphs from the March 30, 1940 letter:
- "With reference to the laying of the cornerstone of the Northern entrance to Yellowstone Park, I would say that I was personally acquainted with Theodore Roosevelt when [I was] quite a young man and while I was attending the Albany School, the law department of Union University, and he was a young member of the N.Y. legislature. Some of his classmates at Harvard were classmates of mine at Albany, and we several times visited with him in his committee room at the capitol building.
- "He and John Burroughs, the great naturalist, were visiting the Park to see its winter beauties, and it was at my instigation that he was invited to participate on that occasion and make an address. Burroughs is the man ambuscaded in the great beard on the stand while Roosevelt was speaking."
- From a May 8, 1940 letter from Mueller to Haynes:
- "It is hard for me to recollect or recognize those surrounding me at the time of the laying of the cornerstone of the Entrance Arch of Yellowstone Park. However, if you will look at page 38 of the booklet of the 25th Anniversary, you will follow what I can remember of those who were present. First, in the picture in the top, right hand corner, the first Steward with staff is W.R.C. Stewart, acting as W.G. Stewart. (Afterward [he was] District Judge of the Bozeman District for many years, and brother of the later Governor.) Next to him was Frank Kennedy, Junior Steward, acting; immediately back of Kennedy and partly obscured, stands Cornelius Hedges, Grand Secretary; the next two to the right I cannot recognize, but think one was Finley McRae, W.G. Sword Bearer; then my picture appears first one in the group wearing a silk hat; next, to the left, stands Sol Hepner, Deputy G.M.; next to him, I think, is D.A. McCaw, acting G.J. Warden; and last to the left of the group is L.L. Callaway, G.S. Warden. That ends that group on the speaker's platform.
- "Then in the bottom picture, to the right stands

Col. [*sic.*, Captain] Chittenden, U.S. Army, Supt. of the building of the arch; next is President Roosevelt delivering his address; next to him Sol Hepner; next to him is Rev. Bro. F.B. Lewis, acting Grand Chaplain; next to him is John Burroughs, the great naturalist, a member of Roosevelt's party in the park; the next one I recognize is myself on the extreme left. Those intervening were members of the President's party.

"Across from the speaker's platform, is the lowering tackle used in dropping the stone into place; next party I do not recognize, but immediately to his left is G.S.W. Callaway.

"When I received notice that the Grand Lodge had been asked to lay the cornerstone, I took the matter up with the Grand Secretary at Helena, as he was where he could contact people much better than I. I requested him to arrange for the President to come out of the Park and deliver the address. He made all the arrangements, and a large special train bearing brothers from the Western part of the State came through, and I met it at a point on the N.P. and went with them to Livingston. I was careful not to have my name mentioned to the President, as it had been so long since I had known him, I thought he had probably forgotten me, and I did not wish to intrude myself upon him. When he and party arrived from the Park we were all arranged upon the left platform, ready to proceed with the work. I directed the Grand Marshal to bring him upon the platform. However, he declined to come up, stopping 20 to 30 feet in front of us.

"He looked hard at me and I knew he was studying me. When the stone was laid, the President was conducted to the other and higher platform.

"He immediately directed that I be brought to his platform I went over, and was grasped heartily by the hand and congratulated upon the fine way we had performed the ceremony. Then, still holding my hand, he said, 'I know you, where and when was it?' I reminded him of our early acquaintance in New York twenty years before that time. He threw his arm across my shoulder and rung my hand harder than ever and said, 'Now I remember,' and was most hearty in his greeting."

<sup>53</sup>"Gardiner's Big Day," *Gardiner Wonderland*, April 23, 1903, in Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 14.

<sup>54</sup>"President Roosevelt at Gardiner," *Bozeman Avant Courier*, April 24, 1903.

<sup>55</sup>Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 15–17.

<sup>56</sup>"Was a Great Day," *Livingston Enterprise*, April 25, 1903.

<sup>57</sup>"The Stone is Laid—Corner Stone of Entrance Gate Placed in Position by President Roosevelt," *Livingston Post*, April 30, 1903; "Was a Great Day—Gardiner's Place in History Assured," *Livingston Enterprise*, April 25, 1903; and "The Corner Stone Was Laid," *Gardiner Wonderland*, April 30, 1903. The *Bozeman Avant Courier* mentioned that the event was about to occur in its edition of April 24 ("President Roosevelt at Gardiner"), the very day of the festivities, but did not run a story about the concluded affair in the following edition of May 1. The *Montana Record* probably also covered the activities, but copies of it are not known to have survived except possibly for the one said to have been placed in the arch cornerstone.

<sup>58</sup>"The Stone is Laid," *Post*. According to a short article in *The New York World*, April 28, 1903, "Small-Pox Scare in President's Path," the dedication ceremonies, or at least Roosevelt's part in them, were almost cancelled due to an outbreak of smallpox. We have seen only this one report of the scare.

<sup>59</sup>"The Stone is Laid," *Post*. The number of train cars, the information on the Masons, and the "swarming" quote are all in the *Enterprise* account.

<sup>60</sup>*Ibid*. The rush to Gardiner hotels and saloons is in the *Enterprise* account.

<sup>61</sup>"Was a Great Day," *Livingston Enterprise*, April 25,

1903. Mentions of photographers, and the obvious presence of cameras in photographs of the crowd, are intriguing to historians today. There is every indication that a great many photographs were taken of this event, but that some large percentage of them have been lost, or have not found their way into public collections. National Park Service museum staff in Yellowstone National Park would welcome information about sources of photographs that might so far have eluded the attention of historians.

<sup>62</sup>"The Stone is Laid," *Post*.

<sup>63</sup>*Ibid*. The *Enterprise* varies by saying the second train left Livingston at noon and arrived in Gardiner at 3 p.m. Lew Callaway, *Early Montana Masons* (Billings: Litho-Print Press, 1951), 38, says the Masonic train left Livingston at 12:30 p.m.

<sup>64</sup>*Ibid*.

<sup>65</sup>"Was a Great Day," *Livingston Enterprise*, April 25, 1903.

<sup>66</sup>"The Stone is Laid," *Post*; Photos in Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 21; Callaway, *Early Montana Masons*, 38.

<sup>67</sup>"The Stone is Laid," *Post*.

<sup>68</sup>Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 17, identifies McCartney and Hoppe in photograph with Roosevelt. "Mayor" is in quotes because Gardiner, an unincorporated town, has never had an official mayor, that is, one elected or appointed to head city government. McCartney was long referred to in the newspapers as "Mayor" of Gardiner, but that was a strictly honorary title that apparently recognized his longevity in the area. He was present at the town's founding in 1880 and could arguably be called the town's founder, as he settled there in 1879, before it was a town.

<sup>69</sup>"The Stone is Laid," *Post*; "Was a Great Day," *Livingston Enterprise*, April 25, 1903; photo in Whithorn, p. 17. It is also said that the president's horse's name was "Bob." See Ed Nowels, "April 24<sup>th</sup> 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Arch Dedication," *Park County News*, April 16, 1953.

<sup>70</sup>"The Stone is Laid," *Post*; *Livingston Enterprise*, April 25, 1903.

<sup>71</sup>"The Stone is Laid," *Post*.

<sup>72</sup>*Ibid*.

<sup>73</sup>Miller, *The Hands of the Workmen*, 216; *Montana Masonic Manual* (Helena: Montana Masonic Grand Lodge, 1974), 3.8.5.

<sup>74</sup>"Special Communication of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Montana, Held at Gardiner, April 24, 1903;" Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Montana, September, 1903, 5.

<sup>75</sup>Whithorn conducted an oral history interview with members of the Edward Smith family, who told her that "Uncle Edward's Bible is in the cornerstone." Whithorn, p. 19.

<sup>76</sup>"The Stone is Laid," *Post*. The *Post* account says the items were placed "in the cornerstone." Whithorn's photo caption, p. 21, says, "a depository was enclosed in the stone." It was, incidentally, this repeatedly expressed hopefulness for the longevity of the arch that became a primary factor in the decision of National Park Service arch centennial event planners, in 2003, not to open the cornerstone to retrieve the materials placed therein one hundred years earlier. In the *Montana Masonic Manual*, 3.8.5, under the heading of "Deposit of Memorials," the Grand Master officiating at the laying of a cornerstone is to say, in part, "It has ever been the custom, on occasions like the present, to deposit within a cavity in the stone, placed in the northeast corner of the edifice, certain memorials of the period at which it was erected; so that in the lapse of ages, if the fury of the elements, or the slow but certain ravages of time, should lay bare its foundation, an enduring record may be found by succeeding generations, to bear testimony to the energy, industry and culture of our time." As well, the act of consecration of a cornerstone, as presented in

the same manual, 3.8.9, includes the words, "May the structure here to be erected, be planned with Wisdom, supported by Strength, and adorned in Beauty, and may it be preserved to the latest Ages, a monument to the energy and liberality of its founders." In winter and spring 2003, arch centennial event planners decided that it seemed clear from these statements that, unlike the more popularly known "time capsule," which is widely perceived as having been buried or otherwise set aside for the express purpose of its being opened at some definite or even prescribed time in the future, the contents of the cornerstone depository were placed there more or less in perpetuity. They were, in other words, placed in the arch against the chance of the destruction or eventual aging and deterioration of the structure. Author communication with Yellowstone National Park Chief of Public Affairs Marsha Karle, May 1, 2003.

<sup>77</sup>"Local Layout," *Livingston Enterprise*, March 28, 1903, in Whithorn, *Twice Told*, 2, seems to say that a desire to preserve the original natural surface of the arch included protecting lichens (referred to as mosses) that had grown on the surface of the rock.

<sup>78</sup>Haines, *The Yellowstone Story II*, 235.

<sup>79</sup>"The Stone is Laid," *Post*. It is also probable that many people, such as those who have been quoted as stating that some specific item was in the cornerstone, were not as concerned with precision of language as we might be today.

<sup>80</sup>"The Stone is Laid," *Post*.

<sup>81</sup>Miller, *The Hands of the Workmen*, 215. According to the *Montana Masonic Manual*, 3.8.8, the corn is the "emblem of Plenty," the wine the "emblem of Joy and Gladness," and the oil the "emblem of Peace."

<sup>82</sup>Miller, *The Hands of the Workmen*, 216.

<sup>83</sup>"The Corner Stone Was Laid," *Gardiner Wonderland*.

<sup>84</sup>"The Stone is Laid," *Post*; "The Corner Stone Was Laid," *Wonderland*. The *Wonderland* reporter added: "It was Judge Hedges who suggested that the Yellowstone country be set apart by the federal government as a national reserve." A Masonic writer noted many years later: "It must have been a soul-stirring satisfaction for Cornelius Hedges as R.W. Grand Secretary, to participate with the Grand Lodge officers and President...Roosevelt in laying the cornerstone." Callaway, *Early Montana Masons*, 11. See also LeRoy Aserlind, "Masonic Connotations in the Formation of Yellowstone as a National Park," undated clipping in Yellowstone National Park Research Library, Vertical Files.

<sup>85</sup>Paul Schullery and Lee Whittlesey, *Myth and History in the Creation of Yellowstone National Park* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, in press, 2003).

<sup>86</sup>Long-time local Ed Moorman recalled this moment, as quoted in Haines, *The Yellowstone Story II*, 237.

<sup>87</sup>"The Stone is Laid," *Post*. According to a later Mason, William Campbell, Cornelius Hedges kept the official minutes of the proceedings, and in them he wrote: "the President delivered a stirring and appropriate address, setting forth the purposes of the Park, its dedication to the pleasure and instruction of all the people of the country and of the world who are to be its guardians and protectors while the general government will continue its bounties to make it correspond with the future greatness of the country." William C. Campbell, "Rededication of Historic Arch at Yellowstone National Park," *New Age Magazine* 80 (October 1972): 53.

<sup>88</sup>Haines, *The Yellowstone Story II*, 237; "The Stone is Laid," *Post*, in Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 23–24; The *Wonderland* account does not make mention of any preliminary remarks, or any remarks following the formal conclusion of the speech.

<sup>89</sup>"The Stone is Laid," *Post*. In at least one photograph of Roosevelt taken during his speech, he seems to be holding paper, which perhaps was the text of his speech. See Schullery, "A partnership in conservation," 12–13. We have not researched the possibility

that the text survives in one of the collections of Roosevelt manuscripts, such as at the Library of Congress or the Widener Library at Harvard University.

<sup>90</sup>A more complete text of these remarks is quoted in Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 23–24. The Mains affair is mentioned in the *Enterprise* account.

<sup>91</sup>“The Corner Stone Was Laid,” *Wonderland*. An irresistible alternative opinion was expressed about the arch just a few years later, by F. Dumont Smith, *Book of a Hundred Bears* (Chicago: Rand McNally & Company, 1909), 218. Describing his arrival in Gardiner, he said, “I tied my horse in front of the ‘Bucket of Blood,’ the most palatial of Gardiner’s business houses, and had a commercial transaction with its urbane proprietor which left me feeling as though I had swallowed a live wire. I saw the granite ‘Gateway,’ that is not a gateway at all, because no one ever passed through it. It is a hideous structure of boulders that was built solely as an excuse for someone to make a speech. It is getting so in this fair land of ours that anything is an excuse for a speech.”

<sup>92</sup>“The Corner Stone Was Laid,” *Wonderland*.

<sup>93</sup>“The Stone Was Laid,” *Post*. The *Enterprise* mentions this event involving McBride, but does not give Roosevelt’s exact words as the *Post* does.

<sup>94</sup>“The Stone is Laid,” *Post*; “Was a Great Day,” *Livingston Enterprise*, April 25, 1903.

<sup>95</sup>“The Stone is Laid,” *Post*.

<sup>96</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>97</sup>Elting Morison, ed., *The Letters of Theodore Roosevelt* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1951–1954), 3: 465.

<sup>98</sup>*Ibid.*, 470.

<sup>99</sup>Morris, *Theodore Rex*, 222–223.

<sup>100</sup>Samuel Hays, *Conservation and the Gospel of Efficiency* (New York: Atheneum, 1979).

<sup>101</sup>Theodore Roosevelt, “Wilderness Reserves, Part II,” *Forestry and Irrigation*, July 1904, 10: 309.

<sup>102</sup>Schullery, *Searching for Yellowstone*, 78, 197–200.

<sup>103</sup>Chittenden, *Annual Reports*, 2890. The planting of trees along what the *Gardiner Wonderland* called a “new road” east of the arch was reported in the edition of May 21, 1903.

<sup>104</sup>Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 45.

<sup>105</sup>David G. Battle and Erwin N. Thompson, *Yellowstone National Park Fort Yellowstone Historic Structure Report*. Historic Preservation, Denver Service Cen-

ter, National Park Service, May, 1972, p. 300. In his *Report of the Acting Superintendent of the Yellowstone National Park to the Secretary of the Interior 1905* (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1905, p. 3), Pitcher elaborated on the source and location of the short-lived sequoias: “Some time since 12 small Sequoia trees (*Sequoia gigantea*), from the giant forests in Sequoia National park, Cal., were, by direction of the Department, shipped to this place with a view to their propagation in the park. Six of these trees have been planted near the Roosevelt Arch and the remainder in suitable places on the plateau at the Mammoth Hot Springs. If we are successfully in growing these trees, they will in the future be a matter of great interest to the tourists.”

<sup>106</sup>Yellowstone National Park botanist Jennifer Whipple stated to the authors in 2001: “there is a reason why the land there [at Gardiner] looks like it does [barren and with only certain plants able to grow].” That reason was and is aridity. Historian Aubrey Haines, *The Yellowstone Story II*, 338–339, has pointed out that the aridity of the North Entrance led to greater difficulties than the failure of Chittenden’s ornamental plantings around the arch. Haines reported that “a delegation of Gardiner townspeople” met with Roosevelt on April 24 and persuaded him to grant their petition to the park for a diversion of water from the Gardner River for the town’s use. The previous year a similar petition had been turned down by the Secretary of the Interior, but the townspeople needed water, and were persistent. Chittenden’s ditch providing water to the road work around the arch was their chance, and they sought access to it, and the right to draw water for municipal purposes from it. Roosevelt, somewhat shortsightedly it now seems, consented, and ordered it to be so. This led to a long-lived ditch that followed the north entrance road “for more than one-half mile.” It was, as Haines said, “an unsightly evidence of commercialization of park waters” that survived for decades.

<sup>107</sup>Haines, *The Yellowstone Story II*, 256–275, tells the story of the growing pressure to allow cars and the way they changed tourism. Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 44, says that automobiles, admitted in 1915, were at first not permitted passage through the arch and had to pass the soldiers’ station on the inner road, but numerous early photos show autos passing through the arch, so we regard this as an unsettled question so far.

<sup>108</sup>Edmund Rogers to Regional Director, August 11, 1947, in vertical files (YNP-History-General [Rogers], YNP Library).

<sup>109</sup>Hillory Tolson to Regional Director, July 8, 1947;

Rogers to Regional Director, August 11, 1947.

<sup>110</sup>Rogers to Regional Director, August 11, 1947.

<sup>111</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>112</sup>Nowels, “April 24<sup>th</sup> 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Arch Dedication.”

<sup>113</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>114</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>115</sup>National Park Service/Historical Research Associates, Inc., “National Park Service - Historic Structure Survey Form, North Entrance Arch,” 1999; David G. Battle and Erwin N. Thompson, *Yellowstone National Park, Fort Yellowstone Historic Structure Report* (Denver: National Park Service Historic Preservation, Denver Service Center, 1972), 301.

<sup>116</sup>Battle and Thompson, *Fort Yellowstone*, 301

<sup>117</sup>*Ibid.*, 301.

<sup>118</sup>*Ibid.*, 302.

<sup>119</sup>William C. Campbell, “Rededication of Historic Arch at Yellowstone National Park,” *New Age Magazine* 80 (October 1972): 50–53. For a photo of the miniature arch, see Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 48.

<sup>120</sup>During the period 1983–1985, stabilizing activities occurred to strengthen the old arch. Information on these renovations is in box D-237, file “Stabilize,” YNP Archives.

<sup>121</sup>Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 46. Author Whittlesey’s conversation with Eleanor Williams Clark, Landscape Architect, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, February 24, 2003. As for where the park boundary is located at the arch, Hiram Chittenden noted in 1907: “A good deal of search was made to establish correct lines when the walls at the little park near the [NPR] station were built, but I am quite certain that they are not both exactly on the [park boundary] line. As I remember, the center of the little tower at the end of the east wall [is] on the line, but that the outer edge of the base of the other tower, and not the center, is on the line. I directed at that time that a careful record be made and put on file in the [U.S. Engineer’s] office, showing exactly what the relation of these two towers was to the line and it ought to be somewhere in the office.” Chittenden to E.D. Peek, November 18, 1907, archive document 8576, YNP Archives.

<sup>122</sup>Robert Giles, Acting Director, Midwest Region, National Park Service, letter to Wesley Woodger, Chief, Recreation and Parks Division, Montana Department of Fish and Game, received June 28, 1972, with enclosures relating to the qualifications of the arch for National Register listing; Lon Johnson, Deputy SHPO/Rehabilitation, letter to Richard Strait, Association Regional Director, National Park Service, July 25, 1984, concurring in the eligibility of the arch, with attached “Assessment of Effect Form” on the arch. Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park, memorandum to Associate Director, Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, no date, enclosing the National Register nomination for the North Entrance Road Historic District, prepared by Mary Shivers Culpin in 2001.



Lee H. Whittlesey is the historian for Yellowstone National Park. He is the author, co-author, or editor of eight books and more than 25 journal articles related to Yellowstone, including the recent *Guide to Yellowstone Waterfalls and Their Discovery*. Lee holds a J.D. from the University of Oklahoma, and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science and Humane Letters from Idaho State University in 2001.



Paul Schullery is former editor of *Yellowstone Science* and the author or editor of many books about the American West, natural history, and outdoor sport, including ten about Yellowstone. For his work as a writer and historian, he is recipient of an honorary doctorate of letters from Montana State University and the Wallace Stegner Award from the University of Colorado Center of the American West. His article on trout feeding behavior appeared in the Spring 2003 issue of *Yellowstone Science*.

# Window into Gardiner

by Alice Wondrak Biel



ALL PHOTOS NPS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

*Top*, approaching Gardiner on U.S. Highway 89.  
*Bottom*, approaching from the old railroad bed north of Gardiner.

I've been thinking a lot lately about how we see the arch today, and it occurred to me to wonder, literally, just how we *see* the arch today, as opposed to in the past. To sate my curiosity, I drove about 1.5 miles out on U.S. Highway 89 and took the photo that appears on the top above. Then, I drove over to the Gardiner School and walked about the same distance out the old Northern Pacific railroad bed, on the opposite side of the river from the highway, to see the arch as I would have seen it if I had ridden the train into Gardiner. The photo on the bottom shows that view.

I had expected a more dramatic difference. But there are a couple of significant points to be made about these images. One, when the arch comes into view from the road, it appears along with the rest of the town, as part of an expansive vista spread wide in front of and below today's vehicles. There are no secrets here; this is Gardiner in all its glory, and you're driving down into it.

The view from the railroad bed plays its cards a lot closer to the chest. The train made its final approach to Gardiner at roughly the same altitude as the town

itself, with the tracks running through topography that rose higher than its cars. What this meant, as can be seen in the bottom photo, was that a rail traveler's first view of the park's North Entrance featured the arch as its single focal point, appearing as the light at the end of a tunnel. It was the arch that bore the sole responsibility of announcing one's arrival in Yellowstone at long last; the town surrounding it was revealed bit by bit, anticlimactically, as the train wound along the riverbank for the last few minutes of the ride, looking for all the world as though it might just carry its passengers right through the arch and off into the park (as Northern Pacific owner Jay Cooke had so desperately wanted!). In the old days, the arch was, unquestionably, the star of the show.

Of course, it still is, just to a slightly lesser degree. It's still the most dominant sight on the horizon after one crests that last rise on U.S. 89, an eye-magnet of startling power. Whatever its designers' intent, be it just to spruce up the North Entrance a bit or to lend Yellowstone some of the formal dignity signified by similar structures in Europe, the

arch serves as a harbinger that one is approaching something tremendously important. Its geographic situation, with the town on one side and a large open space—*instant wilderness*—on the other, reinforces the sense that after one passes through it, the familiar will be decisively left behind. Somehow its presence evokes anticipation, and its appearance here, in southwest Montana, rather than in the heart of a European city, seems to only increase its symbolic meaning, adding a degree of mystery along the way.

But still, the arch looks a little weird, standing alone and rather out of the way. It almost gives the impression of an architectural severed limb, suggestive of some far grander built landscape belonging to the past. Which, from the Gardiner side, is exactly what it is—a single, relict link of an infrastructural chain that once took people by train to and from Livingston, Montana, but today transports us by imagination into the history of Gardiner.

In reality, Gardiner's history is not something that's been cached away in books and sepia photographs. It's omnipresent, flashing by as momentary feelings, hiding around corners, and visually



Gardiner's "Old West" past is written in the facades of Park Street.

informing everyday experience. On page 11 of this issue of *YS*, for instance, Lee Whittlesey and Paul Schullery write that when Gardiner "Mayor" James McCartney rode into town on the arch's Dedication Day, he had little Paul Hoppe bouncing on his lap. Hoppes and McCartneys are still Gardiner friends today, the latter descended from Show-Me State McCartneys who hearkened from within 100 miles of James McCartney's family there and, coincidentally(?), living in the house that stands on the lot where James McCartney lived at the turn of the 20th century.

Although not all so seemingly predestinate as these, links between past

and present are ubiquitous in the daily lives and landscape of Gardiner's residents; the arch is just the most prominent and perhaps most important example. Past collides with present most visibly in local housing. Gardiner is full of structures that had previous lives in the park and came down to town to retire. An eagle-eyed walk around town reveals old ranger stations, hotel cabins, and maintenance buildings, to name a few; some are free-standing, others incorporated into more contemporary structures. Strip a few layers of plaster and lath off the inside of a Gardiner home and you might find beaded wood that was salvaged after a hotel fire, or original log construction

that the present owner didn't know was there, suggesting that the house has a more storied past than even they knew.

Take a look at the storefronts on Park Street, self-consciously recalling Gardiner's rough-and-ready Old Western past for residents and tourists alike. Check out the campy old basement of the Two-Bit saloon; picture the curve of the school's track, ghosting the tracks that once brought railroad passengers here. Think a minute on the big, nascent history container that will be the park's Heritage and Research Center, which now fills the viewshed through the arch as one drives out of the park (to the chagrin of more than one local resident).

Aside from its large collection of emigrant wooden buildings, Gardiner's defining architectural composition is local rock similar to that of which the arch is constructed. In that sense, the arch seems to rise almost organically from the surrounding land and town, as inseparable from Gardiner as it is from Yellowstone. In a way, the arch is like one of those old buildings that have been given new life and purpose. No longer the grand and formal signifier of both Yellowstone's most visited entrance and the glory of the Northern Pacific Railway, the arch today (along with its own attendant park) is the keystone of Gardiner's vernacular landscape, playing host to weddings, receptions, horseshoe tournaments, Gardiner's brewfest, and the endpoint of the Park-to-Paradise triathlon. As an image and sign, the arch pops up all over town, subtly encourag-



The Gardiner School's track recalls the path by which trains used to pull up to the depot.





One of Gardiner's historic stone homes.

Above, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the teddy bear, the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site asked NPS employees to volunteer to host a teddy bear dressed as TR, photographing him at important NPS sites. Here, TR's effigy bear visits the Roosevelt Arch.

Banners flying throughout the town of Gardiner highlight important features of the area. This one depicts the arch and the Yellowstone River.



Construction of the new Yellowstone Heritage and Research Center has changed the view through the arch from inside the park.



The arch appears all over town as a symbol of what makes Gardiner unique—and what makes it, simply, Gardiner.

ing people to express their affinity for it by shopping, rafting, washing clothes, staying at a certain hotel, and even just visiting Gardiner itself.

Of course, equally significant as the arch's vernacular presence is its symbolic power as a representation of the national parks, their meaning, and mission. The arch's symbolic meaning has not only endured for a century, but also become increasingly complex along the way—to the point where the arch as a physical structure and architectural symbol has become deliciously conflated with the literal message it communicates, each one calling to mind the other while simultaneously acting as empty vessels that can be filled with a host of different interpretations. It seems appropriate, in this context, that no one has ever been able to settle on a name for the arch—Roosevelt? Gardiner? North Entrance?

The arch's metaphysical importance in Gardiner is easily evidenced by the act of closing one's eyes and envisioning the North Entrance without the arch. No more RVs clogging up the approach from town, their excited occupants scattered all over the road, fixing the arch in their camera lenses. Those of us simply trying to drive around town may claim this as an annoyance (not to mention a danger), but

there is a sneaking pleasure that comes in the vicarious experience of crossing that threshold for the first time, of being as caught up in the moment of one's arrival in Yellowstone as a new bride and groom standing at the edge of their future. Without the arch there would be no more concrete immortalization of "For the Benefit and Enjoyment of the People," either as a welcome to visitors or an invitation to politicization ("it doesn't say a word about grizzly bears," declared a woman in 1983, at a public meeting about the imminent closure of the Fishing Bridge campground). And we would be absent either a friendly monolith, daily reminding many of us of just what we're doing here, or an apt representation of a monolithic government—again, all depending on one's perspective.

Taken together, these different uses, meanings, temporal compressions, and reproductions make for a structure of layered complexity. And that is why, in addition to its physical qualities, the Roosevelt/Gardiner/North Entrance Arch has outlived the wooden arch that once marked the Gallatin Gateway, as well as the railroad depot that the Roosevelt Arch was built to complement. Symbol to the world and indispensable local landmark, a little less than it once was,

perhaps, but still more than the sum of its parts and open to interpretation, the arch still embodies its own message—benefit and enjoyment to the people. ☐

Thanks to Kerrie McCartney and Virginia Warner for contributing ideas for this essay.



Alice Wondrak Biel is a writer-editor for the Yellowstone Center for Resources. She holds a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Colorado at Boulder and lives in Gardiner, Montana, with her husband Mark and Pepper the dog. Her work has previously appeared in the pages of *Cultural Geographies*, *Montana the Magazine of Western History*, and *Yellowstone Science*.

# BEYOND THE ARCH

## COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION IN GREATER YELLOWSTONE AND EAST AFRICA



The goal of the conference is to generate, in non-technical language, a publicly-oriented discussion of issues that draw together national parks in the Greater Yellowstone and East Africa. We will make comparisons and foster dialogue across boundaries marking the intersections of global and local, private and public, natural and cultural, and scientific and social spheres.

Managers, scientists, policymakers, and the public will come together to discuss and consider the interdependence of both nature-society relations and natural and cultural history in local and global contexts. The conference will promote understanding of the ecological and social challenges facing parks in the Greater Yellowstone and East Africa, and initiate the development of useful strategies for sustaining the national park idea at the dawn of the 21st century.

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**DR. STEVEN SANDERSON**, President and Chief Executive Officer for the Wildlife Conservation Society

**DR. A.R.E. SINCLAIR**, Professor of Zoology and Director of the Centre for Biodiversity Research at the University of British Columbia

**DR. ROBIN REID**, Systems Ecologist and Program Coordinator for the People, Livestock and the Environment Program of the International Livestock Research Institute, Kenya

**DR. DAN FLORES**, A. B. Hammond Professor of Western History at the University of Montana at Missoula



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Please visit [www.nps.gov/yell/technical/conference.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/technical/conference.htm) for information about registration, accommodations, and a preliminary agenda.

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Includes tickets to the opening reception, luncheons, and banquet, as well as admission to all sessions.

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Includes admission to opening reception, paper sessions, roundtables and displays only.

	Before September 8	After September 8
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Student	\$110	\$145
Spouse*	\$60	\$95
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General	\$135	\$170
NPS employees	\$110	\$145
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One day only	\$60	\$95

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DINING

The Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel and Restaurant will close to the public on Monday, October 6. After that, the hotel and restaurant will be open only to registered conference participants choosing Option A. For attendees choosing Option B, the nearest restaurants, grocery, and hotel accommodations are located five miles north of Mammoth in Gardiner, Montana.

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Rooms with private bath: \$93/night, plus tax\*

Rooms without bath: \$71/night, plus tax\*

\*These rates are for 1 or 2 persons. Extra persons age 12 and older are an additional \$10 each per night. Check-in time is 4:00 p.m. Check-out is 11 a.m.

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Vegetarian meals? yes \_\_\_\_\_

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Number of persons \_\_\_\_\_ extra person fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_



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Registration payment, cancellation, and refund information: To confirm your registration, payment of registration fees must be received by September 8, 2003. If registering after September 8, a credit card payment will be required at the time of registration. Registration fees will be refunded only if cancellation is made BEFORE September 8. Requests for registration fee refunds should be made in writing to Xanterra Special Reservations.  
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## Increased Thermal Activity at Norris Geyser Basin Requires Temporary Closure

Due to high ground temperatures and increased thermal activity that could affect visitor and employee safety, a portion of the Back Basin at Norris Geyser Basin on the west side of the park has been temporarily closed. Yellowstone's more popular features within the Norris Geyser Basin, including Steamboat and Echinus Geysers and all of Porcelain Basin, remain open to the public.

The temporary closure, effective July 23, is clearly marked and covers most of the western portion of the Back Basin trail starting at the Norris Museum. There are approximately 12,500 feet of trails in the Norris Geyser Basin, with approximately 5,800 feet affected by the temporary closure (see inset).

Park staff have measured ground temperatures of 200° F in the closure area—an unacceptable level for visitor and employee safety. Also, many thermal features in the Back Basin have heated up as indicated by expelling steam, rather

than water and steam. A portion of the trail system has been closed to allow the assessment of any potential steam eruptions.

Norris is the hottest and most seismically active geyser basin in Yellowstone. Recent activity in the Norris Geyser Basin has included formation of new mud pots, an eruption of Porkchop Geyser (dormant since 1989), the draining of several geysers, creating steam vents and significantly increased measured ground temperatures of up to 200° F. (Because the altitude of Norris Geyser Basin is 7,500 feet, 200° F is the approximate boiling point at Norris.) Additional observations include vegetation dying due to thermal activity and the changing of several geysers' eruption intervals. Vixen Geyser has become more frequent and Echinus Geyser has become more regular.

Historically, Norris is one of the more dynamic areas in the park, and is constantly monitored by scientists. However, recent eruptions of Steamboat Geyser and the formation of new thermal features have heightened the attention on Norris in recent months. Most current changes in thermal activity at Norris began July 11, 2003, when a new mud pot and other thermal features were formed in the Back Basin area, and Porkchop Geyser (dormant since 1989) erupted on July 16.

Park staff continue to monitor temperatures and thermal features in the area. When conditions have returned to acceptable ground temperatures and stable surface conditions have improved, the trail will be reopened. As of July 29, temperatures in the Norris Back Basin trails continued to indicate relatively constant temperatures of about

200° F. Temperatures had not decreased since the temporary closure of Back Basin trails.

## Three Rivers Close to Fishing in Yellowstone National Park

On July 22, due to high water temperatures, the Madison, Firehole, and Gibbon Rivers (up to Gibbon Falls) and their tributaries were temporarily closed to fishing until further notice.

Water temperatures in these rivers are unusually high, primarily due to the unprecedented warm temperatures in the region. Temperatures in the Firehole River, as measured by the USGS Firehole gauging station, have been above 79° F since July 10. Temperatures at the Gibbon gauging station have been above 73° F almost every day since July 10. Water temperatures of 77° F can be lethal to trout. In addition, as water temperatures rise, incidental-hooking mortality increases, further affecting fish populations.

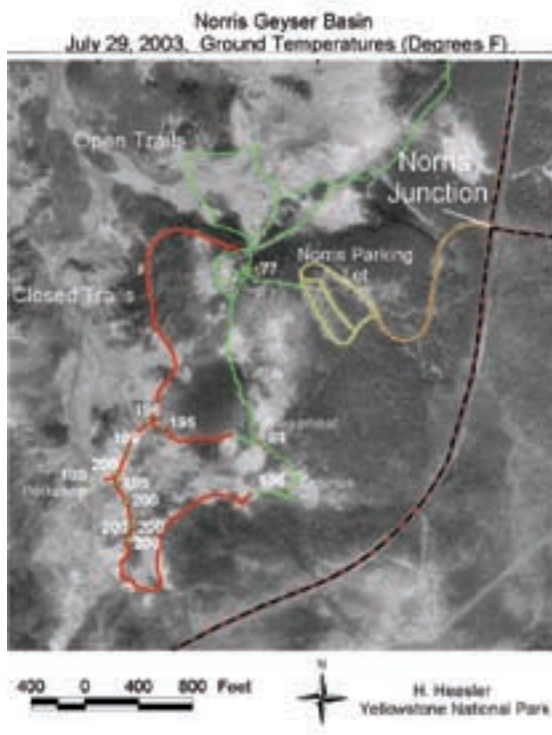
These rivers will remain closed to fishing until the daily maximum temperatures decrease to below 73° F (22.7° C) for three consecutive days and the seven-day weather forecast predicts lower maximum daily temperatures.

## YNP Lynx Presence Confirmed

Wildlife technicians have confirmed the presence of a female Canada lynx and her kitten in the central portion of Yellowstone National Park. DNA evidence of the rare cats was found while conducting a survey to detect lynx in the park's interior.

This finding is important because lynx are rare in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The Yellowstone Lynx Project has been seeking to determine whether Yellowstone has a resident population of this elusive animal, and the discovery of this female and her offspring is evidence that the animals are resident rather than transient.

During this past winter, project technicians identified a lynx family using

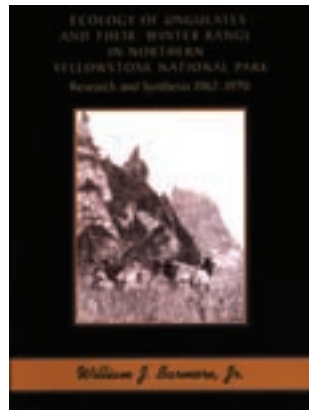


measurements and plaster casts of their tracks in snow as well as photographs that revealed the size of the cats' footprints and bed sites. Based on the disparate size of the large and small print tracks they left, it was determined that at least two animals were traveling together—one adult and one juvenile. In early May 2003, the University of Montana's Carnivore Conservation Genetics Laboratory confirmed that the DNA from hair and fecal samples collected along the tracks were lynx. One sample, apparently the kitten's, was from a male lynx.

While this female lynx and her kitten represent the best evidence found thus far, Yellowstone Lynx Project personnel made other discoveries leading up to this one. Hair samples were collected from a female lynx at a rubbing station—a hair collection device—in summer 2001, and from another lynx just outside the park this past winter. Both hair samples were confirmed by the Carnivore Conservation Genetics Laboratory to be from lynx.

Canada lynx are among the most endangered mammals in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. U.S. Forest Service and Wyoming Game and Fish biologists monitored a small lynx population in the adjacent Bridger-Teton National Forest during the late 1990s, but this population seems to have disappeared from that area. In 2000, the Canada lynx was federally listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

The Yellowstone Lynx Project is primarily funded by a grant from the Yellowstone Park Foundation.



New publications available from the Yellowstone Center for Resources.

### New Publications Available

*Ecology of Ungulates and Their Winter Range in Northern Yellowstone National Park, Research and Synthesis 1962–1970*, by William J. Barmore, Jr., has been published by the Yellowstone Center for Resources. The book documents eight years of fieldwork conducted by Barmore during his tenure as a Yellowstone park ranger and research biologist from 1962–1970. This unique document is an in-depth record of a pivotal time in the history of ungulate research and management in Yellowstone. Also available are the *Yellowstone Wolf Project Annual Report 2002* and the *Yellowstone Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Annual Report 2002*. Copies can be obtained by contacting Virginia Warner at (307) 344-2230.

### Popular Bear Hit by Car in Park

A female grizzly bear, popular with visitors, was hit and seriously injured by a motor vehicle near the Norris Geyser Basin on Saturday evening, June 14,

2003. The 12-year-old bear received multiple injuries, including a broken back, and had to be euthanized early Sunday morning at 4:45 a.m.

Bear 264 frequented the area between Mammoth and Norris, and was observed by hundreds—if not thousands—of park visitors each year. The bear and her cubs were an especially popular subject of wildlife photographers from around the area. Bear 264 had several litters of cubs during her life

span—first in 1997 (two cubs), again in 1999 (two cubs), and a third and last litter (2 cubs) in 2000. The only litter to survive was the 2000 litter, now subadults and on their own.

Park staff were notified of the incident at around 6:30 p.m. on Saturday evening. They found the bear close to the Norris Campground. The bear appeared to have a broken back, along with other injuries. Park staff were able to immobilize the 260-pound bear and move her by gurney to a culvert trap. Bear 264 was taken to Mammoth Hot Springs for an initial assessment and then to a veterinarian in Bozeman, Montana, where x-rays confirmed a broken back and paralysis in the lower portion of her body.

The driver of the vehicle and other witnesses state that the bear darted out in front of the vehicle. The driver braked and swerved to try and miss the bear, but hit it with the car's right front tire. The driver immediately stopped and reported the incident. It was determined that speed was not a factor in the incident. ☐



Bear 264 and her cubs.

NPS PHOTO

# ROOSEVELT ARCH CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION!

*Please join Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Suzanne Lewis and the Yellowstone staff for a public event to celebrate the Centennial of the Roosevelt Arch and rededication of the Arch by the Montana Masonic Lodge on Monday, August 25, 2003*

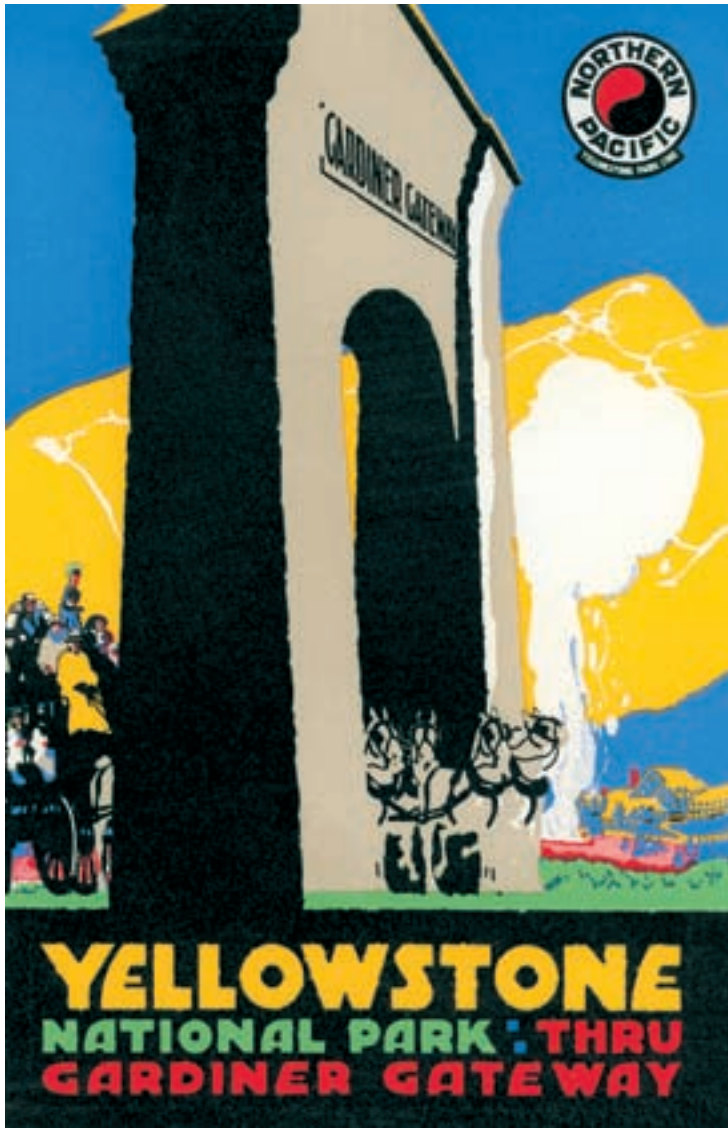
*10:00 a.m. – Musical Program*

*10:30 a.m. – Celebration Ceremony, including remarks by Theodore Roosevelt, IV*

*11:30 a.m. – Masonic Rededication with President Roosevelt Re-enactor*

*All events to take place at the North Entrance of Yellowstone National Park at Gardiner, Montana*

COURTESY SUSAN AND JACK DAVIS



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