



Here is your copy of "The Pumper", the evolving YPSS newsletter. Welcome to those of you who will be arriving in the next few weeks for your first summer season with YPSS. If the past is a reasonable guide to the future you can look forward to a great summer in Yellowstone. Welcome back to you folks who have been here before and know what this is all about.

This publication was born in July of 1991 in an effort to share information, ideas and some entertainment with and between YPSS employees. We have received several pieces from various YPSS employees and would love to see more.

The YPSS staff reaches its peak level sometime in late June every year and holds that level until mid-August. At that time we usually have about 95 people in our employ, 56% of whom are Service Station Attendants. This publication is named in honor of these front-line folks, respectfully referred to as "Pumpers". We hope you enjoy it.

## WINTER 1997

Every season is unique. I'm not sure that even unique can describe the winter season of 1996-1997. SNOW, SNOW, and more SNOW is definitely one of the ways to describe it. I'm sure the snow of 97 will be an event talked about for many years just like the fires of 88. At Old Faithful Upper Station it was necessary to duck to get under the canopy, and the bays for the repair shop could not be found. At Grant Village there were actually vehicles parked under the canopy for the winter. They were not able to be seen unless you knew they were there and were specifically looking for them. Our Fishing Bridge snowgas person, Sam Cheung, cut a very nice set of steps in the snow in order to get down to the door of the station. A very impressive sight was the Canyon Dorm. It was definitely a tunnel in living arrangement, and you did not need a ladder to get to the roof!! You will all more than likely get to see the remains of this spectacular snow year when you come to Yellowstone to work.

Our winter personnel, Mark Bolivar, Craig Chapin, and Dee Darnell at Old Faithful, Sam Cheung at Fishing Bridge, and Doug Brown and Matt Moss at Canyon, can fill everyone in on many more details than I. The information I received is somewhat sketchy, but I heard folks calling Mark Bolivar "Buffalo Mark!!" Do you suppose he is somehow related to "Buffalo Bill?" Then I heard something about a resident doctor at Canyon who was so dedicated to his profession he made house calls - "As Far Away As Iowa!!" Couldn't quite understand that one either, and the real mystery is how this ties in with some special favors being offered to YPSS people by the Recreation Director at Canyon!! I hope some of you can provide me with more information concerning these events.....Forthe next PUMPER!

U.S. Department of the Interior  
125th Anniversary News Release

## YELLOWSTONE IS ESTABLISHED AS THE FIRST NATIONAL PARK

Yellowstone National Park--some say it is America's greatest contribution to world culture--the best idea we ever had. Yet when President Ulysses S. Grant signed the Yellowstone Park

Act on March 1, 1872, the preservation of a park more than 3,300 square miles in size was a radical idea. This was a time when natural resources were thought to be limitless, and conservation was considered wasteful. With the signing of the Act, a new era in conservation began.

Historically, in Europe, "parks" were owned by the wealthy elite for their use alone. In early America, particularly Puritan New England, the attitude toward the value of work resulted in the perception that idle time led to wickedness, and nature was viewed as frightening and something to be subdued. But in the

1800s the philosophy of romanticism evolved in Europe and spread to America. Men such as Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote about nature in a new way. They described it as wondrous, beautiful, and restorative. In the mid-1800s American cities began setting aside tracts of land for public parks such as Central Park in New York. Attitudes were changing.

In 1870 and 1871, expeditions were sent to explore the area we now know as Yellowstone National Park. The members of those expeditions and many other Americans, influenced by this new way of viewing nature, worked tirelessly to have the Yellowstone Park Act introduced into Congress

in December 1871. Congressional debate focused on the "worthlessness" of the Yellowstone country for any "useful" purpose. The lack of any known reserves of timber, minerals, or other resources of any economic value was emphasized. Because most of the area was at or above 7,000 feet in elevation and received snow during much of the year, agriculture and settlement were considered difficult at best. Though Congressional opposition was weak, the necessity of preserving a place of such little value was questioned. In order to secure passage of the bill, supporters promised that no funding from congress would be requested for the park's administration. Indeed, Yellowstone received no federal funding until 1877 when it was recognized that without someone in charge, there would soon be nothing left to see as poaching and vandalism were rampant.

Our perception of Yellowstone has changed dramatically since the Congressional debates of 1871 - 1872. Today the park is host to more than 3 million visitors each year from all over the world. While still fairly remote, it is no longer inaccessible. Its geysers, hot springs, waterfalls, and wildlife are no longer thought to be worthless, but are considered priceless.

**WELCOME JEFF!**

Those of you who remember Jeff Guengerich will agree, I'm sure, that YPSS made an excellent choice for the position of Operations Manager. We are happy to welcome him on board.

Jeff worked for YPSS as an Auto Technician in 1992, 1993, and 1994. He had gone on to become a Customer Area Manager of Saturn Corporation. We were pleased to receive a resume from Jeff when the Operations Manager position became open.

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**Where is Nelson?** Still here with the company! We are fortunate indeed to have the best of both. Nelson will continue to be a part of YPSS, however, in a different capacity. You are likely to find him almost anywhere doing almost anything.

The park has become an integral part of our culture and stands as a symbol, not only of American democracy, but also of the importance of preserving wild places for everyone. As we celebrate Yellowstone's 125th anniversary, we are reminded of the vision of those early park supporters who believed that Yellowstone's resources should be preserved not for their economic value but for their intrinsic natural beauty. We are the beneficiaries of their efforts to have this special place set aside "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people."

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CICERO, the Roman statesman and philosopher, wrote the following some 2,000 years ago:

**THE SIX MISTAKES OF MAN**

1. The delusion that personal gain is made by crushing others.
2. The tendency to worry about things that cannot be changed or corrected.
3. Insisting that a thing is impossible because we cannot accomplish it.
4. Refusing to set aside trivial preferences.
5. Neglecting development and refinement of the mind, and not acquiring the habit of reading and studying.
6. Attempting to compel others to believe and live as we do.

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**EARLY VISITORS TO THE PARK**

As the roads are cleared of their last vestiges of winter snows, and hotels and campgrounds are cleaned and readied for this summer's visitors, it is interesting to think about how people used to travel to Yellowstone to see its wonders.

Of course, Yellowstone's earliest visitors were its earliest residents. American Indians lived in the region for thousands of years, although our knowledge of which tribal groups inhabited the Yellowstone area and how they lived is scant. The first Euroamerican to visit Yellowstone was probably John Colter, a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, who stayed in the West's mountains after the Expedition returned to civilization in 1806. The exact route of his 1807 - 08 winter trek will probably never be known, but the evidence points to him wandering across the future park.

Colter was followed by other mountain men searching the Valley of the Upper Yellowstone for beaver and other pelts for trading. One of these mountain men, Warren Angus Ferris, became (as far as is known) Yellowstone's first tourist, coming here not for business but just for pleasure. Concerning his 1834 visit, Ferris wrote:

" I had heard in the summer of 1833, while at rendezvous, that remarkable boiling springs had been discovered, on the sources

of the Madison, by a party of trappers in their spring hunt; of which the accounts they gave, were so very astonishing, that I determined to examine them myself . . . ."

As tales of the Yellowstone area grew, more people came to see for themselves if the stories were true. These early visitors to Yellowstone were a hardy breed, resourceful, and self-assured. Travel was by horse or mule through forests that were often so littered with deadfall (referred to as jackstraw) that one could only cover two to three miles in a whole day! After the area was set aside in 1872 as the nation's first national park, visitation "skyrocketed" to around 1,000 people each year. These visitors had to travel through the park on bridal paths and game trails and sleep on the ground or in tents.

In 1883, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers arrived to begin proper road building, after which overnight accommodations sprang up throughout the park. In those early days the main bulk of the visitors to Yellowstone were prosperous citizens of the United States and the nations of Europe. Because travel to Yellowstone took days or even weeks, only the wealthy had the time and resources to visit "Wonderland."

At first one had to take the Union Pacific Railroad to Corinne, Utah, and then get on a stagecoach for the 380-mile ride to Virginia City, Montana's Territorial Capital. There you could hire horses and an outfit and, perhaps, someone to guide you to the park. Later the Northern Pacific Rail-

road, having extended its lines west from Chicago, brought visitors to Gardiner, Montana, along a branch line. There you would step off the train onto a 36-passenger tally-ho stage drawn by six matching horses for the ride into the park. For the tour around the park, each guest was issued a linen duster to try to help maintain their fine clothes amid the heavy cloud of dust kicked up by the stagecoach. It was also the time when, at certain points during the day, the driver (who would have had a name like Geysler Bob or Society Red) would stop to inform everyone that the forests to the left were for the ladies, to the right for the men!

While most folks rode the stagecoaches, there were still some intrepid souls who chose other means of touring the park. The first bicycle tour of the park took place in 1883, when three members of the Laramie, Wyoming, Bicycle Club came to visit, and in 1898 an Englishman, C. Hanford Henderson, toured the entire 140 miles of the Grand Loop on foot in 4 1/2 days!

The grand era of stagecoach travel ended in 1917 when touring cars replaced the stages. The Northern Pacific Railroad and the Union Pacific Railroad, which had reached West Yellowstone in 1907, both stopped passenger service in the 1950's when travel to Yellowstone became essentially what we know today.

**RETURNING EMPLOYEES**

One of the questions asked most often is "Who is coming back?"

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Billy Maddux   | Mike Buckner   |
| Mike Tercek    | Craig Chapin   |
| Dale Hoff      | Juan Hernandez |
| Phil Misterly  | Matt Schuetze  |
| Bill Popernik  | Adam Karst     |
| Tom Tercek     | Parker Brooks  |
| Sam Cheung     | Scott Siewert  |
| Joe Sterbis    | Chuck Langland |
| Mark Bolivar   | Carol Sawyer   |
| Ken LaFontaine | Amy Edwards    |
| Doug Brown     | Anita Nye      |
| Matt Moss      | Melissa McGinn |
| Barney Warren  | Melissa Decker |
| Paul Bauer     | Sunny Maxwell  |
| Leslie Shaffar | Kim Hanley     |