

Minneapolis Minn Jan 24. 32

L. M. Hill

Great Northern Ry Bldg

You will recall, possibly, that I spoke to you a few months ago with reference to an "All ^{Phase} Life" illustrated book on Glacier Park I was preparing copy for. This book will be made up of a collection of about 450 stories dealing with every phase of Glacier Park, right through all three Kingdoms, "the animal mineral and vegetable," with variations. These are stories that have appeared in newspapers and magazines of the U.S. since the park was created in 1910. Many of these stories are of the semi-humorous vein about Indians, their life and legends, antics, etc.

Some deal with the evolution of "Cowboy-to-Guide"
life. animal life, and floral life are revealed.
Others are scientific about
geology, some critical concerning
artists, etc, etc.

They vary from "a" to "z" and
the collection is rather a striking
one, as you would readily admit if you saw the prospectus.

This book was to have been
issued during the spring of 1931.
It had the OK of Mr Kenney and
all who scanned the prospectus.
While it was admitted that the
unwise publication would pay its
way out and then carry a volume
of publicity value the depressing
depression suspended its publication.

However, I've got all the manuscript
ready now, and while I do not
know just when the cheerfulness
of the ^{gloomy} world will return to warrant

-30-

its publication, there is one article
I want to have you look over.

That I am sending to you herewith.
I thought possibly you might want
to suggest some change or
possibly additional data. This is the
first real official history

I've ever seen of the park in
concrete form. I've drawn on
official government pamphlets
for this data. And these pamphlets
are nearly out of print. They're as
scarce as hen's teeth. That's why
I thought the story ought to be
dug out of the government archives
and brought to the light of present day life,
in a continuity form that tells the story properly.
The introduction I've written to this
stuff, in my opinion places the

4.

credit for the conception, creation
and development of Glacier
Park where it belongs in
history.

Even the government pamphlets
were lacking in this phase
of the park's history.

Any way, I want you to look
the stuff over and return the
manuscript to me with what-
ever suggestions you may have.
I of course do not want to put
you directly in the position
of contributing to your own fame
in the matter. For I am well
informed as to the part you
played, as the result of my own

5

personal observation of events
in Marier Park since it was
created in 1910, as you

doubtless know. However, I may have missed
something and may be wrong in some respects.
I am brought me. faithfully
Hoke Smith

Please address me
726 E 25th St
Minneapolis
Minn

P.S. I have excuse the fact
that I've written you an untyped
letter, as I am without a stenographer now.
I hope you find this note legible!
We had Joe Scheuerle draw some rough
draft cartoon illustrations for the cover
design and leading stories. There are good
of course if he had got to finish them
they'd show up even better, since he's
familiar with the park and its denizens, animals,
Indians, cowboys, etc and his drawings therefore carry
the Rocky Mountain atmosphere in a
colorful way. I often wish Bob Mills
could have seen this stuff. He'd have gloined in it.
- Hoke

1-24-1932
15-2 ✓

Note to Editor-- Released for Immediate Publication

GIANT MOUNTAIN PINE

IS FIVE CENTURIES OLD

Glacier Park, Montana -- A "Giant Pine", that has been growing in the Rocky Mountains of Glacier National Park about 500 years, probably is one of the largest of its kind in existence. Hundreds of tourists walk to McDonald Creek, on the west side of the Park, to see this lofty Cyclops.

It towers 180 feet and its heavily buttressed base is ten and one-half feet in greatest diameter. Four feet above the ground its diameter has tapered to slightly less than seven feet, while six feet above ground, the diameter is six feet.

"Giant Pine" is of the *pinus monticola* variety, and it's in this class that it holds the distinction of being the largest known.

The west side of Glacier Park is particularly heavily timbered. The winter's strong winds on the east side play many a trick upon exposed trees, bending the limber pine into shapes as weird as the trees of an old woodcut. In the Two Medicine district, one tree has been forced to grow into a complete circle, wherefore it has been dubbed the Donut tree. Nearby is another veteran that is sacred to the Blackfeet Indians who are honored to be photographed beneath its gnarled and twisted bows.

#

ITS GOATS, NOT GHOSTS;

WINDOW PEERERS SCARE TOURISTS

Glacier Park, Mont.-- It's not ghosts but goats which tourists report peering in their windows at night at Sperry Chalet in Glacier National Park.

Perhaps the first tourists who saw shaggy, white bearded heads gazing through their windows at night thought Sperry Chalet was experiencing some supernatural visitation. It was spooky.

The explanation was found when the Sperry Glacier guide related that he had tried an experiment with salt. Not a case of putting salt on the goats' tails, however. The guide sprinkled salt around the lodging place.

The shy mountain goats for which Glacier Park is noted conquered their fear and came down to the chalet to eat the salt. Thus they became nightly visitors. One night someone put pepper on the window sills instead of salt and there was great sneezing.

Twenty-seven goats are reported to have frolicked around Sperry Chalet one night, relishing the salt.

A favorite of Sperry guests is an old male goat called Billy. This veteran of the goat tribe has had many pictures taken of himself because of his tameness, often standing placidly within ten feet while cameras are clicked.

Visitors to Iceberg Lake see a plentiful supply of wild goats almost daily from the trail. The animals range up and down the mountain sides; their total vertical range being about 3,000 feet.

[win 1-24-1932]
15-2
grt

Note to the Editor-- released for Immediate Publication

MILLION DOLLAR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

SCHEDULED FOR GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Glacier Park, Mont.-- Construction of the Transmountain Highway from Logan Pass to the Blackfeet highway, by way of St. Mary's lake; erection of 16 new buildings, a new ranger station, and development of four tourist camps are among the projects contemplated in Glacier Park during this season, E. T. Scoyen, Superintendent announces.

The highway program costing \$450,000 is the biggest part of the improvement program. Superintendent Scoyen explained the national park service now has made sufficient progress in the purchase of private lands along the shores of Lake McDonald to enable congress to authorize continued construction. The superintendent believes this highway, when completed, will be the most scenic in the United States, if not in the world. It has been suggested that the name of the highway be changed to "Going-to-the-Sun" highway. Mr. Scoyen said this program should allow completion of the highway in 1933.

Four automobile tourist camps may be built this year, one at the lower end of Lake McDonald, one at Roes creek and at St. Mary's lake, one at Two Medicine Lake, and one at Many Glacier.

From the national park road budget the park expects to get \$50,000 to continue trail work, while for miscellaneous work on roads and trails, including purchase of equipment, it is hoped the park will get an additional \$69,100. With the Transmountain highway cost fixed at \$450,000 and \$200,000 allowed for the purchase of private lands, the expenditure of the government in Glacier Park this year would total nearly a million dollars.

The superintendent is interested in developing the educational features of the park and eventually wants to establish museums at such points that the many sights will be self-explanatory through pictures and charts.

U. S. RANGER LIKE SQUIRREL

MUST PUT IN "WINTER STORE"

Glacier Park, Mont. -- November is "ration time" for rangers in Glacier National Park. With the close of the summer season and beginning of winter, each of the rangers of the park must prepare his district to meet the rigors of this cold, northern climate.

In the first place, all of his supplies for the next six months must be hauled into the station. Everything he will eat during the entire winter, including vegetables, canned goods, meat, flour, and other necessities, must be in the station cellar before the snow gets deep. In addition, winter clothing and smoking tobacco must be bought, and first aid remedies of one kind or another must be provided. In case of sickness, the ranger must be his own doctor.

In addition to preparing the station for winter, all of the outlying patrol, or "snowshoe", cabins must be rationed. A total of 28 of these 14 x 16 cabins are scattered at strategic locations throughout the Park. Rangers on patrol can nearly always reach one at nightfall and find bedding, wood, and food available.

Patrol by the rangers in winter is exceedingly necessary as they are the only representatives of law and order in a rugged wilderness area of 1,534 square miles. In addition to giving close protection to deer, elk, moose, and other large forms of wild life, they must protect against poachers the small fur-bearing animals whose collective hides would be worth a fabulous sum if trapped and marketed.

Practically all patrol work during the winter must be done on snowshoes. During the coming winter, the 19 men on the ranger force will travel about 12,000 miles in all kinds of weather to see that poachers are kept out of the Park and to make observations on which to base reports on wild life, forest, and other conditions in the park.

In some districts, it will be necessary to feed hay to wild animals. During the most severe months of winter, about 800 deer, 100 mountain sheep, and 50 elk will depend on Government hay almost entirely for food, and it is up to the park ranger to see that they are fed at the proper time.

Note to Editor-- Released for Immediate Publication

PLANT THAT EATS INSECTS

GROWS IN ROCKY MOUNTAINS

Glacier Park, Mont.-- The Sundew, a plant that eats insects, is one of the unique objects of study for botanists who come to Glacier National Park to observe its great variety of alpine flowers.

The Sundew obtains part of its food from the insects it catches. The plant lives in places where there is very little compound nitrogen in the soil. Since nitrogen is necessary for its life, it has adapted itself to the conditions and gets its supply from the bodies of insects.

The leaves of the plant are covered with tiny hair-like processes, each of which is capped with a drop of honey-like substance that glistens in the sunlight -- hence the name, Sundew. Insects are lured and retained by this sticky substance and while the victim struggles to free himself, other "honeydew" laden hairs bend over, clasp, completely envelop, and soon smother it to death. Certain juices are secreted by these hairs which digest the prey so that the nitrogen can be used by the plant. When the digestion is complete, the ensnaring hairs bend back and permit the remains to be blown away.

Each year brings many botanists and students to study the flowers of Glacier Park.

Bear grass is known as the park flower. This showy member of the lily family covers vast areas of the park with its tall, feathery, club-shaped heads.

The name bear grass is wholly inexplicable, for it actually isn't a grass and bears apparently have nothing to do with it. Some Indians use the tough, grass-like leaves for making fine baskets; hence it is also called basket grass and squaw grass.

Note to Automobile Editor -- Released for Immediate Publication

NEW AUTO HIGHWAY ABOVE CLOUDS

NEARS COMPLETION IN GLACIER PARK

Glacier Park, Mont. -- The District Office of the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads in Portland announces construction on the East Side section of Going-to-the-Sun Highway is well ahead of schedule, and that there is some ground for hope that the grading on the road will be completed so that automobiles may be driven across the Continental Divide in the early fall of 1932.

The report states the contractors on the lower end of the project had their part of the work 50% complete on the last day of October and only 47% of the working time had been consumed. On the same date, contractors working on the upper end, were 55% complete with only 40% of their time consumed.

The two contracts combined will call for an expenditure of \$716,000.00 from the National Park road budget before they are completed and will bring the total cost of the highway up to nearly two million dollars, with some additional contracts, mostly for surfacing, still to be let.

Going-to-the-Sun Highway will be one of the outstanding scenic roads of the North American continent. It winds up above the clouds in places crossing the Continental Divide of the Rocky Mountains in Glacier National Park.

Note to Editor-- Released for Immediate Publication

PREACHER CLIMBS "CLOSE TO HEAVEN"!

ONLY HUMAN TO SCALE MOUNT ST. NICHOLAS!

Glacier Park, Mont.-- A preacher of the gospel is the only human being ever to gain the summit of St. Nicholas Mountain in Glacier National Park. This distinction is held by the Rev. Conrad Wellen, Presbyterian minister of Havre, Montana. His success proves a challenge to hardy mountain climbers who come here each year to scale the Park's precipitous peaks.

Rev. Wellen made a number of attempts to climb the jagged, saw-tooth spire of St. Nicholas that rises sinister and forbidding over the mountains in the southern lobe of Glacier Park. Each time he was turned back by unsurmountable obstacles.

With a young man as his companion, he determined upon a well-prepared and energetic attempt. They followed up Park Creek, headed straight for St. Nicholas, and camped the first night on a fork of Muir Creek. It took them another day to get to the headwaters of the creek where they camped a second night.

The third morning they reached a stone cairn that marked Rev. Wellen's furthestmost point of advance on other attempts. Here the real problem began. The companion remained while the preacher tried to work his way around a 15-foot cliff which blocked passage. After an hour he had to give up and began working his way upward, a foot at a time, until he reached the top of the wall; then he crossed over the nose of the rock to the east face, at each movement marking his way with chalk so as to be able to return the same route. By early afternoon he had gained 500 feet. He found a gap barely large enough to squeeze through that led him to a narrow ledge, where he was able to cling and pull himself to the summit.

15-2
[unclear] 1-24-1932]

Note to Editor--released for Immediate Publication

DEER FOLLOW NATURALIST ON HIKE
AND FIND OUT WHAT'S GOOD TO EAT!

Glacier Park, Mont. -- "Most of us remember the merriment caused by the slinking dog that stole his way into the school room when a mischievous boy slyly opened the door so Fido could slip by", says Dr. W. T. McLaughlin, ranger Naturalist of Glacier National Park. "This mongrel, too, sought higher education, in all probability. But, we all laughed as the teacher hurried the intruder out-of-doors. A similar incident, which we shall ascribe to a search for higher education occurred on a nature guiding trip afield from Lake McDonald Hotel. In this instance the 'searchers' were sleek, bold and noble instead of mangy, cowardly and downcast.

"All last summer two tame white-tailed deer fraternized with park guests at the hotel. One morning they joined my daily Nature walk as the tourist party departed from the lobby doors. Sometimes, like too enthusiastic human members of the party, they preceded me, but usually they were well-behaved and politely maintained their position somewhere in the procession. Unlike less thoughtful members, they never interrupted while I was trying to explain or point out something of interest. Always they were wide-eyed and close to me, looking as eager as any one of the humans in the group. They stayed until the very end of the walk of two miles or more.

"Their apparent interest in the field trip was clinaxed near the end when they added their bit of information to the subject of discussion. I plucked a tuft of squaw-hair from a larch branch, discussed it as it was exhibited and cast it aside on the trail when I had finished. Thereupon one of the bucks walked slowly up to it, smelled it and slowly ate it with relish".

15-v
[with 1-24-1932]

Note to Managing Editor--Released for Immediate Publication

A "COLLEGE ON HORSEBACK" RIDES
THROUGH ROCKIES STUDYING GEOLOGY

Glacier Park, Mont.-- "A University on Horseback" is an educational innovation established in Glacier National Park this season.

There have been floating universities and student tours by auto caravan, but Western Reserve University of Cleveland adopted saddle horses for a study tour of Glacier Park.

Fifty-three students under the direction of two professors made a nine day trip studying Glaciers, geological wonders, and alpine flora and fauna. They traveled the high trails by horseback.

"Why, in nine days here the students have learned more science of geology and botany than they could master in six months of pouring over textbooks," exclaimed Professor William M. Gregory who led the Ohio expedition, with the assistance of Professor Ellis C. Persing.

"Glacier Park far surpasses the Swiss alps for a study of glaciers and for some of the grandest mountain scenery in the world", he asserted.

August brought many special parties with varied interests to the park, in addition to the Western Reserve Tour.

Six hundred farmers came by special trains during the period. The farmer parties were organized by agricultural journals.

Ninety-five came from Missouri and Kansas, under the direction of Senator Arthur Capper's publications. They were followed by 125 farmers from Iowa two days later. Other farm groups touring the Park in special parties included 100 from Illinois, 150 from New York, 35 from Wisconsin and 75 from Nebraska.

Camp 1-24-1937
15-✓

Released to Boy Scout Editor for Immediate Publication

EAGLE SCOUTS BUILD TRAILS

IN MOUNTAIN OF GLACIER PARK

Glacier Park, Mont.-- Sixty-two Boy Scouts from 20 states made up this year's Eagle Scout trail building camp in Glacier National Park.

Two weeks were devoted to trail improvement work in the Bowman lake district on the west side of the Park. The rest of their time in the Park they were free to scale peaks, fish, climb Glaciers and study alpine flowers and wild animal life.

These scouts came from Washington, Mississippi, Tennessee, Idaho, California, Oklahoma, Oregon, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Indiana, New York, New Jersey, Georgia, Illinois, Ohio and Texas. Every year since 1925, with the exception of 1926, Eagle Scouts have been chosen throughout the nation to work on trails in Glacier Park. Meals are provided by the Park service. This is the first year the camp has been on the west side of the Park. Four Scout executives accompany the trail builder, Edgar G. MacLay of Great Falls, commissioner of the north central Montana council, and Captain R. G. Mathews, executive of Everett, Wash., who have attended all six of the camps in Glacier Park; R. R. Ruddiman, Assistant Executive, Seattle, and Joseph Jamme, field executive, Spokane. Montana leads, with 16 boys in the camp. Six are from Great Falls, James Humphrey, Cloyd J. Rockstead, Robert Graham, Ward Thompson, Burke Thompson and John Southmayd. Other Montana Scouts: Robert C. Sproul, Raymond Lewis, John S. Graves, Roundup; Justus W. Leggate, Ellis Marshall, Billings; David Strong, Helena; Ed Hulett, Havre; Douglas Eldridge, Lewistown; Leo Manley, Butte; Fielding Graves, Dillon.

#

Mpls. Feb. 10, 32

Dear Ivan - Jan 21, I sent Mr. Still
original copy of a history of Glacien Park,
I have not heard whether he received this.
But presume he did, else it would have
been returned.

Don't bother him about it, but when
you can consistently you may jog his
memory. I'm in no hurry to get it back
but would like to get the copy when
he's looked it over. It is copy that is
already marked for the printer, for
cuts, etc. Maybe you saw it.

Hoke

726 E 25th St

Mpls. Minn

You may address me here.

for L. M. Hill to peruse -

[2-10-1932]

Just to give you a smattering idea:

I've marked on attached index of one of an office ^{file of a} dozen ^{your} large newspaper clipping books, a few of the stories to be included in this hand-picked collection of tales selected for the "All-Phase-Life" of Glacier Park.

Please return to me this brown sheet title index ~~together with the manuscript~~ of the story of Glacier Park, its conception, creation and development. There's no hurry. You are at liberty to keep them until you get the time and mood to look them over.

Hoke

P.S. -

Much of this stuff will revive memories of the liveliest days of activities in the entire Railway world, with yourself directing the stage settings that touched the show off as a real news attraction for a galaxy of national writers. They couldn't resist.

February 12, 1932

Mr. R. C. Lilly:-

Could you advise me confidentially how the Noffsinger loan worked out, if it was made? I recall you were going to make a loan to him but do not recall having heard just how the matter came out.

I have not inquired what sort of a year he had but I imagine it was like that of the Hotel Company, which was not too good. I would be sorry to see Noffsinger lose out in his business as he is very important to the Park.

Have you any figures that will show where he stands? His tourist season, of course, ended about the middle of September, so he has had nothing but expense since that time and will have more expense during the winter months, but not very much.

Louis W. Hill



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org