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TELLS OF BEAUTY OF BLACK HILLS DISTRICT
IN LETTERS TO H. P. PRESS

John Western Writes Interesting Letters while on Visit to Yellowstone

The following interesting letters have been received by the Press from Mr. John Western, president of the North Shore Cemetery at North Chicago. The letters were written while enroute to Yellowstone National Park, and very vivid descriptions of the Black Hill territory and the National Park itself are given.

Visit Black Hills
 While enroute to the Yellowstone Park and during my stay here I have discovered two very attractive summer vacation sections which are very little known to people of the east and of the middle-west. The Black Hills are 1050 miles from Chicago. We drove to this region from Rapid City, South Dakota, the nearest town. The state of South Dakota has set aside a considerable area of the Black Hills territory for a state park and has built what is known as the State Lodge, which is practically a summer hotel furnishing a limited number of rooms and good meals for tourists and summer vacationists. Near this lodge is an automobile camp with all desirable accommodations for that class of tourists. From this lodge and tourist camp to Sylvan Lake hotel, a distance of twenty miles, the tourist may enjoy one of the finest mountain drives to be found anywhere. We took this drive early in the morning and were delighted with the many interesting scenes throughout the trip. The air is remarkably refreshing and recuperating and I have no hesitation in predicting that thousands of people will eventually discover the desirability of the Black Hills as a summer vacation land.

I was very much pleased to see thousands of Black Hill spruce in their native habitat. For several years past these beautiful Evergreens have been grown in the nurseries of the east and central west. I saw specimens of this variety of spruce from 75 to 100 feet high.

Three hundred miles farther westward, in the Big Horn mountains of Wyoming, we diverted slightly from the main road to the Yellowstone Park and passed through the Tensleep Canyon from the small town of Buffalo northward to the small town of Tensleep. Before we reached the canyon on our drive northward we passed through much picturesque mountain scenery and made a brief stop at a summer hotel built alongside of a mountain stream and surrounded by mountain peaks and forests. From this hotel horseback tours are taken by guests of the hotel to various localities in the mountains which are inaccessible by automobile. At one place our road reached an elevation of 9,666 feet, which is second only to the elevation of a single spot reached by automobile in Yellowstone Park. Tensleep canyon must inevitably become known as one of the most charming and thrilling gorges containing as good an automobile road as is to be found anywhere in the world.

My next will consist of notes of Yellowstone Park, the largest of all our national playgrounds and justly the most famous.

In Yellowstone Park
 After a drive of upwards of 1,700 miles we entered Yellowstone Park from Cody, the easterly entrance. This justly famous playground has four entrances, corresponding with the cardinal points of the compass. From Cody to the eastern entrance of the park thousands of tourists drive through a canyon which brings to them mingled feelings of fear, apprehension and admiration. This drive for 60 miles extends along the course of a mountain stream and nearly all mountain streams flow at the bottom of deep gorges or canyons, with walls of rock rising almost perpendicularly during portions of the course, the valley of the stream opening up much wider at other courses. The thrills which arise from driving along a very narrow and crowded road with a mountain stream from 50 to 500 feet on one side and with almost perpendicular walls of rock hundreds of feet high on the other side are experienced by all tourists who never before have indulged in mountain driving. Within two miles of the entrance to the park we stopped at a rustic hotel made entirely from logs from the forest. This building was erected years ago by Buffalo Bill as a hunting lodge. During one of the evenings which we spent at this unique place, with mountain streams on two sides and with mountain peaks and forests all around, I heard two men so frighten a woman who had driven a Ford sedan through the worst part of the canyon from Cody that she determined not to go on to Yellowstone Park. They assured her that the mountain grade which she would have to climb from that point to the first place of entertainment in the park was much worse than the drive she had made from Cody. I considered this dastardly conduct on the part of those two fellows and I took a hand after I heard their talk for a few minutes. As a matter of fact we passed hundreds of Ford cars, many of which were from three to five years old, and we saw large numbers of such vehicles in the park.

Yellowstone Park consists of 3,348 square miles of mountain country. Of this area 3,114 square miles are in the state of Wyoming, 198 square miles in Montana and 36 square miles in the state of Idaho. The park is approximately 62 miles long and 54 miles wide and according to geologists is one vast field of volcanic formation. It is justly called "Nature's Wonderland," and the decision of our government to set aside this vast area as a playground for the millions of Americans for all time to come was a step to be unqualifiedly commended. To give an intelligent description of even the main features of the Yellowstone Park would be as impossible as to give an adequate description of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. Both of these places and all of their features must be seen in order to be even partially understood and appreciated. Some visitors admire the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone river, the outlet of Lake Yellowstone, far more than they can begin to express in words until they have seen the geyser region. Then some of these same tourists are inclined to talk more of the geysers than of the Yellowstone Canyon or of any other of the several canyons to be seen in the park. Some tourists seem to be interested more in the wild animal life—bear, elk, deer, moose, mountain

sheep, mountain lions, buffalo, etc.—than in any other feature. The work done by the government during the last twenty-five years in opening up this vast mountain area to ordinary means of travel merits the highest praise. Engineers employed by our government have laid out and built a system of highways which probably not one in ten of the thousands of tourists appreciate. The main feature of the road plan of the park consists of a "loop" which is as central and is almost of the same shape as the Chicago "loop." The Chicago loop measures about one mile while the tourist must travel one hundred thirty-seven miles in making the rounds of the Yellowstone Park loop. But if the tourist sees the four gateways through which Uncle Sam admits his citizens to his greatest playground he must ride or walk sixty-eight miles more, not to mention hundreds of miles of roads and trails which may be traversed by sidetrips and horseback rides. Into this the tourists pour by thousands, and ever increasing thousands, from the four entrances. On this "loop" are found all the means of entertainment, which include four large hotels with the finest equipment but some of them built largely out of logs from the forest, large permanent "camps" in which the sleeping accommodations consist of small cottages, the major-

ity of which have only one bed, and in which the tourists eat in one dining room located in a large central building known as the headquarters of the camp. There is one of these camps, also, a desirable automobile camp, general store, a gasoline filling station and garage at every place where a hotel is located. In my next I shall discuss some of these features more in detail.

ABOUT WOMEN

Mrs. Anna N. Kendall of Alta Park, Ala., is 83 years old and the only woman executive of the Mississippi Valley Highway association. She is affectionately called "the grandmother of good roads."

Mrs. Alice Fagen of Sioux City, Ia., has six great-grandchildren, although not yet 60 years of age.

Mme. Nemachinova, a noted Russian dancer now appearing in London, has her legs insured against injury for \$150,000.

Princess Alla Metchersky of Russia, who lost her relatives and fortune in the revolution, is now employed in a London hotel as a chambermaid.

Miss Blanche Hitzman of St. Louis received a commission of \$40,000 for selling a hotel property which brought \$1,500,000.

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