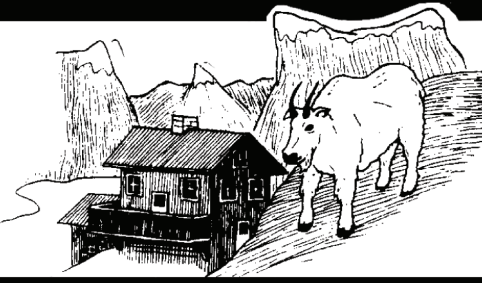


# THE INSIDE TRAIL



Voice of the Glacier Park Foundation  Fall 2020  Volume XXXVI, No. 2

See "A Call for Stories for an Ian Tippet Anthology" on page 22.

**Deadline**  
for articles is  
January 15,  
2021



*Social distancing tea time at Prince of Wales Hotel. (Photo courtesy of the Pursuit Glacier Park Collection.)*

## The PANDEMIC SUMMER

*In this issue:*

- *The Park Service Grapples with the Pandemic*
- *The East Side Lodges Stay Shuttered All Summer*
- *Natural Disasters in Glacier Park*
- *A Glacier Park Book Club*
- *Gardening at Glacier Park Lodge*
- *Many Glacier Tales of 1979*
- *Mentor Magazine, 1914*
- *Inside News of Glacier Park*

# EDITORIAL: *The Glacier Park Foundation at 40*

Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* (1835) praised the distinctive qualities of the young American republic. One of those qualities was the American propensity to form voluntary associations to work on community projects. Such associations build community spirit and counteract both excessive individualism and excessive government.

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*[T]he American propensity to form voluntary associations to work on community projects ... build[s] community spirit and counteract[s] both excessive individualism and excessive government.*

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The Glacier Park Foundation embodies that Tocquevillean ideal. As we mark our 40<sup>th</sup> year – an extraordinary year, with Glacier's lodges shut down by the pandemic, and with the death of Ian Tippet – we look back to the

youthful hopes and ideals that gave rise to the Foundation.

GPF was created in 1980 by concession employees who sought to run Glacier's lodges on a nonprofit basis. That effort failed, after a long fight in federal court. GPF endured as a citizens' group promoting the welfare of Glacier Park and of its

historic lodges and buses. It embodies the community of Glacier Park alumni of all eras.

GPF and the Glacier community include a broad diversity of people. Democrats and Republicans, con-

servatives and liberals, have worked together in impressive harmony, bonded by our shared experience and by our love for the Park. It's heartening to reflect on this harmony, in our hyperpartisan era.

For forty years, we've sustained our friendships, shared our stories, and reflected on Park issues through *The Inside Trail*. We've done important work for Glacier. We twice have played a vital role in preserving the Park's iconic red bus fleet. We helped shape the General Management Plan under which Glacier presently operates. We've organized large reunions to celebrate the centennial of the Park, the centennials of several lodges, and the renovation of the red buses. We've given historical orientations to many hundreds of lodge employees.

We're grateful for the friendships that we've shared and the work that we've accomplished during these four decades. We look forward to sustaining our community and our Tocquevillean presence in Glacier Park for years to come.

*The Inside Trail takes its name from the famous old trail which connected Glacier Park Lodge with the vanished chalets at Two Medicine, Cut Bank, and St. Mary. The name thus emphasizes the publication's focus on the lore and history of Glacier National Park. We invite submission of historical, scientific, or anecdotal articles, commentary, poetry, or artwork for publication in future issues.*

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*The Glacier Park Foundation was formed by Glacier Park employees and visitors who have a deep love for this special place. The Foundation is committed both to the importance of wilderness preservation and to the importance of places like Glacier as classrooms where people can experience wilderness in intense meaningful ways, learning not only a love for the land, but also a respect that nurtures the skills necessary to preserve that land. The Foundation has a special interest in Glacier Park's history, traditions and visitor facilities.*

# The INSIDE NEWS of the Summer of 2020

The coronavirus pandemic closed Glacier National Park on March 24. All visitor use was banned (except on the four miles of Highway 2 that go through the Park at Walton). On June 8, the Park gingerly began a reopening process. Going-to-the-Sun Road opened for strictly limited hours (until 4:30 PM) from the West Glacier portal to Apgar and Lake McDonald Lodge.

On June 15 the time restrictions were lifted, and Going-to-the-Sun was opened to Avalanche. The Camas Road and Polebridge also opened. But visitor services were strictly limited.

To protect the health of its employees, the Park Service strictly limited housing to one employee per room. This required a large reduction in its summer staff. Work on opening Going-to-the-Sun was slowed. Trails were cleared more slowly, and the opening of backcountry campgrounds was delayed.

Lake McDonald Lodge opened on June 15. A traveler reported on opening day: "Two of the three doors to the hotel lobby were closed to entry, and the third had a warning sign guarded by a bemused bellman with a half-on face mask. There were a half-dozen or so folks sitting in the lobby, and the lodge's wonderful, iconic fireplace was cold.

"The location's food service was set up on the lake side of the building, with an ad-hoc order window set up in the door to what is usually the bar. Xanterra had put together a new, coffee-shop-like menu for the food service operation, with just a couple items held over from the standard LML hotel menu. The dining room's fire exit has been repurposed as a pick-up window."

This was the beginning of an extraordinary summer of limited activity in

and around Glacier Park. There were no red buses, no shuttle buses, no rides available on the historic boats, no access by road or trail to most of the Park's East Side, and summer-long shuttering of Many Glacier Hotel, Glacier Park Lodge, St. Mary Lodge, Swiftcurrent Motor Inn and Two Medicine Campstore. These conditions recalled the summers of 1943 to 1945, when austerity during World War Two curtailed activity in the Park.

## Service Reductions

A major service reduction was the closure of almost all of Glacier's auto campgrounds. The only available campsites were at the reservations-only Fish Creek Campground. Hundreds of daily campers who typically relied on first-come-first-served sites were therefore cast adrift.

Many of those campers searched for sites in the adjacent Flathead National Forest. The resulting congestion and occasional conflict were a headache for Forest Service personnel. There also was a marked increase in the number of illegal campers inside the Park, both in vehicles and in the backcountry.

The Park's delayed, incremental reopening complicated the situation for many visitor services businesses in and near the Park. Most of them remained closed through May, because of a 14-day quarantine for visitors to Montana during that month. Most businesses around West Glacier delayed their opening until late June, though by mid-season commercial activity in the West Glacier area was robust.

The situation greatly impacted Xanterra and Pursuit, the area's two largest guest services businesses. Pursuit postponed the opening of much of West Glacier and the Belton Chalets until

late June. Both companies struggled to inform potential guests and seasonal employees about the complex and frequently-evolving situation. This especially was true with regard to developments on the Park's East Side.

## The East Side Shutdown

The Blackfoot Tribe took a very cautious approach to the pandemic, mindful of the elderly and other vulnerable cohorts among their members. A tribal shutdown order barred nonessential travel on the Blackfoot Reservation through the end of June. Xanterra and Pursuit prepared to open facilities on the East Side in July.

On June 25, however, the Blackfoot Tribal Business Council decided to keep the Park's eastern border closed throughout the summer. The new shutdown order "include[d] all the following roads: Two Medicine, Chief Mountain, St. Mary's, Cut Bank Creek, and Many Glacier until the end of the 2020 tourism season."

Park Service staffing on the East Side was heavily reduced. The Park closed almost all trails and campsites east of the Continental Divide, except in the Firebrand Pass area and in the St. Mary Valley west of Rising Sun. Hikers could take the trails to Otokomi Lake, to Gunsight Pass, and to Virginia Falls and St. Mary Falls, but not to Red Eagle Lake.

## Shuttering the Lodges

Xanterra and Pursuit were drastically impacted by the shutdown order. At Many Glacier, Swiftcurrent, Glacier Park Lodge and St. Mary Lodge, employees already were on site and being trained. Guest rooms had been cleaned and the beds were made. Refrigerators were full, and shelves in the campstores and the gift shops were stocked.



All these preparations had to be undone. Tens of thousands of preregistered guests were notified that the lodges would not open. Observers remarked that the tribal order at least had the virtue of being definitive – had the shutdown been extended in two-week increments, Xanterra and Pursuit would have been put in an untenable position.

Xanterra found jobs in other National Parks for almost all of its employees willing to work elsewhere. Its operations in Yellowstone Park were being expanded after cautious beginnings, so many employees were transferred there.

Nearly all small, family-owned businesses in the East Glacier Park and St. Mary areas were closed for the season, causing extensive financial hardship.

### **Xanterra's Operations**

Andy Stiles took over as Xanterra's general manager for Glacier just as the East Side lodges were shuttered (succeeding Mark Ducharme, who became the general manager in Grand Canyon). He remarked on the positivity of most employees confronted by the East Side shutdown, as well as of those who spent the summer at Lake McDonald Lodge, the Village Inn and Rising Sun. Stiles states that "people rallied together – not without pain and disappointment – to make the best of the situation."

Staffing the facilities was challenging. Park Service policy limited dormitory housing to one employee per room. Stiles says that "we built out from there to see what we could do." Some Lake McDonald Lodge and Village Inn employees were housed at a trailer park in Hungry Horse.

At Lake McDonald Lodge, the main lodge building and the cabins were consistently filled with guests. Snyder Hall was reduced to five rooms because of bathroom limitations.

Registered guests could use the lobby, but the beloved fireplace stayed cold all summer, and some of the furniture was removed to maintain social distancing. The gift shop was shut down. The campstore was open to 25 customers at a time.

Food service was grab-and-go throughout the summer. It was called "Russell's on the Run" (a reference, of course, to Charlie Russell, the cowboy artist who frequented the lodge in its early years). The menu included burgers, pastas, wraps, and chicken sandwiches. Guests could order from their rooms, or could order at a half-door at what normally is the bar. They picked up their orders at the fire door.

Lake McDonald's manager was Matt LaSalle, who had been assistant to longtime manager Bob Abrams (recently deceased). LaSalle is expected to return in 2021, as is Angel Esperanueva at Many Glacier.

### **Limited Interpretation**

Ranger naturalist talks, guided nature hikes, and other interpretive programs were cancelled for the year. Park Service personnel interacted with visitors as best they could with appropriate social distancing.

Ranger naturalists were stationed behind transparent shields at outdoor tables at the visitor centers at Logan Pass and Apgar and on the campstore porch at Rising Sun. They offered printed material to visitors and answered questions about the Park. Other naturalists spoke with visitors on a roving basis.

The Glacier National Park Conservancy set up a temporary bookstore in the transit shelter at the Apgar Visitor Center. It also operated the bookstore at the Logan Pass Visitor Center, but only ten visitors could be inside at once. Long lines of visitors patiently awaited their turns outside.

### **Going-to-the-Sun**

Going-to-the-Sun Road has been heavily congested in recent years. The East Side shutdown made it more congested than ever. Alternative destinations were closed, and the St. Mary portal was shut down. All traffic had to "yo-yo," entering and leaving at West Glacier.

Logan Pass was closed until July 11 (the latest opening in history, matched in only one prior year). Parking spaces west of the pass filled rapidly. On several days, rangers were forced to close the road progressively, first at Avalanche, then at Lake McDonald Lodge, then at Apgar, and finally at the West Glacier entrance.

After Logan Pass opened, cars could drive eastward to Rising Sun. A one-way turnaround was established in the Rising Sun parking lot. The campstore was opened, and grab-and-go food could be purchased at the Two Dog Flats restaurant, but the Rising Sun cabins and motel did not open.

### **Multitudes, Multitudes**

Stories abound of the prodigious congestion on Going-to the-Sun. It began before dawn, with vehicles streaming up the road to claim precious parking spots at Logan Pass. The parking lot there often was completely filled by 7:00 AM.

Other parking sites filled quickly too. A longtime employee who worked in the Park this summer describes "every pullout absolutely jam-packed with cars, on both sides of the road; cars parked illegally; cars jammed into spaces too small for them, with their tail ends sticking out; cars being towed; new footpaths being created by people using the pullouts."

Cars waiting to enter the Park at West Glacier backed up to unheard-of lengths, through the town of West

*(Continued on page 25)*



# THE PANDEMIC SUMMER *at Prince of Wales Hotel*

*Hand Sanitizer and COVID-19  
signage at the entrance to the  
lobby of the Prince of Wales  
Hotel, July 2020.*



*(Photo Ray Djuff.)*

*By Ray Djuff (Prince of Wales  
1973-75, '78)*

As with so many other things this year, the COVID-19 pandemic threw a curveball at my plans to give staff orientation talks at four of five locations in Waterton and Glacier this summer.

I was especially looking forward to a new talk that had been worked out with Pursuit Glacier Collection for its west-side staff, including those at the Belton Chalets, West Glacier Mercantile, the West Glacier RV park and its Apgar operations.

With John Hagen's direction, we had also created a single employee handbook encompassing all of these sites, as the Foundation has done for other locations, to offer the staff detailed information about the history of those facilities and the park in general.

However, the March 21, 2020, closure of the Canada-U.S. border to

non-commercial traffic due to the novel coronavirus prevented me from getting from Calgary to Glacier in Montana to deliver talks I'd planned for the west-side Pursuit properties, Glacier Park Lodge, St. Mary Lodge and Many Glacier Hotel.

Even if I had been able to get into the U.S., quarantine rules on both sides of the border would have made the trip an unreasonable proposition, not to mention a decision by the Blackfeet tribal council on June 25 to close the eastern access points to Glacier to control the spread of COVID-19, which made any trip moot.

The Blackfeet tribe's decision resulted in the shutting down of St. Mary Lodge and Many Glacier Hotel just as they were preparing to open for the season. Glacier Park Lodge was also closed for the summer.

That left just the Prince of Wales Hotel in Waterton, which I could get to, if Parks Canada reopened the country's national parks to visitation. There was a partial reopening of Waterton in June followed by a full opening later in the month, which allowed Pursuit to bring in staff to get the Prince of Wales Hotel ready.

Hotel manager Norman Duchaine and I set June 26 for a historical orientation talk to a small group of front-end staff and bellmen, versus the usual full staff complement. Due to the short season and limited service the hotel was offering that summer, the number of staff was reduced from normal levels.

This was Duchaine's first summer at the Prince, having previously held management positions with Pursuit at its properties in Banff. Trained at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, he has a BA in business administration and management.

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*Due to the short season and limited service the  
hotel was offering that summer, the number of  
staff was reduced from normal levels.*

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Upon walking into the hotel, it was obvious things were different. The first sign was hand sanitizer at the lobby entrance, and all the hotel staff members, still in training, wearing face masks and social distancing where they could.

The masks were made from material with the Royal Stuart tartan, the personal tartan of Queen Elizabeth

was replaced with a single sheet of paper that had been plasticized for easy cleaning that listed basic services. There were no complimentary pens or writing paper and I didn't notice the usual King James Bible and Book of Mormon in the bedside stand.

There was no lunch service, only afternoon tea in the dining room. Previously, the tea service was offered by

service later when the power came back on that night.

The power failure was a reminder that the hotel no longer was self-sufficient, as it had been in earlier times. When I was there during the flooding of 1975 that inundated Waterton townsite, the hotel was a refuge for many local residents as it had its own electrical power supply, heating, and provision for fresh water.

These services, so vital in the 1920s through 1950s when they were not available through public utilities, have been discontinued in recent decades as a cost-saving measure. Given the frequency of power failures in Waterton, a backup generator would have been useful.

There was evidence of upgrades and rebuilding at the hotel. The men's public washroom, in the basement, was given a complete makeover. It had previously been given minor upgrades, with the space largely unchanged from opening day in 1927.

Some of the original pipes that service the hotel grounds, especially providing water to hydrants, are being replaced. Work had stopped for the summer but was to resume in the fall.

And the one hotel outbuilding destroyed in the 2017 Kenow wildfire, the woodworking shop, was rebuilt over the winter of 2019-20 and nearing completion when I visited in mid-July.

Chris Morrison, my frequent writing collaborator and a Waterton summer resident, assisted Pursuit in the rebuilding by locating the original blueprints for the woodworking shop in the National Archive in Ottawa.

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*Upon walking into the hotel, it was obvious things were different. The first sign was hand sanitizer at the lobby entrance, and all the hotel staff members, still in training, wearing face masks and social distancing where they could.*

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II. It is a design used on key elements of staff uniforms and elsewhere at the hotel.

While the group that took in my talk was small, and with no projector, it still came off well and the enthusiasm of the staff for in-depth information was discernable—reinforcing the reason to keep undertaking the annual orientation talks.

I got a chance a few weeks later to see the hotel in full COVID-19 operating mode when I returned for a stay with my wife and sister-in-law.

There were Plexiglass-acrylic barriers at the front desk to protect staff and customers, as well as at the till in the gift shop. There was no sitting at the bar in the Windsor Lounge and tables were spaced six feet apart.

A news release issued by Pursuit indicated that housekeeping staff changed gloves between each cleaning and each room.

The usual binder in each hotel room with guest services information and a listing of local attractions and events

the lakeside windows in the lobby.

There was also no breakfast service. Rather, upon checking in hotel patrons were given a breakfast menu and asked to check off what they wanted to eat and return the list to the front desk. The next morning, the paper bagged meals were provided to guests as they waited in the lobby at the appointed time. The guests could consume the meals in their rooms or in the lobby.

There were hiccups in the system, as breakfast orders were misplaced or overlooked, disposable utensils weren't always included with meals in the bags, and orders were not always ready at the time selected by guests.

There was dinner service, but the evening we were there it was cancelled due to a power failure that blacked out all of Waterton for almost eight hours. We had to settle for salads hastily prepared in the kitchen after all the charcuterie boards that had been made were sold out. There was a shortened dinner

# Natural Disasters in Glacier/Waterton Peace Park

*As each of us quietly fights our individual battles with the seemingly invisible enemy, Covid-19, both Montana's Glacier and Alberta's Waterton national parks struggled to offer limited access in pursuit of maintaining a safe visitor environment for 2020 park visitors.*

*By Rolf Larson (Many Glacier 1975, 77-80, NPS 1981-85)*

Waterton Lakes and Glacier National Parks joined to become the first International Peace Park in 1932 (88 years ago), to commemorate the peace and goodwill between the United States and Canada. Waterton Lakes National Park was created

accept the promise of renewal as the environment heals its wounds.

On the other hand, there are lesser disasters, such as epidemics and infestations, that only affect a segment of the Peace Park's ecology. However, they may also warn of larger future events.

offer three examples from Glacier:

1) In the late 1970s, there was a mountain pine beetle infestation of Glacier's lodgepole pines. This had an enormous impact on Glacier. (See the fire section, below.)

2) Before the 1980s, Swiftcurrent Valley had a thriving bighorn sheep population. A disease virtually wiped out this flourishing flock. For those paying attention, their presence was missed. However, to many it was barely noticed.

3) This year's Covid-19 pandemic impacts human visitors but not the Park environment as a whole. For us as visitors, it has a variety of impacts. One is the direct health issue; another is curtailment of access. The Park's eastern entrances were closed by the Blackfoot Tribe. For them, the pandemic could be catastrophic, killing many tribal members (especially their elders), and threatening both their population base and their cultural foundation. Both the National Park Service and the State of Montana supported the Tribe's decision.

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*Waterton Lakes and Glacier National Parks joined to become the first International Peace Park in 1932. In that time, they have a shared a history of natural disasters that impact all levels of their ecosystems and recreation history.*

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in 1895 (125 years ago). Glacier National Park was created in 1910 (110 years ago). In that time, they have a shared a history of natural disasters that impact all levels of their ecosystems and recreation history.

Some natural disasters impact the entire Peace Park. We think of them in terms of our human experience. We accept the carnage of fire, the devastation of flood, the occasional vibration of the earthquake or large rockslide. We see and accept their reality and

## **Epidemics**

Perhaps the most complex disaster is the epidemic. It has been defined as a "present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of a habitat or range." It can be a disease, predation or even bad management.

An epidemic can affect all of an ecosystem, or only a specific population within that system. That doesn't mean, however, that smaller events do not lead to larger threats. Let me



## Floods

Winters in the Northern Rockies are known for massive accumulations of snow. When a snowpack melts rapidly, it can cause a disastrous flood.

In June 1964, a heavy winter snowpack combined with warm spring rains led to catastrophic flooding over large areas of the Peace Park. Dams broke on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation, below Lower Two Medicine Lake and near Heart Butte, killing 34 people. Going-to-the-Sun Road and the Great Northern Railway's tracks were closed for three weeks, and 24 trail bridges were washed out.

In 1975, a heavy snowpack and rain caused a similar flood. Bridges within 150 miles of the east side of the Park were washed out. Employees at Many Glacier were isolated for 10 days by damage to the entrance road.

In November 2006, there was severe flooding once again, with water in the St. Moritz Room and other areas of Many Glacier Hotel. The flood required extensive reconstruction of Going-to-the-Sun Road as well as many bridges and trails.

## Earthquakes and Landslides

Glacier National Park is defined by geological processes that have been occurring for millions of years, beginning with the Belt Sea (1,600 million years ago) and continuing through more recent periods of mountain uplifting and glaciation. Geologic activity continues to reshape the park landscape, albeit in more subtle ways.

Numerous landslides occur throughout the Park, influenced by landform and climate. Large landslides were recorded on Chief Mountain in

1972 and 1992. J. Gordon Edwards gave an exact date for one in his Climbers' Guide to Glacier National Park: "On July 31, 1972, thousands of tons of rock fell from Chief Mountain as the entire northeast corner collapsed. The roar was heard as far away as Lake McDonald and the dust cloud was seen from Ptarmigan Tunnel and Granite Park." Bearhat Mountain near Logan Pass had a 5.8 magnitude earthquake on July 6, 2017.

## Fire

Fires are as important to wilderness as water, sun and wind. They don't just destroy, they also create. When fire moves through a forest or over grasslands, accumulated dead plant materials burn, releasing nutrients that feed new growth. This growth provides new sources of food and shelter to wildlife. Fire also creates a mosaic of plant communities that provides a greater variety of habitats for all living populations.

Wildfires have been the most prominent disaster for the Waterton/Glacier Peace Park, transforming its landscape and ecology. Throughout the Park's history, fires dramatically have changed their appearance.

Researchers studying fire-scarred ponderosa pine and western larch trees in the Lake McDonald area found that 66 fire years had occurred since 1470.

In Glacier's early years (1910, 1926 and 1929) around 200,000 acres burned in Glacier Park alone. That's one fifth of the total acreage of Glacier!

Subsequent major fires included Waterton's 1935 Boundary Creek fire (burning 2,250 acres) and Glacier's 1936 Heaven's Peak Fire (7,500

acres), which jumped Swiftcurrent Pass and almost burned Many Glacier Hotel.

From 1940 to 1980, the only significant fire year was 1967. That summer, the Glacier Wall Fire burned across Going-to-the-Sun Road. Many lightning-strike fires had to be fought just before the Night of the Grizzlies, distracting attention from the aggressive bear behavior that led to two deaths on that tragic night.

## The Pine Beetle Epidemic

More than 200,000 trees were lost in the great fires of Glacier's early years. New stands of lodgepole pines replaced them.

Mountain pine beetles prey upon lodgepole pines. They tunnel under the bark and destroy sap-bearing wood, which causes death to the trees. The beetles previously had caused only insignificant pocket outbreaks in Glacier. But their numbers surged in the perfect conditions of large mature lodgepole forests.

In the 1970s, huge infestations killed countless trees. About 90 percent of the lodgepole pines died within a few years. These trees soon dried, the shallow root systems broke down, and the dead trees fell to the forest floor. Fire trails were kept open by fire crews. Otherwise, the forest floors were a maze of highly inflammable dead trees stacked as much as 10 feet high.

## A New Fire Cycle

A new violent cycle of fire arose in the Peace Park, fed in part by the dead lodgepole pine. The most prominent fires were these:

**1984:** First year of the new fire era in Glacier. The Coal Creek Fire near

*(Continued on page 10)*

# Ash Clouds and Radio Crystals

by Rolf Larson (*Many Glacier Hotel 1975, 1977-1980, NPS 1981-1985*)

During the 1980's communication between Glacier and Waterton Peace Park and the outside world was still much the same as it had been 80 years earlier when the great hotels were built. There was electricity and running water, but information traveled slowly. Other than the Park Service's emergency radio system and hotel lobby telephones, outside infor-

every surface. By days end, the ash left everyone on site complaining of sore throats. It was a nightmare for the early season staff who needed to re-clean every room before guests would be allowed check in.

Following St. Helen's initial display, the rest of June and July followed typical weather patterns. By mid-July, as expected, a dry, sunny weather pattern settled over the Rockies.

ate guests checked out, fleeing before the event engulfed the mountain valleys. It was generally thought that a northerly retreat would best work.

It started with an ominous dark wall of cloud approaching from the west. The clouds looked like claws as the force of wind and ash breached the divide, boiling over into the valley.

Small groups of people watched quietly from the lobby windows. You could barely hear the hushed tones of tourists and employees commenting as the overwhelming spectacle evolved.

Soon the crowd became aware of garbled sounds echoing softly through the lobby. Was it coming from the loud speakers?

Someone went over to ask the front desk clerk, "Is that noise something you are doing?" The clerk had no idea. After a moment of the two exchanging blank expressions of alarm, the clerk went to test a theory. She turned off the public address system. The garbled chatter continued.

There was no explanation. Rational thought was replaced by superstition. We sat quietly as the tops of the peaks disappeared and the last rays of light disappeared behind the cloud.

As the curtain of night quickly swallowed the valley, only the moan of the wind – and that strange garble coming over the lobby speaker – overloaded our imaginations. We were terrified!

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*During the 1980's, communication between Glacier and Waterton Peace Park and the outside world, was still much the same as it had been during the parks' early years.*

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mation was limited to the early editions of area newspapers. Even radio transmission was extremely limited.

For example, the ash cloud that moved over the mountains on Thursday, June 12, 1980 came as a surprise to concession employees who were preparing to open the seasonal concession hotels in Glacier and Waterton National Parks.

The summer of 1980 was volatile for park concession employees. On June 13, just before Many Glacier Hotel opened for the summer, ash from one of many smaller Mount St. Helens eruptions moved over the park.

It was a horrific experience for hotel staff. Though the day was sunny, a strong wind blew from west to east. Visibility was often less than 100 feet. The ash was so thick that you could barely see Swiftcurrent Lake from the hotel. This wind driven ash blew through every crack in windows and walls. Ash first collected on window sills, before settling over

By early July, all accommodations were full as guests eager to frolic in the park gathered. For the next few weeks, each day was a new adventure, planned in the morning and recapped later over dinner. Little did they know that all of their tales would pale in comparison to the events of Thursday, August 7.

During the morning, rumors began to spread of yet another Mt. St. Helens eruption. As the day progressed, it was reported that high upper level winds were carrying ash in Glacier's and Waterton's direction at speeds close to 200 miles per hour. It could arrive as early as that evening.

By evening, for some, the quiet anxiety turned to panic. Several desper-

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*Then a veteran guest, George Overacker, scurried up to the front desk, ... passing on a message to the attentive front desk staff. His son, Steve Overacker, a ham radio enthusiast, ... had been very busy.*

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*(Continued from previous page)*

Then a veteran guest, George Overacker, scurried up to the front desk from the hallway. He stopped at the front desk, passing on a message to the attentive front desk staff. His son, Steve Overacker, a ham radio enthusiast, went nowhere without a somewhat portable ham radio. On this particular evening, his trusty radio had been very busy. While most people were staring in horror at the approaching Mount St. Helens tempest, Steve was busy up

in his room collecting information from first hand sources all over the Western United States. In a matter of moments the Many Glacier lobby went from refuge to a center of current information.

Yes, that explained the ‘other-worldly’ murmur over the speaker system.

It also told us that the guests who escaped the valley while they could, generally fled north ... into the center of the ash cloud.

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*In a matter of moments the Many Glacier lobby went from refuge to a center of current information.*

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*(Continued from page 8)*

Nyack along U.S. Highway 2 and the Napi Fire just north of St. Mary along U.S. Highway 89 erupted within days of each other in August. Each was larger than 1,000 acres.

**1988:** The Red Bench Fire started in early September. This fire burned more than 38,000 acres of land in the North Fork and Glacier Park.

**2001:** The Moose Fire burned nearly 71,000 acres in the North Fork, including the Camas Creek area in Glacier.

**2003:** The largest and most destructive Glacier Park fire season was known as “the Big Burn.” Three fires burned 130,000 acres. This horrific fire season included the Robert Fire, which burned nearly 58,000 acres, including most of the northerly side of Lake McDonald. The Trapper Peak Fire was over 18,000 acres in size. It burned West Flattop Mountain and the Loop Trail, threatening Granite Park Chalet. The Rampage Fire burned out the Park Creek and Coal Creek drainages. It reached 26,000 acres in size. Other fires also burned in the North Fork Area.

**2006:** The Red Eagle Fire started near the head of Red Eagle Lake near St. Mary in late July. It quickly blew up, incinerating over 34,000 acres in Glacier and the neighboring Blackfoot Indian Reservation.

**2015:** The Reynolds Creek Fire began along Reynolds Creek near St. Mary Lake. It burned 4,459 acres, following Going-to-the-Sun Road. It scorched an incredibly scenic portion of the Road, including the Rising Sun area, Otokomi Lake area, Wild Goose Island Overlook area, St. Mary Falls/Virginia Falls Trail, Baring Creek Valley (Siyeh Pass) Trail and Sunrift Gorge. This was the first occasion in decades within the heart of Glacier Park where visitors must drive through a recently burned area. Also, in 2015, the Thompson Fire burned over 17,000 acres in the Nyack Area, reaching the Continental Divide along the Pitamakan Pass/Dawson Pass Loop Trail in the Two Medicine Area.

**2017:** Two epic fires burned in the Peace Park. In early August, the Sprague Fire started, eventually

destroying the historic Sperry Chalet dormitory, built in 1914. It threatened Lake McDonald Lodge and Going-to-the-Sun Road for over two months. Vast areas of forest along and beyond Snyder Ridge on the east side of Lake McDonald (including the Sperry Chalet, Snyder Lake, Lincoln Pass, Fish Lake and Lincoln Lake areas) were severely scorched. Nearly 17,000 acres burned, much of it a 300-year-old growth forest.

The Kenow Fire started in Waterton Lakes National Park. That fire burned about 48,000 acres in the park (and more than 85,000 acres in all). It came dangerously close to the Waterton townsite and Prince of Wales Hotel. The Visitor Center on the north side of the entrance highway opposite the Prince of Wales burned down.

As each of us quietly fights our individual battle with Covid-19, both Montana’s Glacier Park and Alberta’s Waterton Park have struggled to offer limited access in pursuit of maintaining safe visitor environments for 2020 park visitors. This is a human disaster. It has limited impact on the Waterton/Glacier Peace Park habitat.



# Construction of a New Kilmorey Lodge in Progress

*By Chris Morrison (Waterton Park Historian and author)*

It's been more than 11 years since Waterton's historic Kilmorey Lodge burned to the ground. While the owners, Waymarker Hospitality, have made some progress on a replacement facility on a start and stop basis, it may be some time yet before a new motel will be ready for occupancy.

The new building is expected to include 18 hotel rooms, five fewer than the destroyed facility, with a restaurant and bar, a meeting room for 25 people on the main floor and staff accommodation in the basement. This summer, work on the new facility was stalled when inadequacies in the foundation were said to have appeared because of the building's proximity to Emerald Bay and revisions to the structure were required.

Waymarker is the largest motel operator in Waterton with three operating facilities: Waterton Lakes Lodge Resort, the Crandell Lodge, and the Aspen Village. The new Kilmorey Lodge will be the company's fourth facility, and when completed will not only be the newest but also the first to be built in Waterton by Waymarker.

The story of the Kilmorey Lodge began late in May, 1926 when Mrs. Ada Kemmis of Pincher Creek, Alberta decided to get into the lodging business and hired contractors Oland and Scott Construction to excavate a cellar for a 12-room rooming house to replace a tiny cabin on the site. The Kilmorey Lodge (named after a location in Ireland) opened later that summer.



*(Photo courtesy of Chris Morrison.)*

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*The new building is expected to include 18 hotel rooms, five fewer than the destroyed facility, with a restaurant and bar, a meeting room for 25 people on the main floor.*

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The lodge burned to the ground under mysterious circumstances in March 1933. It was replaced in 1935 by the facility that was destroyed in 2009. News of the demise of the Kilmorey in January 2009 quickly spread throughout southern Alberta and northern Montana. Official cause of the fire, was reported as "spontaneous combustion of laundry."

Rustic, yet comfortable and pleasing to the eye, the Kilmorey Lodge over

the years became a much-beloved facility for hungry and/or thirsty day visitors as well as overnight guests. A succession of owners took over the facility in the years that followed the retirement of Mrs. Kemmis, maintaining and slowly improving the ambiance of the lodge.

According to Waymarker's promotional materials, the new lodge "will stay true to its reputation of hospitality, excellence and pride of service..."



# Delphiniums and Cattle Roundups

## *Gardening at Glacier Park Lodge*



*By Jim McGarry (Glacier Park Lodge 1971)*

Spring 1971 found me in my junior year at the University of Dayton. It had a good School of Engineering with reasonable tuition, and most importantly, its summer break started in mid-April. This gave us an edge on getting the good summer jobs. My summers were usually spent outdoors working highway construction at home in upstate New York, and weekends at the family camp in the Adirondacks. But that summer I was headed to Glacier to work as an undergardener.

Arriving at the end of April by train from St. Paul, I found that spring was just breaking in the park, with snowbanks surrounding Glacier Park Lodge. But what a beautiful site! Entering the lodge, I was first greeted by Ian B. Tippet. I found my bunk room and spent the evening at dinner with Mr. Tippet and the few staff that also had arrived early.

*Ian Tippet surrounded by his beloved flowers. (Photo courtesy of Bret Bouda.)*

The next day, Walt Richards, the Grounds Superintendent, joined us for breakfast and we headed out to our summer headquarters not far from the lodge. Three other fellows made up the initial spring crew: Ed Conrad from Texas, Tom Lornstson from Minnesota, and John Cassidy from Connecticut. Walt made one thing clear about the job ... the appearance of the grounds at the

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*Walt made one thing clear about the job ... the appearance of the grounds at the lodges were a priority for Mr. Tippet.*

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lodges were a priority for Mr. Tippet. Keeping him satisfied was thus a priority for Walt, and for us.

The four of us hit it off right from the start. We all had outdoor work experience, and we put our hearts and muscles into the jobs facing us. Later, as summer progressed, we were scheduled to have a 6 or 7 man crew, but we never had more than 5. We told Walt to let us try to do it all. He did, and we did. The grounds never had looked so good!

While stationed at East Glacier Park we also transported nursery stock to Many Glacier Hotel (where Ray Kinley was gardener) and to Lake McDonald Lodge. These trips were always a big event, although slow. We drove the antique 1946 Ford dump trucks over Looking Glass Pass to St. Mary and then to Many Glacier and Lake McDonald. Each trip gave us a chance to visit with the Many Glacier staff and usually to sleep over and experience a night of entertainment in the lodge. The entertainment at Many Glacier was legendary among the returning employees at Glacier Park Lodge. Our trips were an opportunity to see the performances

firsthand and see what Mr. Tippet had created and nurtured over the years.

Usually, when we delivered plants to Many Glacier, Mr. Tippet would greet us at the front drive. His excitement to see us was humbling until we realized that he was greeting the new flowers, not us. Boy, did that man enjoy his flower beds ... then and up to the end!

I often had the opportunity to visit with Mr. Tippet, as many of our hikes began at Many Glacier. If we worked extra hours during the week, Walt would let us take off Saturdays as well as Sundays. We could catch the last jammer bus that left for Many Glacier on Friday afternoon and have two full days to explore. The employee housing available at the main lodges, along with the free transportation, made this the best job ever! At Many Glacier, Mr. T would always greet staff from other lodges with enthusiasm and with a challenging inquiry about our work. He really did know every detail about the company.

The altitude, climate and long summer days at Glacier were perfect for producing incredible flowerbeds.

Giant Pacific delphiniums reached six feet tall with sky blue flowers all summer. Fuchsia and nasturtiums in the window boxes thrived, and the red geraniums in planter boxes would match anything you would see in the Alps. Most impressive were the huge hanging baskets at each of the lodges. We were particularly proud of the spectacular view that this gave to travelers arriving at the East Glacier Park train station.

The gardeners' duties included planting and maintaining the flowerbeds, lawn mowing, and maintaining the golf course and the fence lines around the golf course at Glacier Park Lodge. One duty that hadn't been listed in the job description was cattle rustling!

With open range laws in Montana, ranchers were not required to keep their cattle fenced in. Instead, land owners who wanted to keep others' livestock off their property were responsible to fence them out. Despite barbed wire fencing surrounding the golf course, we had to deal with stray cattle. Some ranchers would surreptitiously open the gates so their cattle could graze on the lush, green, irrigated fairways. On many early mornings and evenings, we had to conduct impromptu roundups. No horses, but lots of

hootin' and hollering while driving cattle out with the dump trucks.

A fringe benefit of maintaining the golf course was getting to know the local horsemen who offered trail rides and guided trips into the Park. They leased the pastureland outside the golf course fences for their horses and pack mules. By setting the irrigation sprinklers to overshoot the golf course, we would water both the fairways and their pastures. This had the benefit of keeping the mules from jumping the barbed wire fence onto the lush golf course. We also made great friends of the horsemen. Free hayrides and discounted trips into the Park were our rewards for watering the pasture.

One particularly perfect ride was up to Firebrand Pass in a remote southern area of the Park. The August weather was perfect – bright blue skies and sunshine all the way. Everyone had a great time, with no spills or injuries, albeit with a few saddle sores to nurse that night.

Summer passed too quickly. At the end of August, I headed back to Minneapolis by train and then on to Dayton. The week before I left, Mr. Al Donau of Glacier Park, Incorporated (GPI) and Mr. Tippet joined Walt and the grounds crew for lunch. They both expressed their appreciation and invited us to come back the next year. Afterward, Walt congratulated us for making him look good and for meeting Mr. T's priorities.

Walt was a carryover from when the Great Northern Railway had owned the lodges, more than a decade before. He had been a great boss, so the four of us were really glad to have worked for him. But realities of life intervened, and none of us were able to return to Glacier.



A Day off on Firebrand Pass.

*A fringe benefit of maintaining the golf course was getting to know the local horsemen who offered trail rides and guided trips into the Park.*

*(Photo courtesy of Jim McGarry.)*





*These photos were taken by the distinguished  
**Bret Bouda** (author of **"Glacier Park"**)  
They are published with permission.*





*...stinguished Montana photographer  
...ark Wide” and “Glacier Classics.”  
...th his kind permission.*



# Many Glacier Bellman Tales of 1979



Gary Roberson      Steve Kern      Rick Taylor      Steve Bergen      Mike Accardo  
John Hagen      Paul Hoff      John Whitaker      Einar Hanson      Lonnie Gillette  
Eric Hammer

*(Frank Sharr Photo, courtesy of the Sharr family.)*

*By John Hagen (Many Glacier 1970-80)*

## Rescuing Old Glory

“That’s a hell of a way to fly the flag!” barked a veteran of World War Two as I was handling luggage on the portico. I glanced up at the American flag, which was flown each day high above Many Glacier’s front door. Sure enough, Old Glory was tangled grotesquely in the flag rope.

I went to investigate. Each morning, the first bellman on duty was responsible to carry the flag up a ladder to a balcony, above the hotel’s front door. There he was to

hook the flag onto the rope, hoist it about twenty feet in the air, and tie the rope down. The rope ran through a pulley on a beam projecting high overhead from the roof.

That morning, the early bellman was brand-new to the job, and he had encountered an unexpected complication. The rope was frayed, and it jammed in the pulley. The flag was incompletely raised. The new bellman made the mistake of not tying down the rope, and made the further mistake of forgetting to ask for help. The wind blew the flag and the rope and entangled them.

What to do? A twenty-foot length of pipe conduit was lying in a

hallway for use in electrical repairs. Steve Bergen, Gary Roberson and I snaked this cumbersome object up to fourth-floor. (We had what my notebook describes as “Three Stooges-type adventures” on the stairs.). We entered a room, took the screen off the window, pushed the pipe outside, and used it to untwist the flag.

We tied the rope down. Later, with much maneuvering, Tim Beckwith coaxed the frayed rope out of the pulley. The flag was lowered, and a new rope was threaded up to replace the old one. Such was the everyday life of a bellman in our dilapidated hotel.



## Nimble Goblins

The Many Glacier bellmen used to perform a Bellman Song, created in 1975 by Steve White and Chip Smith. The Song was choreographed and performed as a sort of gorilla chorus line. The tune was original, but similar to “My Coney Island Baby.” Here are the lyrics:

*“Welcome to Many Glacier; we’re glad you’re here! We are the bellman crew. We hope you find your stay enjoyable; after all we’re here to please you, you, you, you! (pointing) For blankets or ice or anything at all, please don’t hesitate to call. We deliver things right to your door at any hour of the day – for we’re the bellmen of Many Glacier, sooo (gorilla chorus line) – if you need attention, don’t forget to mention the bellmen of Many G!”*

The Song was mostly reserved for evening lobby performances, on the Monday Hootenanny or the Thursday Serenade. Usually we were too busy delivering luggage to use it to greet a tour. But once in a while, we had the leisure to perform it for a tour group of thirty or forty people who were assembled in the lobby.

One afternoon, half a dozen bellmen had very efficiently unloaded all the suitcases from a bus, marked them, and loaded them onto carts. The orientation talk for the tour group had been delayed by some problem. The people were sitting in the lobby, waiting patiently while the escort haggled with the front office staff. I was going to deliver the talk, and I made a last-minute decision to add the Song.

“Hey, guys!” I called through the front door to the bellmen outside on the portico. “Let’s do the Song for this tour group.”

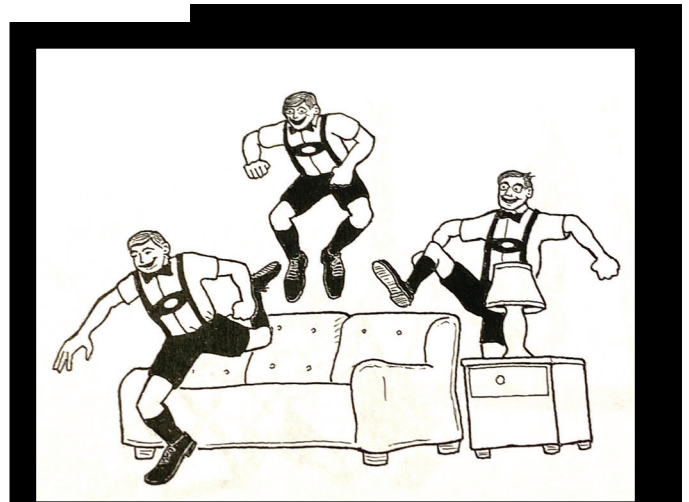
The crew was in good spirits, and they responded very energetically. They raced in through the door and athletically leaped over one of the couches before forming the chorus line. They reminded me of the troop of goblins nimbly leaping over tombstones in Charles Dickens’ *Pickwick Papers*. The tourists were agog at this performance, and vigorously applauded the song.

### Up on the Roof

One afternoon, some visitors walked into the hotel, remarking about “those people walking around on the roof.” Mr. Tippet was standing by the Bellmen’s Desk, and of course his ears pricked up at this conversation.

“On the roof?! Paul, come with me!” he summoned Paul Hoff, one of the bellmen standing on duty. They strode across the tarmac in front of the hotel to a place where it was possible to scan the roof. Sure enough, four off-duty employees had climbed out a dormer window from a storage room which gave access to the shingles. They were preparing to sunbathe there.

“Come down from there! Come down !!” cried Mr. Tippet indignantly. Turning to Paul, he demanded, in menacing tones, “Who are they?!”



*The crew, ... responded very energetically. They raced in through the door and athletically leaped over one of the couches before forming the chorus line. They reminded me of the troop of goblins nimbly leaping over tombstones in Charles Dickens’ *Pickwick Papers*.*

*(Photo and art, John Hagen.)*

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*Nobody was fired. The affair concluded with one of Mr. Tippet's distinctive reprimands: "This is not a country club for employees!"*

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Paul could see very well who they were. But he squinted and shaded his eyes as if he were blinded by the afternoon sun. "I can't see!" he replied.

But Paul's attempt to protect the imprudent employee foursome was in vain. "Why, it's A! And B! And C! And D!" exclaimed a very young kitchen assistant who happened to be standing by. [We'll keep the sunbathers' names confidential, despite the passage of four decades.]

Mr. Tippet was crestfallen. A and B and C and D were among his very favorite, hardest-working employees, and one was a department head. They beat a hasty retreat back into the hotel. Nobody was fired. The affair concluded with one of Mr. Tippet's distinctive reprimands: "This is not a country club for employees!"

#### **A Mistaken Delivery**

Mike Accardo and I, on the evening shift, were sent to deliver a rollaway bed. On such an errand, you should knock on the door and call "Bellman!," and then open the door with a passkey if there is no response.

Something went awry. There was no answer to our knock. We used the passkey, pushed the door open – and it was chained! There was a resounding clatter and clang.

Through the crack in the door, we saw three old ladies, in curlers and nightgowns, fly out of their beds like toast from a toaster. "What do you want?!" they cried indignantly. When we said that we'd brought

the rollaway, they protested, "We didn't order one!" The Front Desk had sent us to the wrong room.

#### **More Rollaway Tales**

One evening, we were compelled to send most of the hotel's rollaways to Swiftcurrent Motor Inn for a tour group there. Predictably, we then received a chorus of calls for rollaways in the hotel. The entire supply was soon exhausted, except for one old crippled rollaway which somehow had lost its wheels.

Guests were willing to take the defective bed, but we had to find a way to prop it up. (The missing wheels were needed to support the frame.) We fetched out paint cans from a storage closet to provide the props.

Then another room called for a rollaway! There were no more to be had. We created a "rollaway" by piling two spare mattresses on the floor of the room and laying down some bedding.

#### **Shampooer Adventures**

That summer, Many Glacier received a housekeeping innovation – a lumbering, rumbling carpet-shampooing machine. The housekeepers used it periodically to clean carpets in the hallways. There was no instruction book. The machine was enigmatic and cranky, sometimes disgorging huge volumes of foam and sometimes refusing to work at all.

One day, some unfortunate passerby vomited in the Long Hall on first floor, the most trafficked area of the hotel. Time for the sham-

poor! I ran to the Linen Room and rushed the machine downstairs. Perversely, it refused to function. I monkeyed with it, unscrewed a plug, and FOOM! An explosion of pressurized soap suds covered me from head to toe.

Recalling this fiasco brings to mind an unrelated episode. During a late-morning lull, some bellmen and housemen held an imprudent water fight outside the Linen Room on third floor. Predictably, Mr. Tippet appeared on the scene about thirty seconds later and cast an eye on the wet carpet. "Well, Ms. Saunders," he remarked to Terri Saunders, the Head Housekeeper, "I see that you've been shampooing." "Yes," Terri said, with characteristic aplomb. "And we're going to do second floor tomorrow!"

#### **Social Distancing**

Glancing over photographs from 1979, I see one that resonates amid the current pandemic. Several bellmen stayed to work on the cleanup crew at the end of the summer. We mopped the floors, shrouded the furniture with bedsheets, and assisted with other duties.

A sign was posted on Many Glacier's front doors: HOTEL CLOSED UNTIL JUNE 1980. Annoyingly, this had no deterrent effect on late-season tourists wandering the grounds of the hotel. They repeatedly barged in through the doors and loitered about in the empty lobby. So we created and posted a more arresting sign: HOTEL QUARANTINED: SMALLPOX.



# *Mentor Magazine, June 1914*

## *an early recognition of the wonders of Glacier Park*

*(Tessie Bundick collection)*

By Tessie Bundick (*Many Glacier* 1972-73, '76-80)

The Mentor Association, a New York based educational establishment, was a group that was established to develop its members' exposure to art, literature, science, history, nature and travel. Its motto was "learn one thing every day".

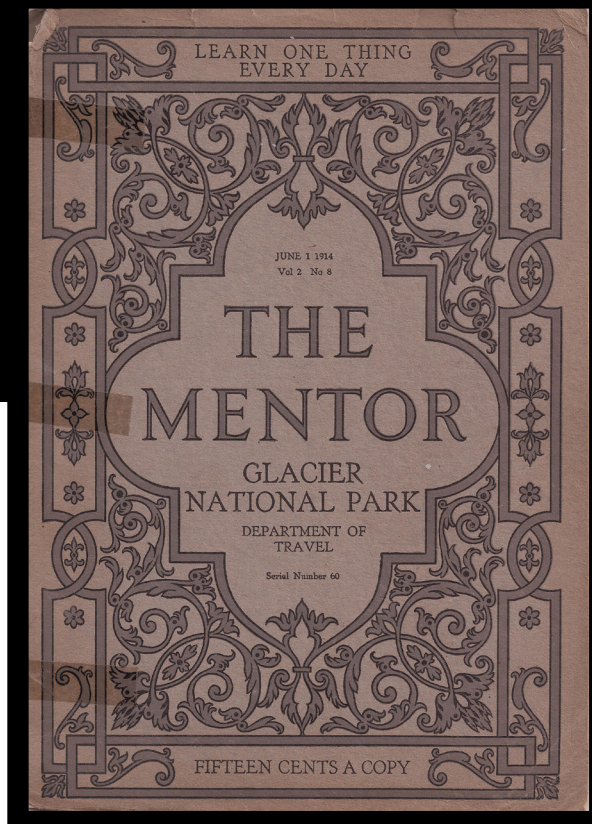
The Association's June 1, 1914 magazine was exclusively devoted to revealing the astonishing scenic displays of a newly minted recreational wonderland, Glacier National Park, situated in the northwestern corner of the state of Montana. The Park had been established by the United States Congress, only four years earlier, in 1910. This particular periodical would fall under the Mentor categories of nature and travel. The first part of the journal was subdivided into sections accompanied by beautiful sepia pictures taken by the well known firm of Kiser Photo Company.

St. Mary's Lake and environs gets the first treatment. St. Mary's, set in a frame of enormous, thrilling mountains, is called the most beautiful lake in America, according to the article. This loveliness is enhanced by the existence of

charming Going to the Sun Camp, complete with Swiss style chalets to house tourists.

The piece was prepared by the editorial staff of the Mentor Association, as are all of the writings. They decided to add a Blackfoot legend to enhance the geographical tilt of their nature recitation. The Blackfeet were the native Americans who owned the land that became Glacier Park before it was sold to the United States, and their reservation adjoined the eastern border of the Park. The authors proceed to relate the story of Sour Spirit, a great benevolence to the native people. The Spirit came down from his Lodge of the Sun and taught the humans great things and then returned to his home. He left a stony image of his face on Going to the Sun Mountain, that is, of course, seen today on this stunning peak in the St. Mary's area.

McDermott Falls (later Swiftcurrent) at Many Glacier Camp gets the next attention. Tourists, who wished, could make a two day auto and stage trip from East Glacier Park. There was a new road from East to St. Mary's, and then a four



horse stage to Many Glacier, a twenty two mile journey. Once there, a traveler could take in the glorious mountain scenery, admire the quaint visitors' chalets, and be enchanted by the spectacle of the magnificent waterfall cascading out of McDermott Lake into Swiftcurrent River, where the fishing was purported to be excellent.

Glacier Park, in 1914, was often best appreciated taking one of the extended horseback trips that were very popular at the time. Dudes on horses would ride from camp to camp and enjoy the magnificent scenery up closely and personally. One of the best equine tours was begun at Going to the Sun Camp, riding seven hours to Gunsight Camp, complete with several glaciers to be admired. Then on to Sperry Camp, passing through Gunsight Pass, 7900 feet above



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*“Away up in the northwestern corner of Montana, Uncle Sam has set aside 1,400 square miles of mountains, lakes, and plains, that those who live today and those of future generations may see and revel in the beauties of a country not yet despoiled by the devastating hand of civilization.”*

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sea level. The name for the Pass, according to the Mentor, was A-socht-comah-chiss (gunsight) Ky-ee-kim-icht-covey (gap) – a free translation of the English name into Blackfeet.

The authors also claim that there might be probable cause to believe the the Blackfeet name for the marvelous Iceberg Lake in the Many Glacier Valley was Koh-kohl-tooey (ice) Ah-pyace-sooey-yee (flying around in) O-mock-sick-i-mee (lake). The remarkable feature of this body of water is the eye popping aqua color and the fact that chunks falling from ice fields resting on the perpendicular arete rising above the lake, splash into the depths below and create floating islands of white that thrill the hardy hikers and horseback riders who venture to see it.

According to the Mentor treatise on Glacier Park, the native name for Two Medicine Lake is Naht-oh-kee-oh-kahss (two medicine) O-mock-sick-i-mee (lake). This means, “The lake where the two medicine lodges were held at the same time.” The nomenclature emanated from a time when Blackfeet elders built two medicine lodges in this scenic area, praying to the Great Spirit to end a famine. The old men journeyed to Chief Mountain to ask the Wind

God for relief, but were frightened and failed in seeking aid. They returned and then the young men made the supplication trip. They were more successful and the Wind God quivered his great wings and made clouds and the rain fell, ending the drought. The buffalo came back, after the Wind God stretched his wings over the plains, so that the people might again have food. Everything ended well, and the mountainous land from whence they started their quest and constructed the lodges was called “The Valley of the Two Medicine”.

The editorial staff who penned these articles were seemingly enchanted by the visual astonishments of this new national playground. They made such observations as “Majestic lakes lie in valleys; mountain streams, with their icy waters, clear as crystal, leap from precipice to precipice; all around are echoing canyons, magnificent forests of pine, and here and there are open space where mountain daisies and honeysuckle bloom riotously in the glorious mountain air.” And also “Away up in the northwestern corner of Montana, Uncle Sam has set aside 1,400 square miles of mountains, lakes, and plains, that those who live today and those of future generations may see and revel in the beauties of

a country not yet despoiled by the devastating hand of civilization.”

An addendum to the one page articles in the first part of the magazine is a lengthy tribute to Glacier Park by William T. Hornaday, Director of the New York Zoological Park. He writes, “Out of the hurley burley of material progress and the general destruction of things beautiful there has arisen a colossal sanctuary of wild nature.” And later, “In size, beauty, grandeur and scientific interest, it literally staggers the imagination.” He continues to rapturously praise the “thundering peaks, plunging valleys, mirror lakes, thrilling glaciers, roaring streams and evergreen forests.” He mentions the wildlife, the saddle horse tours, the vistas, the geography and on and on.

He especially admires the lakes of Glacier. He claims these watery bodies are divided into the large, sea going ones like Lake McDonald and the “jewels” such as Lake Ellen Wilson and Gunsight. William Hornaday is obviously a devoted lover of this marvelous portion of Montana and he seems to wish that more Americans knew about it so that visitation would increase and more citizens could experience the wonders of this amazing creation of nature.

It was because of magazines like “The Mentor” that Glacier began to be highly publicized, and that the general populace became aware of its existence. Of course, the Great Northern Railway, with many interests in the Park, including the chalet camps and hotels (among other projects) was mainly responsible for letting the travelling public know about this spectacular vacationland.

# An East Glacier Park Centennial



By John Hagen (*Many Glacier 1970-80*)

Myriads of Glacier Park employees have formed their first impressions of Glacier alighting from the Empire Builder onto the railway platform at East Glacier Park. Passengers emerge from the stale air of the rail car into fresh breeze and a tremendous panorama. Glacier Park Lodge looms ahead, with its chocolate-brown walls and white window frames, its overhanging roofs and tiers of balconies, and its majestic tree-trunk pillars. Vast gardens sweep up to it, Blackfeet teepees stand on the lawns, and the mountain peaks of Glacier tower beyond.

That north-facing perspective is graven into our memories. South and east of the railway station, however, stands a less imposing but historic and colorful community. Originally it was called Midvale. Soon after the Park was formed, both the station and the town were renamed Glacier Park Station.

The name was changed again in 1950, after a complex tussle involving both sides of the Park. Here's a brief account of that episode:

- Residents of Belton, the west-side railway stop, long had sought to change their name to "West Glacier" (which had the commercial advantage of identifying it with the Park). In 1949,
- In 1950, inspired by the westsiders' action, the residents of Glacier Park Station changed their town's name to "East Glacier Park." The Great Northern once more refused to comply, and kept calling the rail stop "Glacier Park Station."
- The east side name change caused some confusion. The Glacier Park Hotel Company



*View of Glacier Park Lodge and its gardens from the East Glacier Park railway station. (Photo courtesy of Bret Bouda.)*

(a Great Northern subsidiary) had opened the East Glacier Auto Cabins on Going-to-the-Sun Road in 1940. The cabins were renamed "Rising Sun," to the indignation of those who had worked or visited there and grown fond of the name.

In any event, East Glacier Park became the name of the community which thrives today east and south of Glacier Park Lodge. It includes an array of pleasant, old-fashioned motels, restaurants, gift shops and art studios. It also includes a vigorous Women's Club that will celebrate its centennial in December 2020.

Women's clubs were a major social and civic force in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. They organized community services of many sorts that later mostly were taken on by agencies of government. (The clubs still exist, however, as important entities of civil society – more than 6,000 are active today).

The Glacier Park Women's Club began with 22 members out of about 200 residents of Glacier Park Station. Its first activity in December of 2020 was to raise funds for a community Christmas tree and for Christmas stockings for all the children of the town (made of mosquito netting, to display the candy, nuts, and fruit inside). In subsequent years, the club also gave Christmas baskets of food to needy families.



The club was closely focused on children's welfare in its early years. The members organized a school lunch program, buying milk for the students and making soup in their homes to be served at the school. They hired a nurse and a dentist to examine the children, and gave toothbrushes and toothpaste to children whose families could not afford them. They bought the school a piano and a phonograph, and some members gave free music lessons.

The club's early history has connections with the history of Glacier Park. One of the founders, Helene Dawson Edkins, bore a famous Glacier surname. She was the club's president for many years and was active in it for many decades.

Helene's adoptive parents were Tom Dawson (after whom Dawson Pass is named) and Isabel Clarke Dawson (namesake of Lake Isabel). You likely have seen a print of Winold Reiss's painting of Tom Dawson, dressed in a coonskin cap and a buckskin jacket, fingering a rifle, posted in

one of Glacier's lodges. This outfit was fanciful (posing for the picture was the first time that Dawson had worn a coonskin cap, and he had been educated in Europe!). But he was a guide for Louis Hill and other notables, and he was an interpreter for Mary Roberts Rinehart.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) played a large role in Glacier during the Depression. It provided work for unemployed men, building roads and trails and infrastructure. CCC crews also fought forest fires, salvaged burnt timber, strung telephone wires, and built retaining walls on Going-to-the-Sun Road. At one point, some 1,500 men were at work for the CCC in Glacier, living in military-style camps near Lake Sherburne, near Belton, and in other venues.

The CCC's Indian Division employed some 80,000 tribal members nationwide. It built a Community Hall for the Women's Club in 1933.

This project involved what the Women's Club historians call "political razzle-dazzle." The CCC could not

work for private groups. The Women's Club therefore donated land (purchased from the Great Northern) to Glacier County. The County arranged for the CCC to build the hall. It then designated the Women's Club as trustees to operate the hall.

The Community Hall has been the town's social and cultural center for 87 years. It houses a library, run by volunteers. It hosts musical performances, dances, dinners, arts and crafts shows, and town meetings. It has sheltered travelers when train cars derailed and when blizzards have shut down Highway 2.

The Glacier Park Women's Club exemplifies Tocquevillean civil society – a citizens' group of volunteers robustly working on local projects and local issues. Glacier Park has produced several such Tocquevillean entities, including the Glacier Park Foundation, the Glacier National Park Conservancy, the Glacier Institute, and the Glacier Park Associates. The Glacier Park Women's Club is the oldest of all, and we salute its centennial!

## Call for Stories: *An Ian Tippet Anthology*

Twenty-three years ago, The Inside Trail published a commemorative issue devoted to stories of Ian Tippet. Those stories are posted on our website. (Go to [www.glacierparkfoundation.org](http://www.glacierparkfoundation.org), click the "Inside Trail" drop-down, and see the Summer 1997 issue.)

If you visit that issue, you'll find an abundance of colorful tales and memories of Mr. T. Here's an example:

"At one famous Hootenanny, a frightful stomping broke out above the front desk, as if a herd of wild horses had been turned

loose on the second floor balcony. Mr. Tippet rushed up to investigate, with a number of sturdy employees. On the balcony, we found a group of hippies from the campground engaged in a sort of gypsy dance, caracoling about in colorful skirts, leaping into the air and clicking their heels. Mr. Tippet instantly and decisively put a stop to these proceedings. Then, leading his minions back toward the lobby, he waved an arm at the

chastened dancers and demanded, 'Are they cannibals?!'"

If you knew Mr. Tippet, these stories probably will call up vivid memories of your own. We encourage you to write those memories down!

In the next Inside Trail, we'll publish an anthology of stories of Mr. T, who passed away last March. We welcome contributions from our members! Please send stories (and photos) to [johnhagen@usfamily.net](mailto:johnhagen@usfamily.net).

**The deadline for articles is  
January 15, 2021!**



# A Glimpse of Heaven on Earth

By John DoBroka

Taking in the awesome wonder of Glacier's majestic mountains, seeing its spectacular lakes and streams, or enjoying the cherished moments of uninterrupted solitude has cemented a lasting imprint within me of God's unlimited ability to create beauty and splendor for us to enjoy upon this Earth. I consider myself one of the fortunate select to have had the opportunity to take in the scope and grandeur of both Glacier and Waterton National Parks. I have come to view my time within these parks as some of the major highlights of my life. Each visit, and there have been six of them to this point, has left an indelible mark with me. I invite you to close your eyes and let me recount for you some of those memories -- which may also jog similar ones from your own visits to the "Crown of the Continent."

No matter the length of each trip, (for me, the journey originated in Columbus, Ohio), the level of excitement in reaching my destination grew with each passing hour in the air until my plane landed safely at the Kalispell airport. From there the final leg of the journey commenced, and whether my wife and I were going to Glacier Park Lodge on the east end, the more rustic Lake McDonald on the west end, or journeying all the way across the border to the stately Prince of Wales Hotel at Waterton, I knew that we would momentarily be experiencing that longed-for glimpse of heaven.

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*Seeing the sun dance in the shadows of the mountains and listening to the melodic sounds of the wind passing through the never-ending forests of pine trees reminded me that I was not in Ohio anymore.*

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I was awestruck upon first seeing those mountains, even from a distance. Coming from Ohio, where rolling hills are the best we have in terms of high places, I could not get over the height and ruggedness of each peak and actually seeing snow on them even in summertime. The closer I drew to them, the more I felt I was entering a place that was very special. Seeing the sun dance in the shadows of the mountains and listening to the melodic sounds of the wind passing through the never-ending forests of pine trees reminded me that I was not in Ohio anymore. The presence of a vast array of wildlife which included elk, moose, big horn sheep, mountain goats, and even a bear or two, also signified I had entered that part of the country where I needed to show a heightened awareness and respect for these grand animals and their habitat.

In line with showing that respect, during one of the numerous hikes

around the Many Glacier Hotel and Swiftcurrent Lake area, my wife and I had somehow managed to wander off the main path and found ourselves stepping across a large, steaming pile of "bear scat." That sight placed the two of us on high alert, since we knew the owner could be nearby. We were not thrilled at the possibility of even a chance encounter, at this point, especially when other hikers higher up quickly alerted us of their own bear sighting. Fortunately, we were able to vacate the scene without incident, walking double time with hands clasped and hearts beating, refusing to look behind us. Within minutes, we were relieved to find ourselves back in the safe area around our hotel. In all my travels to the park, that was the closest encounter with a potential life threatening situation.

After the harrowing experience of a near bear encounter, we went back to our suite, enjoyed a couple of

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huckleberry daiquiris, and spent a long time unwinding on our balcony with the majesty of a glacial lake and mountain views that encircled us. Sitting there until nightfall, and now fully relaxed, also permitted us to take in the sky filled with more stars than I had ever seen. Once again, I was in awe of God's handiwork.

Several of my most vivid memories of the Glacier and Waterton Parks involved the weather -- which everyone knows can be a major factor during a summer visit. In my travels, I have seen snow in early June during our stay at Lake McDonald, which closed the Going to the Sun Road at Logan Pass. I have witnessed devastating evidence of the many lightning strikes which have caused horrific summer fires. I have experienced a severe rain and wind storm, which awakened my wife and me as we slept at the Prince of Wales Hotel. Our fourth floor suite shook and howled for several hours, as the force of the storm battered this historic hotel atop the hill overlooking the Waterton park area. The following morning, we awoke to a beautiful sunrise coming through our spacious window, leaving me thoughts of having experienced another of the park's many natural wonders.

Speaking of wonders, I found travelling the length of the "Going to the Sun" road to be one of life's most exhilarating and heart pounding experiences. Where else could you encounter mile after mile and turn after turn of spectacular vistas that leave you wondering, can it get any better than this? Taking in all the beauty and splendor, in tandem with the responsibility of driving a vehicle, throws an added measure

of excitement into the equation. Looking down the side where no guard rail is present, rounding hairpin turns on the outside lane, and getting behind vehicles almost too large to navigate this challenging road are all part of the test every driver faces when they begin that steady climb to see some of nature's greatest marvels. When I reach the Logan Pass Visitor Center, I always feel that the hardest part of the journey is behind me. I have decided that the next time I venture to Glacier, someone else will be doing the driving so that I can relax and take in the full spectrum of what the journey of the "Going to the Sun" offers.

I would like to close by recounting one of my most cherished, personal moments that occurred while visiting Glacier. The inspiration began at a Friday night church service back home in Columbus, Ohio. I had been seeking some spiritual answers regarding some health issues I had. During a time of prayer in the service, I heard specific words of comfort and encouragement through reading some Bible passages that seemed to "jump off the page." Knowing that I was soon travelling to Glacier, I sensed God's instructions for me included writing these inspired words on a piece of paper and taking them with me to Hidden Lake by Logan

Pass. I had never before hiked to Hidden Lake, but I knew that hike was in my immediate future. Once there, I found the lengthy walk to reach the lake prepared me both physically and spiritually for what I had come to do. In a moment of surrender, I was able to place the small piece of paper with the inspired words into a stream that emptied into the lake. I carefully watched the paper float off into the distance, until it went out of view.

I came away from the experience with a sense of peace and calm, which I had been seeking when I came to Glacier for this particular visit. In trying to remember the Bible verses or the message I placed on that piece of paper, I have found the window closed in my memory for sharing them at this time with you. I believe God has used Glacier in similar situations for people to come and listen to His voice, see His awesomeness, and experience events just as He did for me. After all, why do people keep coming back year after year? It is a special place!

Every time I have made the journey to Glacier, something special happens. I am sure everyone who enters this Glimpse of Heaven on Earth would make a similar claim, with wonderful stories and memories of their own.

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# The Inside News *(continued from page 4)*

Glacier and for hundreds of yards on U.S. Highway 2. On several days, the West Glacier entrance station had to be shut down for extensive periods.

## **Polebridge Besieged**

The Polebridge Ranger Station, far up the primitive North Fork Road, had unprecedented traffic – by some estimates, 50% more than the previous year. Visitors went there as an alternative to jam-packed Going-to-the-Sun, and in search of the Polebridge Mercantile's renowned Huckleberry Bearclaws, which have become legendary among denizens of social media.

Some tourists, however, meant to drive Going-to-the-Sun, and went thirty miles into the backwoods to Polebridge by mistake! They were misdirected by their smartphones. Polebridge is closer than West Glacier to the geographical center of the Park. Some navigation systems responded to queries for directions to "Glacier Park" by sending travelers off to Polebridge.

One ranger tried to telephone Silicon Valley to have the algorithms changed. He was repulsed by robots and menus.

## **Ticketed Entry?**

In mid-July, Glacier proposed a ticketed-entry system to deal with the traffic problems on Going-to-the-Sun. Glacier's Superintendent Jeff Mow discussed this proposal in a video-conference with local Chambers of Commerce. The Hungry Horse News quoted Mow as saying that local businesses expressed a "tepid acceptance" of the plan.

The Park proposed to implement an online reservation system. 1,200 new vehicles a day would be given access for seven days (not counting concessioner vehicles, inholder vehicles, and other local traffic). Half the tickets

would be made available 30 days in advance, and the other half two days in advance.

The proposal was not carried out. Too many logistical details would have had to be worked out at midseason. However, Glacier will weigh the option for possible use in future years. Some other parks (e.g., Rocky Mountain and Yosemite) now use ticketed entry systems.

## **Scofflaws**

Park Service personnel (like highway patrol officers nationwide) saw increased scofflaw behavior this summer. Large vehicles, exceeding restrictions on length for the upper parts of Going-to-the-Sun, barged into congested traffic there. Backpackers camped in undesignated areas, and hikers disregarded orders closing trails on the East Side.

Dog owners often defied signs forbidding dogs on the trails. In one episode, rangers encountered a party of mountain climbers carrying a dog in a backpack!

The most serious criminal event occurred in the North Fork in late July. A nocturnal arsonist attempted to start several wildfires along the inside North Fork Road, between Logging Creek and Kintla Lake. A visitor reported one of the fires to the Polebridge Ranger Station in the wee hours. Other smokes were spotted at dawn by the Numa Ridge fire lookout.

Most of the fires were inconsequential, but one fire completely destroyed the historic Ford Creek Patrol Cabin, between Big Prairie and Kintla Lake. The rustic and imposing cabin had served as an important overnight stop for rangers on winter backcountry patrols for nearly a century. The investigation into this event continues, but no arrests have yet taken place.

## **Night Hiking**

The Two Bear Air helicopter that carries out rescues in Glacier has an infrared sensor. It can locate people at night by sensing the warmth of a human body. The resolution is so sharp that observers easily can distinguish people from bears and other large mammals on the trails. This summer, Two Bear crews saw unusual numbers of people hiking at night.

Here's an anecdote involving night-hiking. Mountain climbers pitched a tent at a campsite on Upper Kintla Lake, more than ten miles from the nearest parking lot. They apologetically told people in a neighboring tent that they planned to arise before dawn to climb Long Knife Peak. "That's all right!" the people responded. "We're getting up at 4:30 AM to hike to our car and drive to Bellingham, Washington to go back to school."

## **Tragedies**

Glacier experienced multiple fatalities and a vanished hiker this summer. In early July, a group of hikers attempted to ford the Middle Fork of the Flathead River close to Essex after dark. One hiker was swept away and drowned. He reportedly was pushing a raft filled with camping gear toward the park, in an area not open to overnight camping. The Middle Fork was swollen by rain and heavy snowmelt, and its bed is composed of shifting, slippery slabs of rock.

In mid-July, Josh Yarrow, a 20-year-old employee at West Glacier, went climbing on the Dragon's Tail, an extension of Mt. Reynolds above Hidden Lake. He took off his backpack, which rolled off the ledge where he was standing and stuck in a precarious spot on a cliff.



The pack held Yarrow's wallet and other valuable items. He returned to the spot with a companion and attempted to reach the pack. He lost his footing and suffered a fatal fall of about 500 feet.

In late July, Barry Tragen, 68, vanished in Glacier. His vehicle was found at Kintla Lake, and sunglasses, likely belonged to him were found in Kintla Creek. Two weeks of searching, with dogs, planes, boats, and a remotely operated underwater vehicle, failed to discover him.

He joins a list of at least nine others who tragically have vanished in Glacier. They include the Whitehead brothers (1924, hiking from Granite Park to Lake McDonald); Dr. W. Crosby Bell (1933, climbing Mt. Brown); Frederick Lumley (1934, in the Goat Haunt area); David Wilson (1963, on Going-to-the-Sun Mountain); Matt Truskowski (1997, on or near Mt. Sinopah); Patrick Whalen (2000, in the Cut Bank valley); Larry Kimball (2003, in the North Fork); and Mark Sinclair (2019, near Logan Pass).

At least two other hikers passed away in Glacier due to natural causes – one on the Siyeh Pass trail and another near Hidden Meadow on the North Fork. The season also brought the usual succession of non-fatal visitor injuries and subsequent rescues.

### **Tippet Cottage**

For more than 30 summers, Ian Tippet lived in a charming little cottage facing out on the lawns and gardens of Glacier Park Lodge. It was shaded by pine trees, surrounded by flower boxes and pots, had a sharply peaked roof, and a distinctive red door. It was known to everyone as "Tippet Cottage."

When Mr. Tippet retired, the building was renamed "Garden Cottage" and was made available to guests. The Glacier Park Foundation's vice presi-

dent, Carol (Repulski) Dahle, sought to have the prior name restored after Mr. Tippet's death last March. She contacted Pursuit (the former Glacier Park, Inc.), which manages Glacier Park Lodge.

Carol provides this update: "Pursuit agrees that the cottage should go back to its former name, and they have been great to work with on the details. Don't be surprised if you see "Tippet Cottage" available for reservations in the future. There are a few details yet to be worked out, but Mr. T's legacy will continue. We'll keep you posted."

### **A Glacier Book Club**

In March, the Glacier National Park Conservancy began to shelter in place. The Conservancy raises funds for Glacier, makes grants to the Park Service for projects, and sells books about the Park. Executive Director Doug Mitchell and his staff discussed ways to adapt these services during the pandemic.

Mitchell, an avid reader and former book reviewer for Montana Magazine, decided to start a Glacier Book Club. "I wish I could say I had a bold strategic vision, but Julie and I were working from home and just going through book after book," Mitchell said. "I was looking at the great selection of Glacier books in our eCommerce store at glacier.org, and wondered if folks might be open to the idea of sharing some time on-line together talking about books related to Glacier."

The idea quickly took form. It was to choose one book a month and gather with the author using ZOOM technology for a one-hour session to talk about the book and the Park and to share time with fellow Glacier lovers.

The response was impressive. The Conservancy's ZOOM account allows it to host 100 people. Registration for the first event was announced on a Friday evening, and by Saturday morn-

ing the 100-person limit was exceeded. Mitchell states: "It was then we knew we were on to something – not just about the Glacier Book Club specifically, but about the ability to deliver events through a digital platform."

In November, the Glacier Book Club will be reading *The Wonder of Birds - What they Tell Us About the World, Ourselves and a Better Future*, by Montana-based New York Times writer Jim Robbins. This will be the Book Club's fifth session. Previous selections have included *A Woman's Way West* by John Fraley, *The Father of Glacier National Park* by Hugh Grinnell, and *Political Hell-Raiser: The Life and Times of Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana* by Marc Johnson.

The Book Club will be a permanent feature in the Conservancy's work plan. Titles scheduled for discussion in 2021 include *People Before the Park: The Kootenai and Blackfeet Before Glacier National Park* by Sally Thompson and *The Wild Inside*, a suspense novel by Christine Carbo set in and around Glacier National Park. The Book Club is free and more information is available at [www.glacier.org/glacier-book-club](http://www.glacier.org/glacier-book-club).

### **Sperry's Reopening**

The "hotel" at Sperry Chalets (the principal building, where the guests sleep) reopened on July 18, after two years of reconstruction. The building had burned in the Sprague Fire in August 2017, leaving only its stone walls. It was rebuilt in the summers of 2018 and 2019, at a cost of nearly \$9 million. The Conservancy raised crucial private contributions, to support the federal funding.

Visitors praised the appearance and quality of workmanship in the reconstructed chalet. The boards in the porch, the floors, and the balconies

*(Continued on page 27)*

# A "GoFundMe" Appeal

GPF member **Mike Ford** (a Many Glacier bellman and head bellman in the 1980s) suffered catastrophic injuries when a drunken driver collided head-on with his motorcycle in August of this year. Mike is pursuing a long course of rehabilitation and physical therapy, with the admirable cheerfulness and resilience familiar to his friends. We encourage members of the Glacier community to visit his GoFundMe page.

*(Continued from page 26)*

were meticulously scribed to fit against the irregularities of the stone walls.

A guest with long experience at Sperry noted that there are "no mice to speak of" now and that the walls have been soundproofed. These are dramatic departures from the historic norms. In another departure, night lights blink on along the stairs when guests go to use the toilets in the exterior bathhouse.

The chalet was full all summer, with house counts of about 40 for 17 guest-rooms. (When reservations opened last January, the entire summer was booked in a matter of minutes.) Because of the pandemic, guests ate in two shifts at the Sperry dining hall, and masks were required except while eating.

## Thanks to our generous donors!

The Glacier Park Foundation gratefully thanks the generous donors who've recently contributed funds beyond their membership dues. GPF remains an all-volunteer effort. We deeply appreciate the extra contributions which help fund our projects and our publications.

Doug and Amanda Batson  
and Barbara Batson Frueh  
*(in memory of Betty  
Cooper Batson)*

Janet Betlejeski

Jim Brownson

John and Patricia Case

Tim and Glenda Mueller  
Christenson

Rosella Dambowy

John Dobroka

Todd Eliason

John Hagen

Ken Latta

James McGarry *(in honor  
of Ian B. Tippet)*

Cliff and Ellen Reykdal

Mark and Margaret Schneider

John Sims

Julie Thron

Terry Tucker

### Granite Park

Sperry's sister chalet, Granite Park, was open this summer with some adjustments to its usual format. Some dining room tables were moved outside, to allow for social distancing inside. Nature talks, sponsored by the chalet, were given outdoors on pleasant evenings, allowing guests to sit socially distanced, enjoying the sunsets with a hot drink.

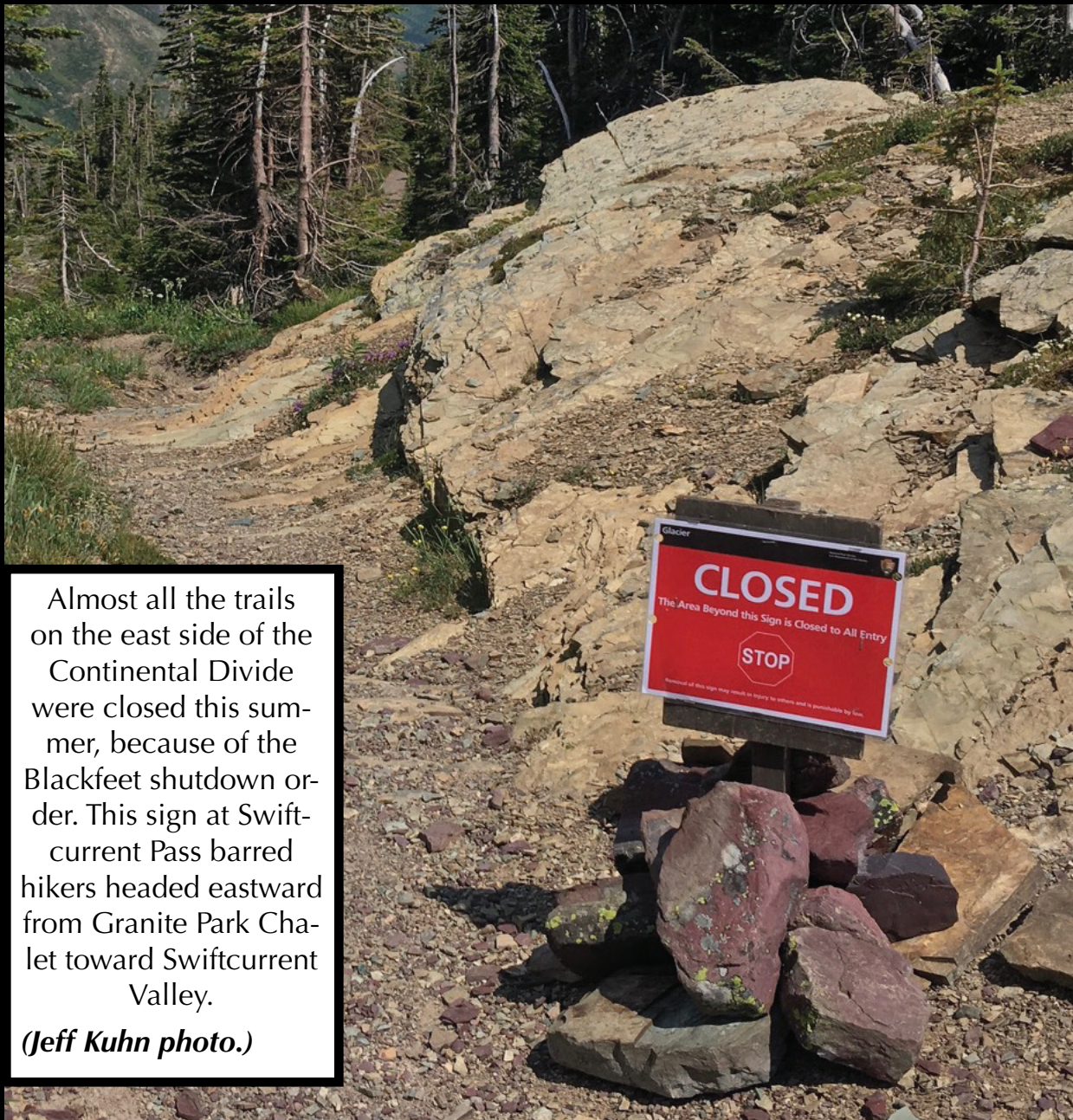
Granite Park has no running water, and water is brought from a source half a mile away. Granite Park staff typically carry five-gallon packs of water for chalet use, and guests carry their own. This is normal protocol.

Guests do their own cooking at Granite Park. This summer, special measures were taken to reduce the number

of people in the kitchen. Additional cooking times were added, and only one person per guest party was allowed in the kitchen at a time. The chalet provided all dishes and utensils, and chalet staff did the washing.

Naturalist hikes organized by the chalet took parties of about a dozen hikers to the Grinnell Glacier Overlook and Swiftcurrent Pass or to Ahern Pass. Hiking options for the general public were scarce this summer, and the Overlook trail often was tramped by "solid streams" of people. The northern leg to Ahern Pass, however, often was nearly deserted – there was almost no southbound traffic from Fifty Mountain, with the Canadian border closed and the Ahern Drift untreaded till late in the summer.





Almost all the trails on the east side of the Continental Divide were closed this summer, because of the Blackfeet shutdown order. This sign at Swiftcurrent Pass barred hikers headed eastward from Granite Park Chalet toward Swiftcurrent Valley.  
*(Jeff Kuhn photo.)*

## JOIN THE GLACIER PARK FOUNDATION

All friends of Glacier Park are invited to join the Glacier Park Foundation. Membership includes a subscription to The Inside Trail and the right to vote for directors. Please download a membership form from our Web Site ([www.glacierparkfoundation.org](http://www.glacierparkfoundation.org)) or send your name, address, phone number, and park experience to Glacier Park Foundation, Box 15241, Minneapolis, MN 55415.

An annual membership in the Foundation costs \$10. A “Friend of the Park” membership costs \$25 annually, cumulating to a Lifetime membership in five installments. A Lifetime membership paid in one installment costs \$100.

The Glacier Park Foundation is a § 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

