



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE YELLOWSTONE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

"A Good Road from Plymouth Rock to Puget Sound"



TRAVEL ALONG THE TRAIL

Toshio Koshimizu writes about the experiences of a Japanese tourist following the Yellowstone Trail

June 28, 2005 This June, my wife and I drove from Detroit to Seattle passing through 10 states, MN, IN, IL, WI, MN, SD, ND, MT, ID and WA. Last 6 states, from MN to WA, we traveled tracing "The Yellowstone Trail" route.

When I was making our driving plan, I bought several books of the road crossing America, such as Lincoln Highway, old US 80 and Yellowstone Trail.

Among those books, Ridge's book "Introducing The Yellowstone Trail" gave me great hint. Chapter 6 of the book shows town-to-town route, less changed old roads and points of interest.

However, I felt I might need more detailed and/or specific information. I sent an e-mail to John and asked for his help and advice. In reply, John sent me six maps on which I found his handwritten notes, what roads we should take and what places we should visit.

I decided we should travel it all, and that we could do so with only a few exceptions.

We met many nice and kind people during our trip: Johnnie Hill of "Hill's Unique Gifts", Hector (MN); Brian Sparks of "Yellowstone Gateway Museum", Livingston (MT) and Mrs. P. M. Herrick of "J. W. Parmley Museum", Ipswich (SD), to name a few. Every one else we met also welcomed us warmly and I must thank all of them.

Of course, there were some difficulties to find roads or places. In Marvin (SD), we could not find "old YT mark on rock". After we drove almost all roads in this small town, we went in to the post office and asked the location but counter lady there did not know.

US 12 running Aberdeen (SD) was under construction and closed. We could not find the way to "CR 12W", original YT started here. We drove further to Mina (SD) using detour route of US 12 and finally could find the road sign "CR 12W begin" near Lake Parmley.

We could not find "Pine Canyon, old route of YT" near Waterville (WA).

As our car was not a SUV, it was hard to drive rough dirt roads such as CR 7, 146 St. and 458 Av. near Marvin (SD), Rt. 3110 near McLaughlin (SD),



Petrified Wood Park in Lemmon, SD



With Brian Sparks



Dory's Antique Auto Museum in Marmarth, ND.



With owner of Tony's restaurant in Coeur d'Alene, ID..



YT between Willow Crk. and Harrison, MT

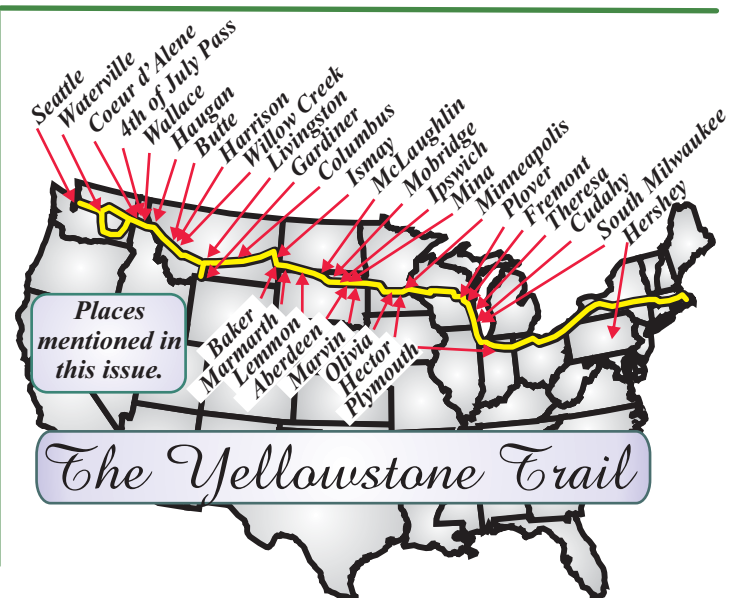
CR320 going Ismay (MT), Old Yellowstone Trail near Willow Creek (MT). But, at the same time, as those roads were less changed from early 1900, we could feel like running the road in the era of motorization began. This was an unforgettable experience for us.

When we drove Route 66 last year, we could see so many road signs and logo marks of Route 66. This time, there were very few markers of arrows in yellow circle. So, we yelled for delight every time we could find the marker.

This was really wonderful journey. We also enjoyed driving American two-lane highways, US Highways, State Highways and County roads. We are now mid-70's aged seniors. But, we shall return. ☺ Toshio Koshimizu



The end of the trip near Seattle.



The Yellowstone Trail

Toshio Koshimizu has added a slide show of pictures of this trip on the YT at www.isaonet.com/slide/americanroads2/index.htm

- TRAILOGRAMS -

Remember Californian Trailman Dianne Hunt? She traveled the Trail last summer from Seattle to the Yellowstone National Park and we printed her spirited report. Well, she's on the Trail again this summer going further east. When we last heard from her, she was in Columbus, Montana, visiting with member Dorothy Olson. Keep tuned for another spirited report.

Going east soon? Although it isn't on the Trail, we recommend a stop at the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) Museum at Hershey, PA. Yes, Chocolate Town U.S.A. has more than chocolate. The museum has a vast display of antique cars in mint condition. A few miles away is the Club's library, chock full of automotive history. Their video collection favors hilarious old Hollywood comedies featuring autos.



Plover, WI, Rendezvous Days occurred again this year July 16-17 with a Yellowstone Trail Association presence. Curious people visited the YTA table, including member Michael Koerner who brought detailed maps of recent area highway changes and their affect upon people trying to follow the Trail today. All this in 96 degree weather!

Trailman Lance Sorenson, who lives on the Trail in Hector, MN, reports that Olivia, MN, also on the Trail, is forming an antique car club. Its name? The Yellowstone Trail Car Club, of course.

Look at the original YT sign they found in Theresa, WI. The original has a few bullet holes in it showing it to be the victim of target practice. Story has it that metal signs were frequently stolen from telephone poles to be used for patches for holes in barn walls and corn cribs.



John Bodden, local historian, holding the original sign at town's entrance.
Photos by Evangeline Koll



AMERICAN ROAD MAGAZINE AND THE YT

The Yellowstone Trail had a really good presence in the Summer 2005 issue of American Road. It is Volume III Number 2.

Page 53 -- An ad for the YT Association together with three other ads related to the Trail. Three CVB's from Wisconsin bought ads for this page which paid for the YT Association ad. Nice arrangement.

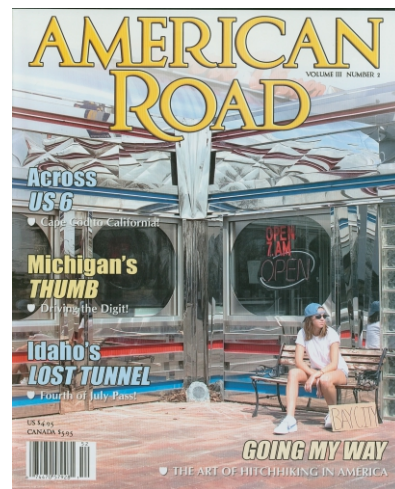
Pages 54 and 55 -- The YT followed the Fourth of July Pass between Coeur d'Alene and Wallace, Idaho. YTA member Tom Flanagan wrote about the pass and the tunnel that replaced the original road used by the Trail. His similar article appeared in *Arrow* #4, September, 2003..

Pages 56 and 57 -- This issue's Yellowstone Trail Department article is about the "splendid lateral" of the YT between Livingston and Gardiner, Montana, one of the more interesting remaining sections of the original Trail.

Page 60 -- In the Tunnel Vision section of the Magazine is a nice little article about YTA member Nels Monson, the Yellowstone Trail Association's Trailman of the Year.

Page 64 -- The usual advertisements for Yellowstone Trail related books and stuff are in column one of this page as part of John Claar's Hitching Post.

Page 66 -- And finally, in the American Road Project section, is an article by member Jack Gilluly about a great Old West establishment on the YT in Butte, Montana: the M&M Cigar Store. YT travelers enjoyed its cigars, great food, drinks and gambling and it has now been brought up to code and reopened under new management. Pictures are from YTA member Tom Meekin.



Members of the Yellowstone Trail Association can subscribe to the *American Road Magazine* at a reduced price. Each issue has material about the Yellowstone Trail along with articles about many of the old highways of America. To subscribe at the special YTA rate of \$11.96 for one year or \$22.95 for two years go to the Internet at:

<https://americanroad.magazinemanager.com/subscribe/?source=YTA>

OR, go to the YTA site, www.yellowstonetrail.org, then choose The new Yellowstone Trail Association, then click on Join, then on New membership benefit--click here. And then follow the directions.

OR, if you would prefer, call 1-877-285-5434 and mention the YTA. ☺

YT GUIDES - MOVING FORWARD

As we reported in the last issue, our officers are working with a South Dakota publisher to develop state/regional mile-by-mile guides for the Yellowstone Trail. If all goes well, the series will begin with the publishing of two guides during Spring 2006. One will cover the Trail from Minneapolis, Minnesota, through South and North Dakota to around Baker, Montana. The second will cover the Trail from Minneapolis through Wisconsin and to near Chicago, Illinois. If successful, others will be added east and west for the next year. We hope that each will be reprinted each year with fresh tourist information..

The present proposal is to print 8.5 x 11 newsprint booklets with detailed maps of the Trail, driving instructions, bits of Trail history, lists of related sights and events and, of course, ads. The intent is to have the ads cover the costs so that the guides will be available free to the traveling public.

Members of the YTA are invited to suggest historic and Trail-related sights and to urge their favorite businesses to purchase ads. It will become a powerful tool to promote local businesses as well as the Yellowstone Trail. ☺

BREAKING NEWS

Issue # 6 of the *Arrow* reported that the Marshall County Historical Society and Museum in Plymouth, Indiana, was planning a Historic Crossroads Center adjacent to their museum. The Center will highlight the Lincoln Highway, US 6 (GAR), the Michigan Road, and the Yellowstone Trail - all of which passed through their area. The Yellowstone Trail Association will be pleased to work with them to increase the visibility of the YT, especially in the area east of Chicago.

The great news is that the Indiana Department of Transportation has released \$680,000 for the Historic Crossroads Center and the renovation of its buildings. There will be a formal announcement soon.

Linda Rippey, Director, exclaimed "It really will become a reality, finally!!" Contact Linda Rippey at mchistory@mchistorysociety.org

ENTHUSIASTS TRYING TO GET TRAIL BACK ON THE ROAD

OFFICIALS WANT TO REVIVE CROSS-COUNTRY HIGHWAY

Before highways had numbers, there was the Yellowstone Trail.

City officials in Cudahy and South Milwaukee want to revive interest in one of the nation's first transcontinental highways by promoting the history of the Yellowstone Trail in their communities as well driving up new interest in their cities, much as the original trail was designed to do nearly a century ago.

This article by reporter Linda Spice appeared in June 6, 2005 editions of the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel.

"This is a celebration of the history of Cudahy as part of this historical trail that went from coast to coast," said Cudahy Ald. Joe Mikolajczak, a history instructor at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

Cudahy officials dedicated their portion of the Yellowstone Trail last month, following the lead of South Milwaukee, which became the first community in the country two years ago to mark the trail through the city in a turn-by-turn fashion.

"What it says is our history in our community is important to us," said South Milwaukee Mayor David Kieck. "We're extremely proud of our past. This is one part of that."

Large yellow route markers are erected along both cities' trail routes for history buffs or intrigued travelers who choose to make their way along the 3,700 mile run, which stretches across about 13 states from Massachusetts to Washington. It was marked in its earlier days by yellow stones.

Better known today as the South Shore's Highway 32, the Yellowstone Trail makes twists and turns through Cudahy and South Milwaukee, starting in Milwaukee County at Oak Creek from the south and moving toward Milwaukee's Fond du Lac Ave.

The Yellowstone Trail Association, revived in Wisconsin by John and Alice Ridge, retired University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire professors, about two years ago, is attempting to build a national presence in encouraging communities to mark the trail as heritage travelers seek new routes off of sterile interstates.

There are about 50 markings in Wisconsin presently with plans by several communities - Withee, Cadott, Owen, Thorp and Curtis - along the trail's Highway 29 in Eau Claire and Clark counties to add 19 signs by this summer, according to Alice Ridge.

The trail was first developed in 1912 as the dominance of railroad travel began to fade and an increased number of cars resulted in increased demand for roads, according to the history of the trail posted at www.yellowstonetrail.org.

The original Yellowstone Trail Association, which operated from 1912 to 1930, did not build roads but rather lobbied for good roads. It also provided instructions for the construction and maintenance of roads, according to the newly formed association's Web site.

Composed of businessmen in small towns who wished to boost their local economy by being on a well-used road, the association promoted cross-country tourist traffic, marked the route, provided maps of the trail and encouraged use of the automobile beyond local travel.

The Ridges, authors of "Introducing the Yellowstone Trail," published in 2000, and "On the Yellowstone Trail," published in 2003, said the trail association's original purpose was to get roads built but it then shifted to a tourism promotion by boasting the trail's route leading to Yellowstone National Park.

Part of the association's future promotion plans include possible cross country auto runs, taking the drive along the entire route and stopping in

KIN OF EARLY MEMBERS JOIN

Well, it has come around full circle. In 1913 Michael Dowling not only joined the YTA, but became a "trail blazer" and then president of the association in 1917. Almost 100 years later his grandsons, Barry and Mike Prichard are now members.

Dowling performed a vital service for the original YTA. He was an avid traveler, taking his right-hand drive Oakland 660 car far and wide, and volunteering to "blaze" the Trail as it then existed from Minneapolis to Yellowstone National Park in 1913. In 1914 he went east to "blaze" the Trail to Plymouth Rock. In essence, he traveled the Trail, suffering the mud, bumps and bridgeless rivers to publicize it and to look for possible better routes for the Trail, especially in the East.

The amazing thing is that he did all this minus two legs, his left arm and four fingers on his right hand. As a youth he got caught in the Minnesota blizzard of 1880 and froze his limbs. Despite this profound limitation, he rose to be a newspaper editor, banker, teacher, auto salesman, legislator and president of the YTA. After World War I he counseled returning wounded veterans.

Think of the courage it took to even endure, let alone to succeed! Read the 1997 book *Blizzard* by L.R. Lehmann (QuikReadPress 1-800-922-9681) for a fascinating account of Dowling's dramatic early life.

Jerome C. Dretzka of Cudahy, WI, was a Trailman according to the YTA Route Folder of 1921. Present member Hub Dretzka reported that his father was Executive Secretary of the Milwaukee County Park Commission and had a hand in establishing the YT tourist camp in South Milwaukee. "That whetted his desire to identify the Trail onward north through the county and what better way than as a Trailman?"

Member Marion Kuhl of Kansas is a grand niece of founder Joe Parmley. "Old Uncle Joe," as he was known was apparently quite a guy who gave kids rides on his ponies and enjoyed his family life, although the rest of the Parmleys had stayed "back East." ☺

LIVING HISTORY DAY

Fremont's Living History Day was everything the notice in issue #8 of the Arrow promised. While the entire 140 year history of the town of Fremont was featured, the Yellowstone Trail was highly visible. YT Association member Elsie Mae Yohr is Historian for the Fremont (Wisconsin) Area Historical Society and wrote an excellent 24 page history of the town for the celebration.

The YT will soon be even more evident when their several Yellowstone Trail signs are augmented by 10 more 18" x 24" reflective road signs. ☺



Historian Nels Monson (left), Alderman Joe Mikolajczak (center) and Mayor John Hohenfeldt. Picture courtesy Joe Mikolajczak

communities such as Cudahy and South Milwaukee, according to Nels Monson, the local historian who encouraged the South Shore communities to mark the trail.

"By marking the trail, we're trying to make it easier for heritage travelers," he said. "We want to make our community more appealing than other communities to stop."

Voted by the association as its 2004 Trailman of the Year, Monson has no shortage of enthusiasm for promoting its history. In 1915, when the Yellowstone Trail came to Wisconsin, the trailman was to "keep the trail repaired, report local route changes to the Trail Association, to help travelers in trouble and to gather members," according to the association's spring 2005 newsletter.

Today, a trailman is expected to educate the community about the trail and to generate interest in marking the route.

Monson has succeeded in that mission in South Milwaukee and Cudahy and he's not stopping there. He's also approaching officials in St. Francis, Racine and Kenosha to mark their parts of the trail, he said. ☺

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Yellowstone Trail Association

Attn: Tom Barrett, 340 Division Street North, Stevens Point, WI 54481



THE ARROW

The Arrow is designed in the tradition of *The Arrow*, the newsletter of the original Yellowstone Trail Association early in the 20th century. *The Arrow* is now published sporadically as time and resources permit. Only members of the Yellowstone Trail Association are receiving it in printed format.

Questions, stories and news items may be directed to: The YTA, John or Alice Ridge, 7000 South Shore Drive, Altoona, WI, 54720, **Phone** 715-834-5992. **E-mail:** jridge@yellowstonetrail.org **Web site response:** www.yellowstonetrail.org using the Response Form.

Questions or suggestions about the YTA or about opportunities for tourism agencies may be directed to: Tom Barrett, The Yellowstone Trail Association, 340 Division Street North, Stevens Point, WI 54481. **Phone:** 715-344-2556 or 800-236-4636 ext. 13

E-mail: tbarrett@spacvb.com

DIRECTORY OF TRAILMEN & OFFICERS

The trailmen and officers of the Yellowstone Trail Association are listed below with their e-mail addresses. Each has agreed to be a "more active member" of the Association. Contact the person closest to you to talk about ideas or to ask questions.

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THE YT MEETS THE CCC


The Savenac Tree Nursery in Lolo National Forest near Haugan, MT, on the Trail near Idaho, has a 98 year history. During the Great Depression the CCC planted millions of seedlings which would later be shipped to federal forests which needed trees. In July, there was a reunion of CCC alumni and the dedication of a bronze statue of a CCC worker. There was also a "Passports in Time" work week for volunteers to help rehabilitate the cabins and grounds. The YT went through the property as shown in this picture.




NEW YT BROCHURE

Do you know people with an interest in the Trail?

We need you to find new members. Just ask for copies of the brochure from Tom Barrett, Treasurer, Yellowstone Trail Association, 340 Division Street North, Stevens Point, WI 54481. E-mail is best: tbarrett@spacvb.com. Or phone (800) 236-4636 ext.13. As many as you need at no cost to you.



The
Yellowstone
Trail



LEARN ABOUT
AND ENJOY
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FROM
PLYMOUTH ROCK
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(1912-1930)

