



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE YELLOWSTONE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

"A Good Road from Plymouth Rock to Puget Sound"



YT HISTORIC DESIGNATION PROPOSED IN NEW YORK

Schenectady County (NY) Historian Don Rittner and Yellowstone Trail Association member Rich Rheingold have been working to designate and sign the YT for 14 miles in that county. Don's public television show, "Historically Speaking" featured Rich and the YT and the Ridges' video of the history of the Trail a few months back. Don says he was hooked! He wrote a resolution for the county legislature to adopt. He also is writing a small driving field guide for those 14 miles, with historic sites, vistas, etc. noted. Today's traveler can see some of the YT on present NY highway #5.

In Schenectady County the Yellowstone Trail is made up of three historic roads: 1. Kings Highway or old Albany Path, c.1663, which was originally part of the great Iroquois Trail, was the most important trade, transportation and military route between the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys until 1800; 2. Albany-Schenectady Turnpike, 1802, the first toll road; and 3. the 17th century Mohawk Path, later turnpike, also of Native origins. They also call it the van der Bogart trail since it was a Dutch barber who trekked along it to visit each of the Mohawk Indian villages in 1634 to bring back the beaver trade for the Dutch.



State Street (Yellowstone Trail) near Brandwine Street in Schenectady c.1920. Picture courtesy Don Rittner.

The "Resolution to Designate the Schenectady County Yellowstone Trail" refers to efforts to recognize and preserve their important historical resources. It says, in part:

WHEREAS, the Yellowstone Trail was America's first transcontinental automobile trail, [in the upper tier of states] created in 1912, and promoted nationally; and that the 14 mile section of Route 5 from the Schenectady-Albany and Schenectady-Montgomery county borders is the roadway that comprises the county portion of this historic national auto trail;

WHEREAS, the Yellowstone Trail has been reconstituted by the newly formed Yellowstone Trail Association and promoted as a historic road nationally, and for heritage tourism purposes;



Trailman Rich Rheingold

WHEREAS, Schenectady County's portion of the Yellowstone Trail is actually part of three other locally historic roadways:

RESOLVED, that the Schenectady County Legislature officially designates the section of Route 5 from the beginning at the Schenectady-Albany county border line to the Schenectady-Montgomery County border line as the "Schenectady County Yellowstone Trail."

We must wait for word of the progress of this resolution. Keptuned. ©

STILL FOLLOWING THE OLD YELLOWSTONE TRAIL

Last summer (2004) I followed the Yellowstone Trail from Seattle to Yellowstone National Park, so this summer (2005) I wanted to continue from there. I left my home in California on July 8th and arrived in Jackson (WY) on July 9th. For this trip I booked all of my motels ahead of time to keep myself on schedule. After exploring Jackson and Grand Tetons for a couple of days, I drove through Yellowstone N.P. to Mammoth Hot Springs and that's where my Yellowstone Trail adventure began. Again, I tried to stop at every town on the old route. Sometimes there wasn't a lot left. Here are

Member Diane Hunt details her second summer on the Yellowstone Trail. See Arrow #8, Spring 2005, for the first installment.

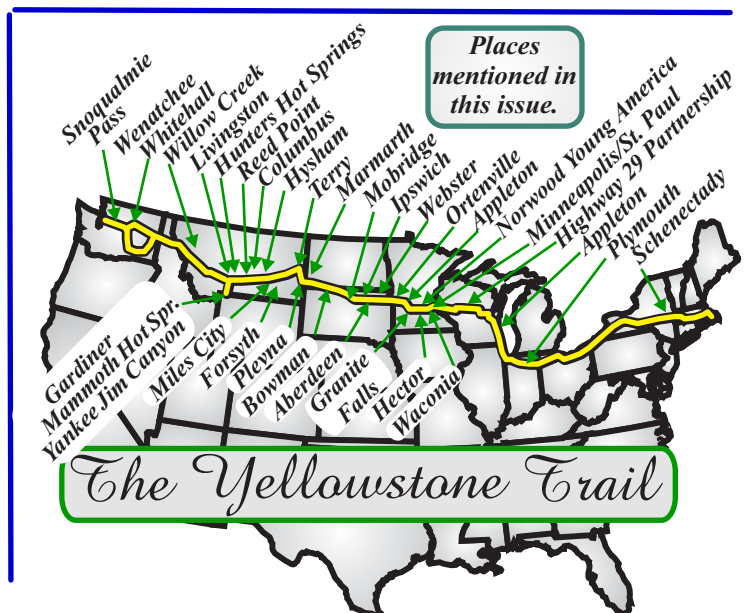
some of the highlights:

Montana: Drove on the Gardiner Back Road to the Roosevelt Arch, then on the YT to Livingston, stopping at Yankee Jim Canyon and the very nice picnic area with interpretive signs; met with member Brian Sparks (2nd year in a row!) at the Yellowstone Gateway Museum in Livingston (see Trailograms, p3); tried to find old remnants of Hunter's Hot Springs, but only found barbed-wire fences, no trespassing signs and an Osprey in it's nest; met member Dorothy Olson in Reed Point and she gave me the grand tour of Reed Point, Columbus, and local parts of the Trail for two days, and taught me all about farming and grain elevators; Pompey's Pillar and William Clark's original signature. I talked to many friendly and interesting people at the following museums: Hysham's museum, Rosebud County Museum in Forsyth, the Range Rider's Museum in Miles City where all the artifacts from Ft. Keogh are on exhibit, and Prairie County Museum in Terry where an old YT marker was still on the back of the building. I took a very interesting drive on the original 40-mile



Member Dorothy Olson with official YT logo stencil

Continued on page 2, column 2



SNOQUALMIE PASS STILL TROUBLESOME

On November 6, 2005, the Washington State Department of Transportation reported that the westbound I-90 lanes four miles east of Snoqualmie Summit (milepost 58) had been closed at 4 a.m. after several rocks, some the size of refrigerators, fell onto the westbound lanes. (See www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic) The situation grew worse as dozens of cubic yards of rock were found to be ready to fall across the highway.

Things like that happen in mountain passes. However, Snoqualmie Pass is of interest to us because it is the route of the Yellowstone Trail. Yvonne Prater, in her definitive book *Snoqualmie Pass, From Indian Trail to Interstate*, wrote "The highway through Washington's Cascades at Snoqualmie Pass is one of the most heavily used mountain transportation routes in the country. Yet, within sight of its concrete ribbons, one can find sections of the primitive wagon road that brought prairie-state settlers through the pass." By 1909 most cars still found the road too rough to use and were ferried through the pass on railroad cars. By the time the Yellowstone Trail was extended through Washington in 1915, the road was passable – in the summer – and when rocks had not just fallen. Parts of the route used by the Trail are still usable. But parts are buried under I-90, especially in the areas near the rock slide because there is no space for even a service road.

The morning after the rockslide, I-90 was totally closed and as of a week later only two narrow lanes were open on the east-bound side. "The challenge in this slide is the location. It is a very narrow passage through the Cascades. The construction team must mobilize in the eastbound lanes to work on the slide clean up and to stabilize the loose rock," said the WSDOT web site. ☺



Work just started to bring down loose rock and "bolt" the rest in place.

Still Following from page 1, column 2 section of the YT between Terry and Plevna.

North Dakota: I loved Dory's Antique Auto Museum in Marmarth. In Rhame, all I could find left of the Hunter's Table & Tavern was a rock chimney (does anyone know what happened?) In Bowman, a group of locals at Big J's (great breakfast!) gave me directions to what they think was an original YT marker (one of the tall pillars) in someone's front yard. It did look like it might have been one. I took a side-trip to Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Medora. Definitely worth the trip!

South Dakota: In Mobridge at the Missouri River (Lake Oahe) the view was spectacular! I visited the Klein Museum and the Oscar-Howe Murals in the Scherr-Howe Arena (very impressive!). I was starting to see YT signs along Hwy 12/YT. Lots of corn.



J.W. Parmley's Land Office Museum in Ipswich, S.D. with YT display.



Brian Sparks of the Yellowstone Gateway Museum, Livingston, MT

Ipswich was great. I loved the welcome arch. I was given the grand tour at the J.W. Parmley House (Founder of the Yellowstone Trail) and his land office. The Dacotah Prairie Museum in Aberdeen was wonderful, and I loved the Museum of Wildlife, Science and Industry in Webster (especially the 5,000 piece shoe exhibit in the "Shoe House"). I took a side-trip to the International Vinegar Museum in Roslyn.

Minnesota: I learned all about "prairie potholes" and "humid weather." (Your glasses steam up when you get out of your air conditioned car!) I saw Paul Bunyan's 110-ton boat anchor at the Big Stone County Museum in Ortonville; drove through a "hurricane" near Appleton; visited the Yellow Medicine County Historical Museum in Granite Falls. In Hector, I met Trailman Johnnie Hill and his daughter Teri at their shop, Hill's Unique Gifts and Lawn Ornaments. They have a wonderfully huge gift shop." Also in Hector, I followed all of the YT markers installed by Trailman Lance Sorenson. I took a worthwhile side trip to Darwin to see the world's largest ball of twine and in Dassel, a Railroad Museum with the largest collection of Spittoons I've ever seen! I discovered the towns of Norwood and Young America had incorporated together 10 years ago, and now the town is called Norwood Young America. The new county museum in Waconia is worth the stop. I took a side trip to The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. (Awesome!) I drove through Minneapolis and St. Paul, crossed the spectacular Mississippi River, touched the Wisconsin border, and began my trip back West.

Having followed the Trail for almost a month, for my return trip home I decided to take in sights not on it: SPAM Museum, Austin (MN); Jolly Green Giant statue, Blue Earth (MN); Porter Sculpture Park, Montrose (SD); The Corn Palace, Mitchell (SD); Pioneer Auto & Antique Town, Murdo (SD), at least 2,000 Harleys going to Sturgis (SD); Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorials in the Black Hills (SD); Museum of Wood Carving, Custer (SD); Custer State Park (SD); Devil's Tower (WY).

I was back home on August 8th and had driven 7,000 miles! It was a wonderful trip and I can't wait to pick up where I left off next summer! ☺



Johnnie and Teri Hill, Hector, Minnesota.



Trailman Lance Sorenson is at it again. In the mysterious twilight just before Halloween, Lance fearlessly managed to get a picture of the mysterious Yellowstone Trail pumpkin which inexplicably appeared on the running board of the Hector (Minnesota) Halloween Truck at Hill's Unique Gifts owned by member Johnnie Hill. There may have been some collaboration?

Soon, Yellowstone Trail Publishers will make stencils available again for such deeds. jridge@yellowstonetrail.org or address on page 4. ☺

- TRAILOGRAMS -

YT LOGO DECAL AVAILABLE Trailman Brian Sparks, Director of the Yellowstone Gateway Museum of Park County in Livingston, Montana, is actively getting out the word about the Yellowstone Trail. Livingston is at the intersection of the Trail and its only spur, the road south to Yellowstone National Park. The original Yellowstone Trail Association referred to such routes as "splendid laterals." See *Arrow # 3* for information about this splendid route.

As part of his effort Brian has produced several Trail-related items of potential interest to YT Association members: A 4" decal (see picture), a smaller refrigerator magnet with the YT logo, and t-shirts. The decal is \$2.50 and the magnet is \$3.00. Both include p&h. Ask him about other items: Yellowstone Gateway Museum

Attn: Brian Sparks
118 West Chinook Street
Livingston, MT 59047
Phone 406-222-4184; museum@ycsi.net



Actual diameter of decal is 4 inches.



Actual diameter of buttons is 2 1/4 inches.



START CONVERSATIONS - WEAR A BUTTON

Trailman Johnnie Hill and daughter Teri of Hector Minnesota are making Yellowstone Trail buttons available to promote the Trail. They are 2 1/4 inches in diameter with a pin on the back. They are \$2.50 each which includes postage. If you would like one (or several dozen) order them from:

Johnnie Hill
Hill's Unique Gifts
Box 565
Hector, MN 55342

MOTORCYCLE WEST Member Mike

Taushak of Wisconsin was out on the YT again, this time traveling its western route on a bigger motorcycle, a 1500 cc Suzuki. (See *Arrow* issue #5 for his eastern trip.) He traveled from Seattle to Wisconsin. He reported that people he talked with knew something about the YT, especially a young lady in Wenatchee who gave Mike good directions. Willow Creek, MT is not on any tourist route, so Mike surprised an old gentleman by asking about the route. "Why do you want to go there?" was the reply.



Mike's new bike in front of a Montana historical marker in the Yellowstone River Valley

Getting off the Interstate onto the very slow lanes afforded Mike a good view of the country. A deer ran parallel to him for a distance, sizing him up, until it found a haystack to hide behind. The homecoming parade at Ipswich, SD, ensnared him, so he had to detour a bit, but he saw J.W. Parmley's museum.

There were some trials and tribulations: the Trail dead ends near Whitehall, MT.; he had a hard time finding US 287 to Harrison, MT.; and in eastern MT he said to himself, "What did I get into?" as he navigated the YT on unmarked trails through ghost towns. But he figures that he has seen about 90% of the Trail "up close and personal."

NEWS FROM AMERICAN ROAD Becky Repp, of *American Road* (a really good magazine about all things related to old roads) reports that they need to increase subscription rates due to: the increase in postage that takes effect in January, 2006; fuel surcharges on shipping; and paper price increases. The regular subscription price is \$16.95 for a one year subscription and \$29.95 for a two-year subscription. **For YTA members** the discount subscription price will be \$12.96 for a one year subscription and \$24.95 for a two year subscription.

PLYMOUTH, INDIANA PROGRESS REPORT We have been following the progress of the Marshall County Historical Society and Museum (see *Arrows* #6 and 9). Plymouth sits right on the Trail and the Society is a fine example of grassroots people accomplishing great things. They are acquiring space for a regional transportation interpretation center, including the Yellowstone Trail, with the help of a \$680,000 grant from the Indiana DOT.

Linda Rippey, Museum Director, wrote that an architect has been chosen and that renovation of the building next door, which will house the transportation exhibit, will start next year. So the buildings are progressing, but the "Crossroads Exhibit" of three national trails (Yellowstone Trail, Lincoln Highway, Dixie Highway) is still looking to area communities and specific grants for funding to make it happen.

HELP THE YTA BY DISTRIBUTING BROCHURES We have a supply of Yellowstone Trail Association brochures for you to give (free) to interested friends and businesses. They advertise the YTA and give the reader a bit of the Trail history. Just ask for a bunch from:

Tom Barrett, YTA 340 Division St. North Stevens Point, WI 54481 (800) 236-4636 tbarrett@spacvb.com	or	John/Alice Ridge P.O. Box 65 Altoona, WI 54720 (715) 834-5992 ridgeaa@yellowstonetrail.org
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See *Arrow* #9 for a picture of the brochure.

AN INVITATION FROM PICTURE THIS™ GALLERY

Yellowstone Trail Association member Tom Sutter announced that his Yellowstone Room has been up and running for seven months now. It is a permanent display room in the gallery, Picture This, and features photographs, books, and memorabilia of YNP. It also has information highlighted regarding the Yellowstone Trail. It is well worth the stop for any Yellowstone fans!

The gallery hosts photographers of note and mounts their shows for six weeks. If you are near Appleton, WI., visit his Yellowstone room or attend one of several Open Houses. Call him.

PICTURE THIS Gallery and Studio 2631 N. Meade Street, Suite 102 Appleton, WI sutter2519@aol.com	920-991-0405 fax 920-991-0407 5 4 9 1 1
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YT IS THEME FOR HIGHWAY 29 PARTNERSHIP

Cadott, Boyd, Stanley, Thorp, Withee, Owen and Curtiss, seven small towns along Wisconsin Hwy 29, have formed a partnership to promote themselves and to draw tourists. It is hard to do individually, but together, they are a jumping group! They needed a common thread or "hook" and chose the Yellowstone Trail because they are all on the historic route. Plans are now afoot for a brochure featuring their sights, historic sites, and businesses; for rocks to paint yellow along the Trail; for material for school kids; restaurant place mats; and a short documentary for the area cable television. Twenty Yellowstone



Rainy day picture showing a new YT sign at Cadott, Wisconsin. Here, as at many places, the YT follows the RR.

Trail signs went up on their roads **CORRECTION - TRY TOSHIO'S SLIDE SHOW** November 1 with more planned. See what small towns can do!

AGAIN. In the last issue of the *Arrow*, Toshio Kashimizu of Japan reported about the trip he and his wife took on the Yellowstone Trail this last summer. He made a great slide show about that trip and put it on the Internet for us all to enjoy. Unfortunately, in listing the web address for the slide show we dropped an all-important hyphen. The correct address (URL) is

www.isao-net.com/slide/americanroads2/index.htm

Visit it and experience the Trail from his eyes. ☺

Yellowstone Trail Association

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



THE ARROW

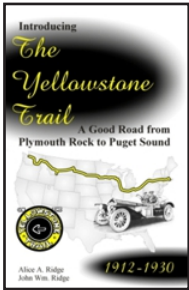
The Arrow is designed in the tradition of *The Arrow*, the newsletter of the original Yellowstone Trail Association early in the 20th century. *The Arrow* is now published sporadically as time and resources permit. Only members of the Yellowstone Trail Association are receiving it in printed format.

Questions, stories, and news items may be directed to: The YTA, John or Alice Ridge, P. O. Box 65, Altoona, WI, 54720-0065, 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

LEARN ABOUT THE TRAIL



To learn more about the early history and founding of the Yellowstone Trail select these items for yourself. And, of course, they make great gifts.

First is the inexpensive but comprehensive history by John and Alice Ridge: *The Yellowstone Trail, A Good Road from Puget Sound to Plymouth Rock*. \$5.95.

The second is by Hal Meeks: *On the Road to Yellowstone; The*

Yellowstone Trail and American Highways 1900-1930. The content is very similar to the Ridges' book but in a larger format with extensive pictures and graphics. \$15.95. 8.5 x 11 inches.

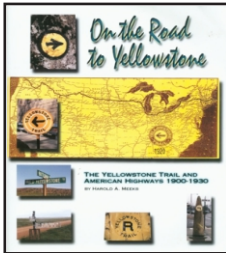
Both books are well researched, very readable, and highly recommended.



Third, *On the Yellowstone Trail* is a reproduction of the only major publication of the original Yellowstone Trail Association. It is an entertaining collection of minutes of Yellowstone Trail Association meetings, of the young group's history, of original maps, and of

amusing promotional pieces about towns along the way. Taken in its entirety, it is a wonderful historical picture of auto travel, of early road maps, and of 1914 home town pride, or "boosterism." \$29.95 102 pages.

Best Fruit of the Loom *Yellowstone Trail T-shirt*, 50% cotton, 50% polyester. Generously cut. Silk screened logo to last through washings. Get ready for being on the Trail. Great for auto runs and Trail Days. \$12.95/\$13.95.



Yellowstone Trail Road Sign Members are using these 18" x 24" black-on-reflective-yellow signs to mark the Trail in their areas. They are of the same construction and size as regular highway signs. (97 now installed.) \$29.95 for members. Ask for P&H and ordering information.

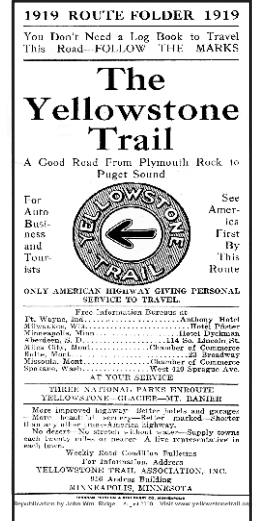


For most of the years of the original Yellowstone Trail Association, they published a substantial "folder" to attract and guide the traveler. This reproduced example, the *1919 Route Folder*, contains maps, mileages, town descriptions, names of local representatives, bits of its history, and more. An inexpensive but valuable way to learn about the Trail. 4.25 x 10.75 inches \$4.00

Yellowstone Trail Logo



Identify yourself as a Trail fan. Adhesive is on face of this 6" x 6" logo. Use on windows of display cases, business or museum windows, or car windows. Durable. Removable. \$3.00



Copy this order form or print the form from www.yellowstonetrail.org Send with check to Yellowstone Trail Publishers, Box 65, Altoona, WI 54720-0065. E-mail questions to jridge@yellowstonetrail.org

	Number	Price	P & H	Amount
The Yellowstone Trail, A Good Road from Puget Sound to Plymouth Rock		\$5.95	\$2 for any number.	
On the Road to Yellowstone (Meeks)		\$15.95	\$3 for any number	
On the Yellowstone Trail		\$29.95	\$3 for any number	
Yellowstone Trail T-shirt	XXL*	\$13.95	\$4.50 for any number	
	Other*	\$12.95		
1919 Route Folder		\$4.00	\$1 for any number	
Yellowstone Trail Logo		\$3.00	Free	
Yellowstone Trail Road Sign		\$29.95	(Call/write first.)	
* specify t-shirt sizes S,M,L,XL,XXL above.				Total =
				Wisconsin Residents add 5.5% =
				Total =