

AND THE **TETONS** 

Until 1800, Indians held undisputed sway over the country dominated by the Three Tetons, frequently coming across the passes into the basins on warring or hunting expeditions.

The Tetons probably first became known to white men in 1807-8 when the intrepid John Colter crossed the range on the journey that also made him the discoverer of the Yellowstone country. In 1811 the Astorians, under Wilson Price Hunt, entered Jackson Hole and crossed the range on their expedition to the mouth of the Columbia.

The decades that follow are frequently referred to as the "fur era," for the Tetons became the center of remarkable activity on the part of fur trappers representing both British and American interests. By 1845 the trappers had vanished from the Rockies; during the next four decades the valleys near the Tetons were largely deserted except for wandering bands of Indians who occasionally drifted in.

But the frontier was relentlessly closing in, and one Government expedition after another passed through or near the Teton country. These parties named many of the park's natural features, including Leigh, Jenny, Taggart, Bradley, and Phelps Lakes,

In the late 1880's came the first settlers. They entered by the Gros Ventre River and Teton Pass and settled first in the south end of the valley. Two

Intricate and inspired is displayed in the David rnon Memorial collec-tion at the Colter Bay

old homesteads have been partially restored as historic sights: Menors Ferry near park headquarters and the Cunningham place on the east side of the

valley.

Among the later settlers were those men who recognized that this beautiful area should be preserved for all people. They had great foresight and a strong feeling that the region should be protected

In 1929 the Teton Range and the lovely lakes at the mouths of its deep canyons were assured protection by the establishment of Grand Teton National Park. But it was obvious that part of the valley, with its own charms, was also in need of protection. Thus, the Jackson Hole area was made a National Monument in 1943; in 1950, Congress set aside the upper valley in a greater Grand Teton National Park. The gross area of the park is now 1,256 square kilometers (485 square miles), of which about 98 percent is in Federal ownership.

**GEOLOGICAL** 

The Grand Tetons, among the noblest creations in the American West, are a congregation of blue-gray pyramids soaring more than a mile above the sage-brush flats and morainal lakes of Jackson Hole. The Tetons are striking examples of the fault-block type of mountain. The steep eastern front is the result of STORY a recent geological uplift of the range along a great fracture line—a fault—in the earth's crust. Similar mountain systems, such as the Sierra Nevada in California and many of the desert ranges of the Great Basin, also owe their existence to block faulting. The Teton fault shows signs of movement within the last few thousand years; in the context of geological time, this means that we can consider that the proc-

ess is still going on.
In striking contrast to the youth of the mountain range is the great age of the rocks themselves. Recent datings by geophysicists reveal that some of the crystalline rocks are about 2½ billion years old! Yet these once-molten veins penetrate rocks that were already ancient and metamorphosed into gneiss when these intrusions came up from below. Here, then, some of the oldest rocks in the world have been brought to light by one of the most recent

Erosion has completely cut away great segments of the mountain mass—erosion that probably began with the very first uplift of the mountain block. As uplift proceeded, erosion continued more intensely with increase in the gradients of the mountain streams. These rushing torrents tore away rocks, creating gorges.

Then came the profound sculpturing of the ice age. During the past million years several periods of ntense mountain glaciation have occurred. At the head of each gorge more snow piled up in winter than would melt the following summer. Great masses of snow slowly changed to glacial ice. In response to the inexorable pull of gravity these masses became streams of creeping ice, which plucked off bits of the canyon wall here and ground away rock obstructions

Middle Teton 6 Teepe Pillar 7

Grand Teton 8

Mt. Teewinot 9 Mt. St. John 10

Buck Mtn. 1

Mt. Wister

South Teton 5

Nez Perce Peak 3 Cloudveil Dome 4

At one time this valley was filled with a great ice mass, formed by mountain glaciers from the Tetons and from the highlands of the present Yellowstone National Park. Glacial debris (gravel and cobbles) on top of Signal Mountain was dropped by this inland

sea of ice. Fluctuations in the climate melted away this ice sheet, only to bring back glaciers of smaller size during more recent cold periods. As recently as 9,000 years ago valley glaciers flowed from the crest of the Teton Range down to Jackson Hole. Crescent mounds (terminal moraines) left at the snouts of these most recent glaciers now are the natural dams for the lakes at the foot of mountain slopes.

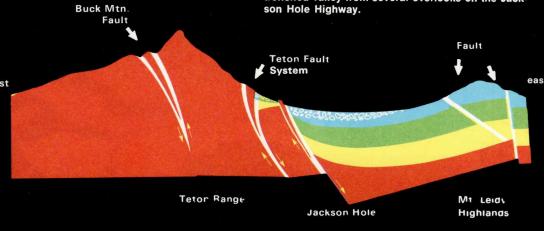
Again the climate moderated and became about what it is today. The ice melted away and, retreating gradually, once again exposed the canyon bottoms. The forces of rain, wind, landslides, and other agents

of erosion resumed their attack on the uplifted range. Ice sculpturing is evident in all the major canyons of the park.

Although the present glaciers are a mere vestige of the king-size masses of the ice age, they are still quarrying away into the face of the mountains. No one can confidently predict whether glaciers will once again extend and fill these valleys or when another mountain uplift might occur. There is no reason to think, however, that either process has come to an end. Thousands of years from now the scene may be quite different from that which delights the visitor today.

Because most of the ice has vanished, you can see

the effect these glaciers had on the landscape. At the head of each canyon is a rounded natural amphitheater, called a cirque. These were the gathering places for mountain glaciers from which great ice tongues extended downward. The U-shaped valleys were carved out by the now vanished ice. Smaller tributary glaciers plucked away at each of the higher peaks of the range. This detailed sculpturing resulted in the noble spires that extend along the range and culminate in the majestic cathedral-like pinnacle of Grand Teton. Much of the rock waste carried down from the eroding mountain range was strewn in the valley, making up a great deal of the present flat floor of Jackson Hole. Good cross secions of this valley fill are displayed where the Snake River has carved through it. You can see the entrenched valley from several overlooks on the Jack-



**ENJOYING** THE

Snake River, a popular way to view wildlife and spectacular scenery, is possible with your own craft or through com-PARK mercial river-guide services. A boat permit is required and is good for the entire park. Motors are not permitted on the river. Only experienced canoeists should attempt this swift, cold water. Topographic quadrangle maps will help you plan your trip.

Boating. Floating the

Boating is permitted on Jackson, Phelps, and Jenny Lakes, but motors are restricted to 71/2 h.p. maximum on Jenny Lake. Only hand-propelled craft are permitted on Emma Matilda, Two Ocean, Bradley, Taggart, Leigh, Bearpaw, and String Lakes, A nonfee boat permit is required.

Boat tours are offered all Jackson Lakes by park concessioners. A combination bus-boat tour

starts daily in season from Jackson Lake Lodge.

Accommodations. Food and lodging are offered at Colter Bay, and at Jackson Lake, Jenny Lake, and Signal Mountain Lodges, Moran, WY 83013. Signal Mountain Lodge has limited services in winter. Triangle X Ranch, Moose, WY 83012, offers guest ranch vacations on a yearround basis. Please write directly to the ranch for recommended advance reservations and additional information.

Fishing. Most of the park is open in season for fishing. A Wyoming fishing license is required and may be purchased



Overshadowed by Mt Moran, boaters cross the quiet waters of String

Near one of the many ponds that grace the Teton land-scape, a damselfly warms in

before flashing off in quick, darting pursuit of insect

in the park at the Colter Bay or Moose Tackle Shops, at Signal Mountain, and at Leeks Marina. Visitor centers have information on special park fishing regulations covering bait restrictions and creel limits. Fishing quides are available at

the lodges.

grounds are operated by the National Park Service from June through September, A concessioner-operated trailer village with all hookups is at Colter Bay. Reservations may be made for this facility by writing the Grand Teton Lodge Company, Moran, WY 83013. Dumping stations for holding tanks are at the Colter Bay,

Camping. Five camp-

Signal Mountain, and Gros Ventre Campgrounds. You may stay a maximum of 14 days, except at Jenny Lake, which is limited to 10 days and tents only. Offseason (winter) camping is permitted near the Colter Bay Visitor Center, with no facilities other than flush toilets,

> A woodpecker pauses before entering her nest in a dead lodgepole pine

when other campsites are closed. All camping River is not recommended. Jenny and Taggart Lakes are sources for domestic





out what you carried into

the wilderness. Trails in

the high country (above

2.450 meters, or 8.000

feet) are usually snow-

covered until mid-July.

An easy way to get ac-

quainted with the beau-

to take the half-day hike

to Hidden Falls This may

begin or end with a boat

trip across Jenny Lake;

the falls are only 0.8

kilometer (a half-mile)

ties of Grand Teton is

free of snow by mid-

June.

Valley trails are generally

is restricted to designated sites. Group campsites are reserved in advance by writing the Superintendent, **Grand Teton National** Park, Moose, WY 83012. More than a dozen Forest Service and commercial campgrounds are located near the park.

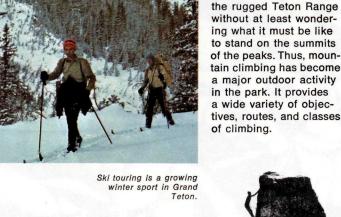
mming. Water temperatures are reasonable during late July and August in shallow areas of String, Leigh, and Jackson Lakes, but generally swimming in the park lakes is a cold experience-and without the security of a lifeguard. Swimming in the Snake water and are closed to



from the landing on the farther shore. Join the naturalist's party at the boat dock; the trip will provide background information and experience that will enhance your visits to other parts of the park.

If you want to try more intensive exploring, to "head for the back country" or just to hike away casually from the crowd for a few hours, take some of the hiking trails that have informational signs at their trailheads. Inquire at park visitor centers about backcountry trails before starting longer hikes.

Use of the trails is encouraged, but many of



them traverse country which has changed little since man's entry into the area. Let reason and prudence quide your actions. Stay on the trails: short-cutting is hazardous. If you wish to hike or climb other than on an established trail (whether

you are going to climb a mountain or not), you must register at Jenny Lake Ranger Station in summer and at Park





Mountaineering. It is

doubtful if anyone views

ardous, requiring different degrees of conditioning and experience for various climbs. You must register with a backcountry ranger before attempting a climb of any mountain within the park. Because of the ruggedness of the terrain, solo trips are not advised.

Climbing instruction and quide service are available in the park area in summer. Low-cost bunk space and a cookout shelter are available for registered climbers at the Grand Teton Climber's Ranch.

When you are ready to climb a major peak like "The Grand," Mount Owen or Mount Moran. you usually set out in the afternoon for the overnight bivouac in the saddle of the mountain. Final ascent is made in the early hours of the next morning, with the return to the valley the evening of the same day. Other peaks can be climbed in a single day.

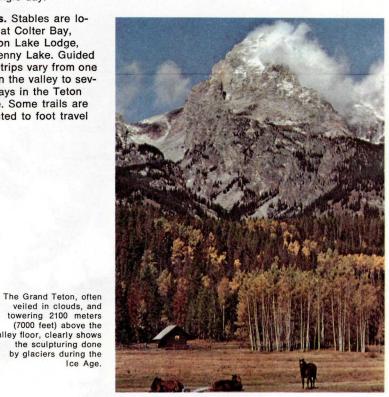
Horses. Stables are located at Colter Bay, Jackson Lake Lodge, and Jenny Lake. Guided horse trips vary from one hour in the valley to several days in the Teton Range. Some trails are restricted to foot travel only.

Driving. Park roads Interpretive Program. vary from modern Naturalist-quided walks payed highways to primitive unpaved routes. All are safe if driven with due respect for current conditions. Major routes are snowplowed all winter. For your safety and the protection of park values, you are required to stay on established roadways. A solid white line on the side of the road indicates a bike route. Vehicle parking is not permitted on bike routes. Radar may be used to check speeding

and campfire programs are scheduled daily throughout the summer Check visitor center and campground bulletin boards for details. Snow shoes are provided for conducted trips February through April. Selfguided trails are located at Colter Bay, Oxbow Bend Environmental Study Area, Cunningham Cabin, and Menors Ferry. The museum at Menors Ferry features an original homestead cabin. old vehicles, and a small natural history

museum open in

summer.



veiled in clouds, and towering 2100 meters (7000 feet) above the valley floor, clearly shows the sculpturing done by glaciers during the Ice Age.

Food and Gasoline. Gro-

cery stores and service

WILDLIFE AND PLANTS

Animals. All of Grand Teton National Park is a sanctuary. Look in the valley for elk, deer, and bison. Mule deer range from the lowest parts of the valley to the tree line. A pond-side vigil may reward you with the sight of moose feeding on aquatic vegetation.

The chipmunk, goldenmantled ground squirrel and other smaller mammals are surprisingly bold; they will tease you by scampering along the trail in front of you, but will disappear in a flash if you approach them.

Among the barren rocks live the pika ("cony"), a relative of hares and rabbits, and the yellowbelly marmot, a large rodent.

The even larger beaver was busily at work long before this area ever became a park and is still at it. Look for examples of beaver work along the Snake River and its tributaries.

Wildlife viewing is best

in the early morning and late afternoon hours. All native animals are wild; some may attack unpredictably, so do not feed or approach them. Photograph them from a safe distance, using telephoto lenses for closeups. Attendants at the visitor centers can help you identify and locate such species as moose, elk, bighorn, pronghorn, beaver, trumpeter swans and eagles. Bird and mammal checklists are available at visitor



Trees, Shrubs, and Wildflowers. A stroll on the valley floor or on one of the trails into the high country will take you through forests of lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, limber and white bark pines, alpine fir, and Douglas-fir. Cottonwoods grow in profusion along the streams, together with willows and aspens -important food for moose and beaver.

In the valley and on intermediate terrain are stands of sagebrush in tening on the sandbars, and creeping mahonia with prickly, holly-like

A summer visitor to Jackson Hole can expect to



where they congregate on the sagebrush flats.

floral displays of wild geranium, scarlet gilia, balsamroot, blue lupine, larkspur, fleabanes, penopen or unforested sites, stemons, and creamsilverberry bushes glis- colored clusters of wild buckwheat. A traveler can scarcely pass through the valley, however, without encountering the Indian paintbrush, Wyoming's State flower. The see only a fraction of the bracts and upper leaves (not the flowers) give the

features.



Blue flax is often found winter in Jackson Hole mingling with sagebrush The flowers bloom in early summer

plant the appearance of a brush dipped in red

In the high country are small clumps of tiny, brilliant, blue flowered alpine forget-me-nots. On mountain slopes car be seen blue columbine and glacier lily.

**SERVICES** 

stations are located at Colter Bay, Signal Mountain, Moose, and Kelly. Services at Colter Bay are open in summer only (June through September). Nearby Jackson offers shopping and services all year. Air Service, Car Rentals.

Grand Teton is served by Frontier Airlines. with scheduled service to the Jackson Hole Airport. An airport

Bus Services. Bus connections to Jackson Hole can be made via Rock Springs, Wyo., and Idaho Falls, Idaho. Phone the

limousine meets each

flight. Rental cars are

available at the airport.

Jackson Bus Depot (307) 733-3133 for current schedules, Jackson Lake Lodge runs a shuttle bus service within the park with connections at the Lodge for Yellowstone National Park.

Mail. Post offices are open all year at Moose, WY 83012, Moran, WY 83013, and Kelly, WY

83011. Mail should be addressed to you in care of General Delivery to any of the above or, in summer only, to Colter

Bay, WY 83001.

Religious Services. During the summer months. nondenominational Protestant services are offered in the park amphitheaters and regular services are held at the Chapel of the Transfiguration and the Chapel of the Sacred Heart. Several churches are located in Jackson.

STORY

Grand Teton became a national park in 1929, but the area as then established included only the eastern side of the mountains and Jenny and Leigh Lakes. THE Left out were Jackson Lake and vast areas on the valley floor where the wapiti (elk) range in the winter. The park, at its inception, was incomplete.
In 1926, Horace M. Albright, then superintendent

of Yellowstone National Park and later director of the National Park Service, took Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and their children on a two-day trip through Jackson Hole. That trip began the process which eventually enlarged the park to its present boundaries. A year later, Rockefeller began to purchase land in Jackson Hole with the idea of deeding it to the National Park Service at an appropriate time.

Though difficulties prevented the establishment of a larger national park in Jackson Hole during the 1930s, Rockefeller continued his land purchases. eventually amassing 32,189 acres. In 1943, at his urging, the Federal Government took control of the land by means of Presidential proclamation. Despite this turn of events, regional interests continued to

prevent the development of the land as a park. Approval of national park status for the area as it is presently incorporated came only in 1950. Since that time Grand Teton has become one of America's most popular and widely acclaimed national parks. The contributions of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., have

been recognized in the establishment of the Memorial

Parkway bearing his name. Jackson Lake Dam, a link in the development River Basin, was built and is operated by the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of the

of the water and land resources of the Upper Snake Interior. It was originally authorized for irrigation-some 444,400 hectares (1,100,000 acres) of the fertile Snake River Valley—and for flood control along the Snake and Lower Columbia Rivers. The project has also contributed to outdoor recreation and fish and wildlife conservation.

Dial-a-Park. A recorded information service will answer many of your questions about the park's weather, activities, and available facilities on a 24-SOURCES hour basis all year. Phone (307) 733-2220.

OF PARK

Visitor centers are designed to help you know and enjoy your park better. Here you can obtain infor-INFORMATION mation, publications, and all necessary permits for backcountry camping, boating, and oversnow travel.
Write the Grand Teton Natural History Association, Moose, WY 83012, for a publication price list covering history, trails, topographic maps and natural

> The Moose Visitor Center is open daily all year except December 25. Exhibits illustrate the "Mountain Man" fur trade era in Jackson Hole and the Rocky Mountains. Phone (307) 733-2880 to talk with park personnel. The Colter Bay Visitor Center is open daily from May through October. The David T. Vernon Indian art collection is featured in the exhibit rooms. For State of Wyoming travel information, contact

Cache, Jackson, WY 83001. Tel. (307) 733-6677. grouse puts on his court

the Wyoming Travel Information Center, 532 N. In May the male sage ing display

SAFETY **PRECAUTIONS** 

Please . . Observe posted speed limits. Report all accidents to a park ranger. Drive vehicles only on established roadways. Camp only in designated sites. Obtain a camping permit for back-country sites. Before starting on any off-trail hike or climb. register at the Jenny Lake Ranger Station in summer and at Park Headquarters during other seasons Keep pets physically restrained and off trails. Obtain a boat permit for any watercraft. Leave rocks and plants in their natural setting Fish with a Wyoming State license.

For your safety and the protection of park features.

Obtain an oversnow vehicle permit at Moose Visitor Center for winter travel. Keep motor vehicles off bikeways. All park animals-including bears-are wild: do not feed or molest them. Lightning-caused fires are allowed to burn in some parts of the park. If one is in progress,

check with a ranger before planning a trip to the burn area.

TETON'S **SEASONS** 

The eternal cycles of climate and weather leap into focus above the Snake River. Level glacial deposits, indicative of a once-colder climate, are revealed by the cutting



Eternal snows and unceasing winds at summit elevations; water lilies and shimmering sagebrush in the lowlands—the seasons at Grand Teton reflect both the mountain heights and the calendar. Seasonal changes dominate the park, however, bringing warmth and life, winter and stillness in their turn.

Spring visitors are attracted by wildflowers, migrating birds, and elk during May and June, despite frequent rains and cool temperatures. If you intend to hike or camp, bring warm clothing and raingear. Be prepared for a variety of weather conditions, since it snows in either month. Temperatures can range from below freezing to over 20° C (about

Summer days during July and August are generally warm and occasionally hot. Afternoon thunderstorms will completely cover a sky that was clear in the morning. Hikers, climbers, and small-craft operators need to pay special attention to clouds and



winds coming from the southwest. Daytime temperatures average near 30° C (80° F), dropping to about 4° C (40° F) at night. Park attendance has averaged 1 million a month, so patience may be necessary if trails are crowded and campsites are taken.

Autumn color is best about the first week of October when the aspen and cottonwood trees attain their most brilliant yellow hues. Days are generally cool and clear during September and October. To many visitors, this is the finest time of the year. Most park facilities are open in September, when it's easy to find space in lodges and campgrounds. During the month of November, elk migrate through the park to their winter range. Expect frosty nights warming to 15-20°C (about 65°F) in early autumn.

Winter lasts from November through April, with an average 5 meters (16 feet) of snowfall. Blizzards may last for several days, making travel hazardous, especially during whiteouts. Automobiles access is provided from Jackson on north to Flagg Ranch via the snowplowed Rockefeller Parkway. Highway 26-287 is open to Riverton and Lander, east of the park.

The Teton Park Road is plowed north from Moose to the Cottonwood Creek Turnout parking area. This is a major debarkation point for ski-tourers, snowshoers, and snow mobilers. Another jump-off spot is Colter Bay, especially for ice-fishermen. Snowmobilers are not permitted on plowed roads, but may use any of the designated unplowed routes. Special regulations, including a registration permit, apply to oversnow vehicles. Sign out/sign in boxes are provided for all types of oversnow day-use trips. Concessioner ski-touring trips are available in the park. Winter mountaineering requires its own precautions and prior registration at the Moose Visitor Center. Bring your longies-daytime temperatures average near freezing, dropping to well below that at night.



of the Teton Range is a jagged, glacier-carved and barren alpine wilder-