

# 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

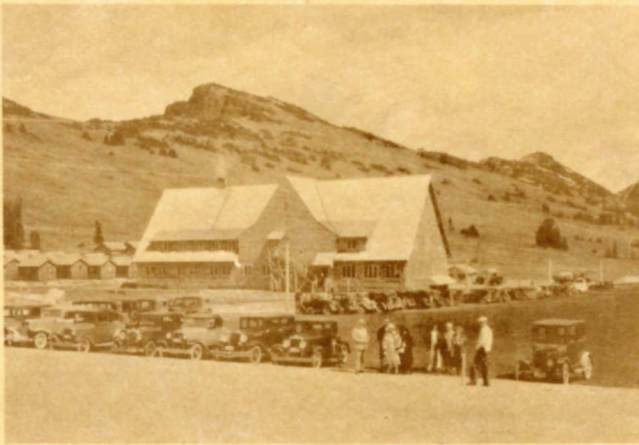
The earliest visitors to Yakima Park were Indians who gave their tribe name to the area. The Yakima Indians followed established trails over the Cascade Mountains from Central Washington; camped, hunted, and picked berries in these high sub-alpine meadows during the summer. In the early 1900's Peter Starbo built a wagon road along the White River from Enumclaw to his mine claims in Glacier Basin. Part of this old road is used today by visitors to the White River Campground.

In the late 1920's Seattle and Yakima became interested in developing a direct route between the two cities, through the Cascade Mountains. This new highway along the eastside of Mount Rainier offered visitors access to an unseen part of the park.



In 1920, National Park Service Director Mather, Assistant Director Albright, and Park Superintendent Tomlinson, worked with the Rainier National Park Company to develop plans for the construction of visitor facilities in Yakima Park. The frontier theme including blockhouses and stockade were reminiscent of early Pacific Northwest history.

On July 15, 1931 the road to Yakima Park opened to the public. The National Park Service's two auto-campgrounds and picnic area provided both overnight and day-use to many, many visitors over the years. The Sunrise Lodge offered food service, with overnight accommodations in 215 visitor cabins. Yakima Park is as popular today as when it opened in 1931. Visitors still enjoy panoramic views of Mount Rainier, the Emmons Glacier, sub-alpine flower meadows, and miles of scenic trails.



# Yakima Park 1931-1981