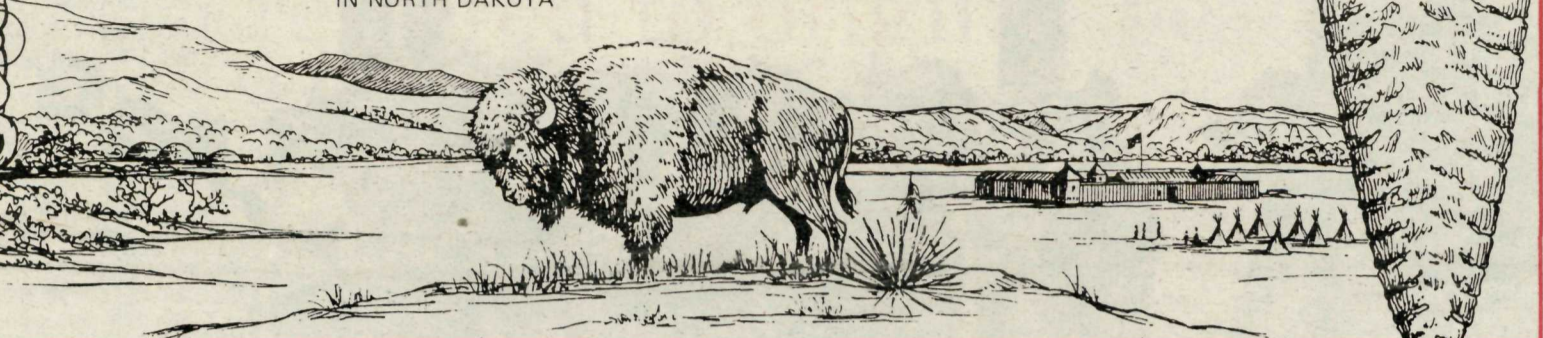


# Frontier Fragments

NEWS OF YOUR NATIONAL PARK AREAS  
IN NORTH DAKOTA

FREE



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VOLUME 10

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATURE AND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

1990-1991

## Your Park Visit . . .

A visit to any of the National Park System areas in North Dakota should be a memorable one, one that you should enjoy recalling. To help make your visit more enjoyable, the park staffs are ready to inform you of the wonders to be discovered and the opportunities that these areas offer both during your visit and at other times during the year.

### Be sure to ask about:

- Programs and activities, such as guided walks and tours
- Trails for walking and hiking
- Opportunities to observe wildlife
- Wildflowers that may be in bloom
- Scenic views for you to photograph
- Safety tips to follow
- Park regulations



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

### North Unit, Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Welcome to your national parklands in North Dakota!

Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site, and Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site were set aside to preserve nationally recognized natural and historical features for your enjoyment and use.

I recently arrived at my new assignment in the midst of a Dakota winter and have been continually awed by the magnificent resources and the significance of the historic events that took place here. Only one element has been missing and that is **you**, the park visitor, and I am very excited to share these very special places with you.

The National Park Service, which manages your national parklands in North Dakota, was established in 1916 and is consistently rated as the most popular agency in the federal government. Let's look at the components of the agency title.

The term "National" indicates the Park Service administers lands and programs in all 50 states and several overseas areas. Presently 355 areas have been set aside by the Congress and/or President as the most superlative examples of our natural and cultural heritage. They are the most unique of our nation's historical, scenic and recreational landscapes.

The term "Park" in the more general sense denotes parkland that includes all areas administered by the Park Service. While there are 50 national parks, there are some 22 other designations for areas managed by the Service, including national historic sites, national monuments, national seashores, national battlefields, and even the White House.

The "Service" aspect of the National Park Service is the core of the agency's reason for existence and its most important attribute. All of our employees are here to ensure that your visit is safe, pleasant, and educational. We have one primary purpose, and that is to serve you. Our standards are high and we take pride in the quality of our work.

While we must protect park resources for future generations, of equal importance is providing for today's use by millions of people. In these days of limited funding, it is of critical importance that we effectively convey our message so park visitors appreci-

ate the special significance of national parklands, and enjoy their visits to these areas, ultimately helping to preserve the cultural and natural history of our nation.

We are concerned with quality of service. You have the right to spotless restrooms, roadways free of litter, thought-provoking and informative interpretive walks and talks, well-kept facilities, and above all, friendly, helpful and courteous employees.

These are your parks. The staff is committed to the National Park Idea and to maintaining them to the highest standard for your use and enjoyment. Help us do the job by letting a park employee know of any problems with the facilities or violations of regulations. The superintendents of each area are vitally concerned with the quality of our service. We welcome you to share your comments and concerns directly with us and would be happy to meet with you at any time. Through your feedback, ideas, and observations, we can continually improve our service.

Exciting developments are occurring in all three North Dakota Park areas to aid your understanding and use. The construction of the Indian Trade House this summer will essentially complete the reconstruction work of the Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site. Work has also begun on a \$3.8 million visitor center facility for the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site and a visitor center for the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. These two facilities should be completed in 1991. In all three parks, friends groups provided financial support and encouragement for these projects.

Take time to get to know these parks. Go hiking. Attend an interpretive program. Put yourself in Theodore Roosevelt's saddle and share his view of the Little Missouri River and Badlands. Contemplate life in a Mandan earthlodge during the long Dakota winter at Knife River Indian Villages. Imagine gliding up to the bustling Fort Union Trading Post dock with a fur-laden canoe in 1851. Experience the history and natural beauty of these diverse sites. We look forward to sharing the stories of these areas with you. They are for your use and enjoyment.

Pete Hart, Superintendent  
Theodore Roosevelt National Park

## FORT UNION TRADING POST NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



Visitors are greeted at the trading post's gate.

## Fort Union to host Fur Trade Symposium Sept. 13-15

**I**

nternationally-renowned fur trade historians are trekking to Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site this September 13-15 when that park hosts the National Park Service's annual Fur Trade Symposium. Conceived in 1987 specifically to gather leading fur trade historians and enthusiasts at some of the American West's premier fur trade sites, this annual symposium is making its first appearance at Fort Union Trading Post, which in the 19th century was the American Fur Company's chief outpost on the Upper Missouri River.

The Fort Union Fur Trade Symposium is jointly sponsored by the National Park Service, the Friends of Fort Union Trading Post, the Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association, and the North Dakota Humanities Council. Conferees will survey the dynamic fur trade history of the Upper Missouri country, where John Jacob Astor's and Pierre Chouteau Jr.'s American Fur Company dominated trade for nearly four decades. They also will explore a half-dozen prime fur trade sites at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers, including the newly reconstructed Fort Union Trading Post.

The academic portions of the Symposium will headquarter at the Airport International Inn in Williston. There, conferees will hear from John C. Ewers of the Smithsonian Institution, John D. Haeger of Central Michigan University, Robert C. Carriker of Gonzaga University, William R. Swagerty of the University of Idaho, and William E. Lass of Mankato State University, among many others, in sessions exploring the unique character of the Upper Missouri trade and its people.

One session will be devoted to the mod-

ern-day replication of fur trade material cultural objects, and among the presenters will be Dale Jarnagin of the C&D Jarnagin Company, Corinth, Mississippi. Jarnagin is one of the nation's leading fabricators of the nineteenth century clothing, uniforms, and equipment used by living historians.

Conferees will spend an evening with the National Park Service specialists who planned and coordinated the recent construction of the Fort Union Trading Post. Between 1985 and 1989 key components of the fort were rebuilt to their appearances in 1851. On hand will be the project's supervising archaeologist, William J. Hunt, along with historian Mary S. Culpin, and historical architect and project manager Richard J. Cronenberger. Each will offer unique perspectives on the newly completed \$4 million development.

Most of the presenters are well-published authors. The Symposium's sponsors will have available many of the books written by these distinguished historians, and special autographing opportunities will be available throughout the conference.

The final day of the Symposium will be spent exploring the numerous historic sites at and near the Yellowstone-Missouri confluence. At each of a half-dozen stops, a new lineup of speakers will provide overviews of the sometimes brief and sometimes elaborate episodes, including Lewis and Clark at the confluence, Fort Union's many competitive trading posts, and several other early twentieth century sites. The morning's highlight, no doubt, will be a detailed look at Fort Buford State Historic Site, now managed by the State Historical Society of North Dakota. When Fort Union was dismantled in 1867, many of its physical components were reincorporated into the new Fort Buford. Similarly, a number of Fort Union's characters, Charles Larpenteur among them, located trading establishments ad-



Lord Astor of Hever, a direct descendant and namesake of John Jacob Astor, was keenly interested in the reconstruction of Fort Union Trading Post.

adjacent to the new military post.

Saving the climax for last, on Saturday noon, September 15, all participants will arrive at the Fort Union Trading Post for an afternoon-long visit to this unique historic site. Today the fort looks much as it did in 1851 during the peak of the buffalo robe trade. In addition to a behind-the-scenes look at the park's extensive museum and research collections, the fort will be repopulated with living historians as if the year were really 1851. Here will be the opportunity to mix with engages cutting wood and hauling hay, with cooks tending pots on open fires, with an artist sketching the fort and its workmen, and with gunsmiths, blacksmiths, carpenters, hunters, and other characters from the past.

This annual symposium travels elsewhere in 1991 so this will be a unique opportunity to see a different, almost living Fort Union, and to hear from a host of scholars who are deeply involved with Fort Union and American Fur Company history.

Symposium planners anticipate approximately 200 conferees, and preregistration is required. Full details are available by writing the Superintendent, Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site, Buford Route, Williston, North Dakota 58801, or by calling (701) 572-9083.

## 'Handsome' Fort Union is restored to original beauty

"Fort Union, the principal and handsomest trading post on the Missouri river. . ." stands again just as it did a century ago. Being far-sighted, and knowing a good location when they saw it, Fort Union's creators, the American Fur Company, quickly took advantage of the tremendous possibilities that Missouri River access provided.

Fort Union quickly grew to be the grandest of all the fur posts along the Upper Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers, and it left behind a rich legacy.

Today Fort Union Trading Post stands again in 1851 grandeur. Visitors watched the transformation take place, changing wide open grassy prairie to a massive fort. Today, the flagpole, walls, gate, bastions, and the Bourgeois House attracts visitors from throughout the United States, Canada, and many foreign lands.

A Grand Dedication in August, 1989, was the highlight of the past summer. At that event, history and merriment was puposefully blended in an array of rendezvous-type living history pageantry,

musical presentations, humanities programs, tours, open houses, and receptions. Many dignitaries attended as did countless local supporters who ushered the fort to its goal of reconstruction.

1989 visitation reached 64,552, which was 125% above the 1988 figure.

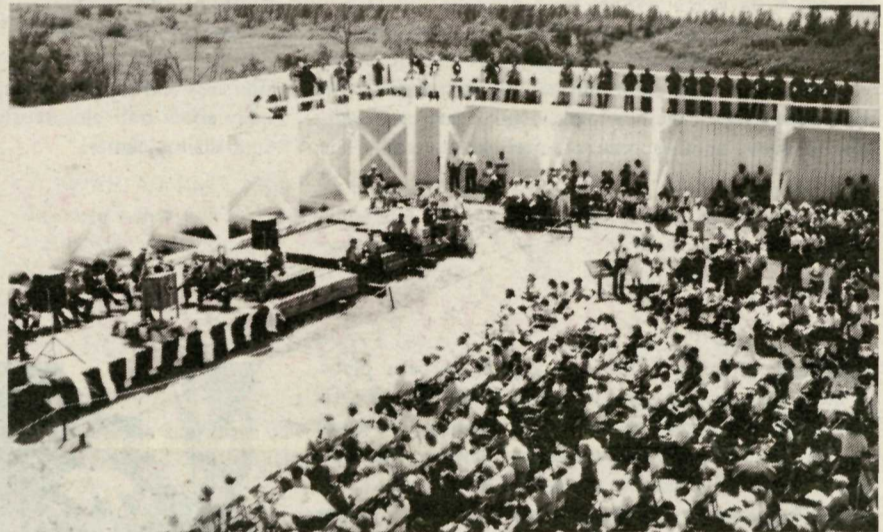
So what's on tap for 1990? The reconstruction of one last building, the Indian Trade House, should be completed by 1991. This log structure will have a faithful 1851 interior, and will someday be refurbished to look like a genuine 1850s trade house.

The 8th Annual Fort Union Rendez-

vous will be held June 14 though June 17, 1990. Here one enjoys a full slate of traditional frontier activities, contests, and speakers all reliving the 1830s though 1850s.

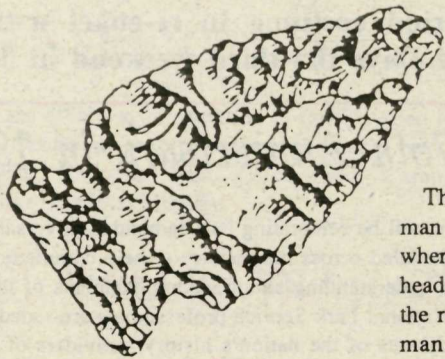
And on September 13 though 15, 1990, Fort Union will hold a major fur trade history symposium, which is reported elsewhere in this issue of **FRONTIER FRAGMENTS**.

So come visit! Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site is open daily throughout the year. Tours are given in summer, and can be specially scheduled by calling the park at (701) 572-9083.



Above: Grand Dedication ceremonies on August 13, 1989. Left: Thousands were entertained by humanities speakers and performers, such as Kevin Locke, who dazzled young and old with his hoop dance and flute presentations.

## Can I keep this arrowhead?



"Say ranger! Can I keep this arrowhead, square nail, bead, fossil, bullet, piece of pottery, or . . . Can my child keep a chipped stone tool? May I use a metal detector or dig for artifacts?" These questions sound innocent. However, such actions are illegal on public lands and violations can involve fines and jail terms.

The true value of an artifact is what it can tell modern man about its maker. It can tell its tale only if it is left where it was last used. Archeology is more than arrowheads or broken pottery - it is, above all, a method for the recovery, study and reconstruction of the past of man.

Time lays down layers of soil and items, like sentences in a book. Like sentences, layers and artifacts

cannot be rearranged or they will become undecipherable by the archeologist, or reader. When the artifact is removed from its place in the layers of soil and associated items, it has been stolen from all the people and from future generations. Yet each year, countless pieces of our cultural and natural history become souvenirs which are carried home and usually thrown away. The fact is that any removal or destruction, no matter how small, is depriving all of us of our heritage.

"Take Pride in America" and do not disturb any items. Please help the National Park Service protect your cultural and natural resources by reporting any destruction to a park ranger.

## KNIFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGES NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

### *Historic site preserves remnants of cultural and agricultural lifestyle of Plains Indians*

Knife River Indian Villages was established as a National Historic Site in 1974, "... to preserve certain historic and archeological remnants of the culture and agricultural lifestyle of the Plains Indians."

The visitor center contains a museum depicting the day-to-day life and customs of the Hidatsa, Mandan and Arikara people. Records and paintings from early explorers, such as David Thompson, Lewis and Clark, George Catlin, Karl Bodmer and other prominent travelers help interpret the story of the Knife River Villages. Also featured is a sales area specializing in books, maps, Native American art prints, and craft-work done by descendants of the people who lived in the villages.

Visitors may take ranger-guided walks or self-guiding tours to two village sites in the 1,293-acre park. Evidence of earthlodges, fortification ditches, cache pits and artifacts are visible.

Park visitors may wonder about the "dig" that is going on at the south end of the park this year. It is not an archeologic excavation, but activity associated with the construction of the new park visitor center and addition of about another mile of interpretive trail. The

trail will connect the new visitor center with the present trail along the Knife River bank. Hikers will be able to go from the new visitor center to the Awatixa Village (Sakakawea Site), hike along the river, and return to the building. This new trail will provide foot access to the previously inaccessible Awatixa Xi Village (Lower Hidatsa Site) and wheelchair access to both village sites.

The new 8,200-square-foot facility should enhance telling the story of the Knife River Villages through state-of-the-art exhibits, a demonstration area, an auditorium with audiovisual programs, and sales area. Archeological collection storage space, a research lab and administrative offices will also be housed in the building. Plans include the construction of a full-scale earthlodge adjacent to the new center for use in interpretive presentations.

For your safety, and to help us prevent construction delays, please observe all signs closing the construction area and temporary trail closure signs. You may inquire about trail closure status by contacting the present visitor center.



Tuesday evening programs during the summer include slide shows, Indian dance performances, workshops and demonstrations, such as hide tanning.

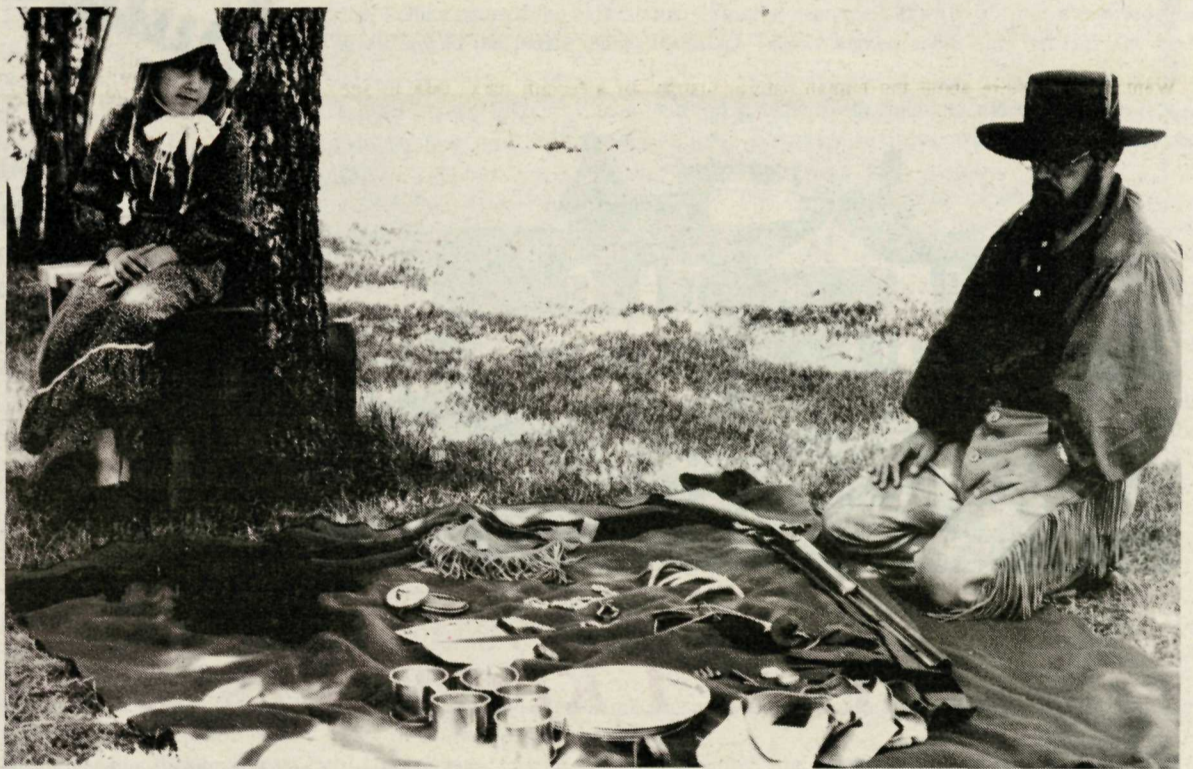
### *Knife River holds much attraction during winter*

Knife River Indian Villages is a quiet, peaceful place in the winter months. But it is also a special place to visit during the winter because of its serenity. The river bottom land between the Knife and Missouri Rivers, which makes up a sizeable portion of the National Historic Site, is converted from a heavily wooded nature trail to a magical ski trail. The staff at Knife River Indian Villages keep nearly nine miles of cross-country ski trail groomed for public skiing throughout the winter.

In days gone by the winter was a time for story telling, craftwork, and even some recreation. Many of our earliest records of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara were written in the winter, as this was also the time that fur traders came into the area of the Knife River Villages to make trades for prime buffalo robes. Lewis and Clark and their Corps of Discovery spent the winter of 1804-5 near these villages at Fort Mandan. The villages had many contacts with other groups of people farther along the trail west to the Pacific Ocean. The Captains wished to get as much information as they could about people they were to encounter along the way. The villagers were able to supply corn and other food items much needed by the Corps of Discovery.

During the winter, Lewis and Clark described a winter game played by the villagers called Tchun-kee (pronounced chun-ke). This was an ancient and widespread sport among Native Americans of the plains. It was played by men using six-foot long spear-like poles which they tossed at a doughnut-shaped stone rolled along the course. A favorite winter pastime for young people was sledding, which provided an opportunity for courtship. Sleds were made of a single bison robe or of ribs lashed together with sinew.

So remember, Knife River Indian Villages National Historical Site is not only a wonderful place to visit in the summer, it is also magical in the winter. Come and visit us!



Volunteers and staff will dress in period costume to re-enact a trading encampment during Village Indian Trade Days the third weekend in July.

### *Park Service celebrates 75th Anniversary in 1991*



The National Park Service will be celebrating its Diamond Anniversary in 1991. Special events are being scheduled across the country to help commemorate this milestone, to foster a better understanding about accomplishments of this federal agency, and to show that "National Park Service professionals are rededicated to their fundamental mission as archivists of the nation's history, providers of educational and leisure time opportunities, and protectors of our vast but limited resources for future generations."

## FEES

Legislatively authorized entrance and user fees are charged at Theodore Roosevelt National Park; no fees are charged at Fort Union Trading Post NHS or Knife River Indian Villages NHS. Entrance fees are collected at Theodore Roosevelt National Park from May 1 through September 30; camping fees are charged from mid-April through October. No fees are collected during the winter months when visitor services are reduced.

The current fee schedule at Theodore Roosevelt National Park is as follows:

Short Term Entrance	Private motor vehicle	\$3.00 per vehicle
	Commercial bus	\$1.00 per person
	Pedestrian	\$1.00 per person
Annual Park Permit		\$10.00
Golden Eagle Passport		\$25.00
User Fees	Camping	\$6.00 per unit each day
	Group Camping	\$1.00 per person each day
	Horse Camping Fee	\$0.50 per horse each day

Short term entrance fees are good for seven days and allow unlimited entry to either unit of the park during that period.

Entrance fees are not charged to persons under the age of 16 years or those who have passed their 62nd birthday. Qualifying groups are also exempt from entrance fees.

Golden Age and Golden Access Passports are free lifetime entrance permits issued to citizens or permanent residents of the United States who have passed their 62nd birthday and those medically determined to be disabled, respectively. Both passports also provide for a 50% reduction of user fees.

Persons not included in the above fee-exempt categories may elect to purchase the \$25.00 Golden Eagle Passport. Valid for the calendar year, the Golden Eagle Passport allows the holder and those accompanying her/him in a single, private, non-commercial vehicle to enter federal recreation areas at no additional charge. A \$10.00 annual park permit is also available. This park-specific pass gives the holder unlimited entry to Theodore Roosevelt National Park during the calendar year.

Additional details about park fees and the various passports can be obtained by contacting Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

## SITE BULLETINS

Want to learn more about the human natural history of a certain park? Ask to see some of their site bulletins. Available at all three North Dakota park areas, site bulletins provide closer looks at park resources. Plant and wildlife checklists, trail guides, handouts on geology, bison, prairie dogs, wild horses, etc. -- all are examples of site bulletins. Enquire at the visitor center for free copies of these informationals.

## BACKCOUNTRY USE

Eighty-five miles of backcountry trails in Theodore Roosevelt National Park allow the visitor to experience the same wild beauty and solitude of the badlands that captivated Theodore Roosevelt more than a century ago. Hikers and horseback parties who wish to camp overnight in the park backcountry must register at either the South or North Unit visitor center and obtain a free backcountry use permit. A backcountry guide containing a map of the park trail system, backcountry use regulations, and special considerations to make in planning your trip will accompany each permit. Park staff are available to advise you of current trail and weather conditions, to recommend travel routes, and to offer suggestions that will ensure a safe and memorable experience.

To preserve the quality of the historical scene and to protect delicate archeological sites, backcountry camping is not permitted at either Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site or Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site.

## CHURCH SERVICE

This year marks the 40th year of operation of the Christian Ministry in the National Parks program. A Sunday morning interdenominational service is provided at the Theodore Roosevelt National Park Cottonwood Campground Amphitheater June-August by this ecumenical ministry.

## PEACEFUL VALLEY TRAIL RIDES, INC.

Trail rides of various lengths are available at Peaceful Valley Ranch in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Overnight trips available. Write P.O. Box 197, Medora, North Dakota 56845.

## 1990 VISITOR ACTIVITIES

### -----Theodore Roosevelt National Park -- South Unit-----

- ✓ **MEDORA VISITOR CENTER** -- Open daily, mid-June through Labor Day, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (MDT). Open daily remainder of year except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (MST).
- ✓ **PAINTED CANYON VISITOR CENTER** -- Open daily, mid-June through Labor Day, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (MDT); mid-April to mid-June and September through October, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (MST).
- ✓ **MALTESE CROSS CABIN** -- Daily, 20-minute scheduled guided tours of Roosevelt's Maltese Cross Cabin, mid-June through mid-September, 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (MDT). Self-guided tours available the rest of the year.
- ✓ **EVENING CAMPFIRE PROGRAMS** -- Nightly, at Cottonwood Campground, mid-June through mid-September, 9:30 p.m. (MDT) in June; programs will begin earlier as summer progresses.

### -----Theodore Roosevelt National Park -- North Unit-----

- ✓ **NORTH UNIT VISITOR CENTER** -- Open daily, Memorial Day through September, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (CDT). Open weekends and limited weekdays rest of the year.
- ✓ **EVENING CAMPFIRE PROGRAMS** -- Nightly, at Squaw Creek Campground, mid-June through mid-September, 10:00 p.m. (CDT) June and July; programs will begin earlier as summer progresses.

#### ✓ **SPECIAL PROGRAMS** (North and South Unit)

August 25, All Day.....Founders Day  
Programs on the history of the National Park Service

- ✓ **NOTE:** During the summer, naturalist-led walks, talks, children's programs and demonstrations are conducted daily in the South and North Units. Check at the visitor centers for the current program schedule or write the Superintendent, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Medora, North Dakota 58645 or call 701-623-4466.

### -----Fort Union Trading Post National Historical Site-----

- ✓ **BOURGEOIS HOUSE VISITOR CENTER** -- Located 25 miles southwest of Williston. Open daily, Memorial Day through mid-September, 8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m. (CDT). Winter operating hours are 9:00 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. (CST).

- ✓ **FORT TOURS** -- Tours are self-guiding. Group tours may be arranged by contacting the park.

#### ✓ **SPECIAL PROGRAMS:**

June 14-17.....8th Annual Fort Union Rendezvous  
September 13-15.....Fur Trade Symposium (see story on page 2)  
October.....Buffalo Runner's Weekend

**NOTE:** For additional programs, check at the Bourgeois House or write Superintendent, Fort Union Trading Post NHS, Buford Route, Williston, North Dakota 58801 or call 701-572-9083.

### -----Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site-----

- ✓ **VISITOR CENTER** -- Located three miles north of Stanton. Open daily, Memorial Day through Labor Day, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (MDT). Open daily except holidays the rest of the year, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (MST).

- ✓ **RANGER-GUIDED WALKS** -- Walks to village sites or natural areas conducted daily, June through August, and by request or advance reservation the rest of the year. Self-guiding brochures are available. Check at visitor center for temporary trail closures due to new facility and trail construction.

- ✓ **EVENING PROGRAMS** -- Tuesday evenings, June through August, at the visitor center.

- ✓ **INDIAN DANCERS:** June 5, 1990, 6:30 p.m. (MDT), Eagle Feather Dance Club; July 3, 1990, 6:30 p.m. (MDT), White Shield Arikara Dance Club.

- ✓ **VILLAGE INDIAN TRADE DAYS** -- July 21-22, 1990; Saturday, 9:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. (MDT). Volunteers and staff dressed in period costume re-enact a trading encampment which may have taken place at the Knife River Villages nearly two hundred years ago. Traditional skills and crafts are demonstrations.

**NOTE** -- Demonstrations or talks at the visitor center that depict village inhabitants' activities are scheduled June through August. Topics may include gardening, hide tanning, tool making and clothing decoration. Time and topics are posted at the visitor center. Programs may be requested the remainder of the year by advance reservation. For more information, write, Superintendent, Knife River Indian Villages NHS, RR1, Box 168, Stanton, ND 58571 or call (701) 745-3309. Some trail areas are accessible to visitors using wheelchairs.

- ✓ **INDICATES HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

# THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK

## *TRNP took almost 60 years to earn official 'park' status*

Within a short time after the death of Theodore Roosevelt on January 6, 1919, there were proposals to establish a memorial in his honor. Various studies as to size, location, etc., took place that included ideas for national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges and scenic roads, as well as state parks. Sylvane Ferris, a friend and business associate of TR during his cattle ranching days in western North Dakota, appointed a committee to pick a site; Medora was selected. In 1921 the North Dakota legislature instructed their representatives in Congress to assist in setting land aside for a park.

The North Dakota Badlands were explored in 1924 by a group of federal, state, and local officials plus news media to outline an area for a Roosevelt National Park. This tour resulted in the formation of the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial National Park Association (later, the Greater North Dakota Association). One early plan called for a 2030-square-mile park. But this proposal included too much good stock land for the liking of area ranchers.

In 1928 Roger Toll, Superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park, submitted a report on the proposed park to Director Stephen T. Mather in which he favored the establishment of a small national monument stating, "A national park does not seem to be justified."

Again, various studies, proposals and counter proposals for a park took place. Some suggested a national forest be established. Then came the "dirty thirties." Drought, overgrazing and crop failures forced many homesteaders to sell their land to the federal government for as little as \$2.00 per acre. In western North Dakota land was acquired mainly for setting up leased grazing and rehabilitation areas. Today, most of what was purchased under the auspices of the Resettlement Act is now part of the Little Missouri Grasslands. A portion of these new federal holdings was earmarked for a state park. In 1934 a cooperative agreement to start a Roosevelt Regional Park Project was signed by the Resettlement Administration, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the National Park Service, and the state of North Dakota.

The CCC operations began immediately, administered by National Park Service employees. The North and South Roosevelt Regional Parks had their own camps. By 1935 these areas were designated the Roosevelt Demonstration Area (RDA). Site development during the CCC era, which ended in 1941, included construction of roads, trails, picnic areas, campgrounds, shelters and buildings.

Still uncertain as to who would accept management responsibility for this land. When the North Dakota state government announced that it did not want the land as a state park, approval was obtained in 1942 to retain the Roosevelt Demonstration Area in federal ownership for the purpose of study and possible inclusion into the National Park System. North Dakota Representative William Lemke championed the fight to establish a national park, which met resistance from National Park Service officials. The next few years saw further studies and political maneuvering.

In November 1946 the RDA was officially transferred to the United States Fish and



The 1930s CCC camps were located in what would later become the South and North Units of the Park.

Wildlife Service as Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge after legislation to establish Theodore Roosevelt National Park was vetoed because some felt the area did not possess those qualities that merit national park ranking. Undaunted, Congressman Lemke pressed for park status. Finally, on April 25, 1947, after a compromise that changed the park's name, President Truman signed a bill that created Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park. This included lands that roughly make up the South Unit and Elkhorn Ranch Unit today. The North Unit was added to the memorial park on June 12, 1948, and additional boundary revisions were made in 1948 and 1956.

As a memorial park, it was the only one of its kind in the National Park System. Eventually, in addition to the connection with a president, the land was recognized for its diverse cultural and natural resources. On November 10, 1978, the area was given national park status when President Carter signed legislation changing the memorial park to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. This same law placed 28,335 acres of the park under the National Wilderness Preservation System (19,035 in the North Unit and 9,300 acres in the South Unit).

Today, Theodore Roosevelt National Park is home to a variety of plants and animals and continues to memorialize the 26th President for his enduring contributions to the conservation of our nation's resources.

## *Bighorn sheep relocated to promote new numbers*

The Audubon bighorn sheep once dotted the slopes along the Little Missouri River and its coulees. Hunted along with other wildlife such as the bison, elk, wolf and plains grizzly, the last known Audubon sheep in the North Dakota Badlands was killed 20 miles west of Grassy Butte in 1905 (just 100 years from the date they were recorded by Lewis and Clark during their journey through what is now North Dakota).

Since the 1940s, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department had been interested in reintroducing bighorns to North Dakota. It wasn't until 1955 that a source was located. On November 5, 1956, 18 California bighorns were transplanted from the Frazer River country west of Williams Lake, British Columbia to an enclosure on Magpie Creek north of Theodore Roosevelt National Park's South Unit. The California bighorn was chosen because, like the extinct Audubon bighorn, it inhabited the lower elevations of the mountain sheep range. On January 15, 1959, five rams were taken from the Magpie Creek enclosure and released into the South Unit.

In 1960 nine bighorns were transplanted from Magpie Creek to a 200-acre enclosure constructed within the South Unit. Some of these bighorns were later transplanted outside the park. The rest either escaped from the enclosure or were turned loose into the park by 1966.

A 1975 census showed 45 sheep in the park. However, lungworm infestation began

to take its toll and soon lamb mortality rate increased to 100%. By 1986 there were only three ewes left in the park.

Using a gun net shot from a helicopter, the ewes were captured on May 24, 1986, and placed in a new 100-acre fenced enclosure within the South Unit along with two rams that were captured from other herds in the Badlands. In January 1987 one of the ewes died. Two more ewes from outside the park were transplanted to the sheep enclosure. These two rams and four ewes were treated with a parasiticide, Ivermectin, to help fight lungworms brought into the area by domestic sheep. Another medication, Fenbendazole, is mixed with fermented apple pulp and given to the bighorns each February, just prior to lambing, to reduce lungworms in the lambs.

By March 1990 the herd had only grown to nine (five rams and four ewes). In order to increase propagation and to reduce inbreeding problems, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, with assistance from park personnel, relocated several bighorn sheep in the badlands. Four rams were removed from the park and were replaced with one ram and three ewes. There are now nine California bighorns in the South Unit sheep enclosure. Hopefully their numbers will increase so a healthy herd can again be released into the park.

# You can't protect what you don't know is out there.

By Bonnie Heidel  
North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department

If Noah's Ark were to dock at Theodore Roosevelt National Park, there are 12 different species of rare wild plants that would have a better chance of getting on board there compared to anywhere else in the state. This is the discovery made by North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department biologists conducting a rare plant study for the National Park Service.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park, which is essentially North Dakota's biggest and most heavily visited recreation site, also offers a premier opportunity to practice conservation biology. Even before the park was dedicated 40 years ago, its open vistas and wildlands were recognized as important resources for human enjoyment and well-being. But only with the recent rare plants inventory can we begin to appreciate that these same park features are essential to (the) survival of some wild plants in the state and region.

Why worry about wild plants growing in a park? Just because they grow on public land doesn't mean they're protected. Unless we know they are out there, they could be set back or wiped out in the course of building new park facilities, changing the grazing levels of bison and other reintroduced grazers, or controlling noxious weeds such as leafy spurge.

The exciting array of rare North Dakota plant species found in the park includes one tree, one shrub, one cactus, three grasses, four perennial wildflowers and two annual wildflowers. There is a common thread running among most of them—they are wild plants that depend on the dynamics of the badlands landscape. Some grow on eroded slopes, others on flooded riverbanks, others in

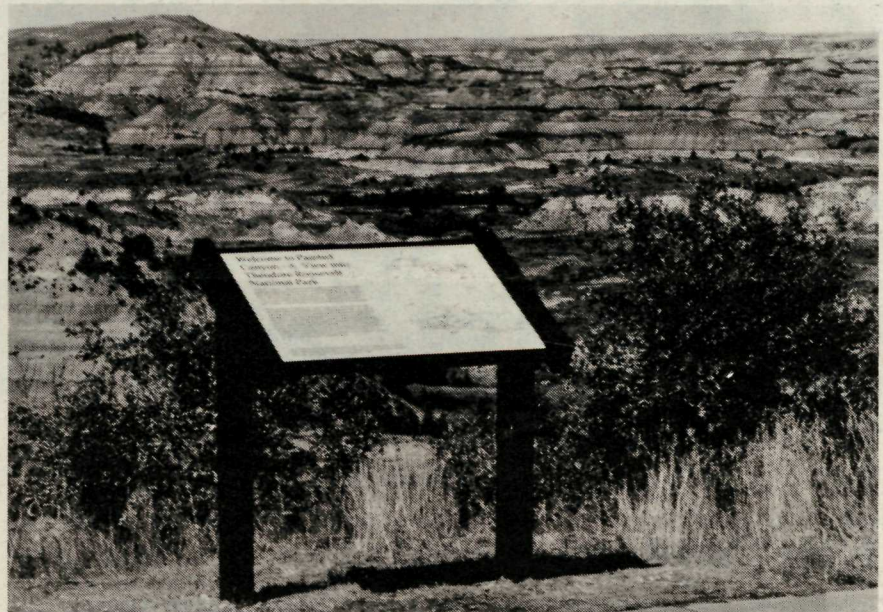


Feral (wild) horses are often sighted near roads in the southeastern section of the park's South Unit.

places where changeable soil conditions and grazing patterns come together just right.

What's even more exciting is that two of these plants have never before been documented from North Dakota. The new wildflower, yellow broomrape, is a white, phantom-like plant which is totally without green chlorophyll, drawing its energy from nearby sage plants. Until it was discovered in the North Unit of the park, its closest documented locations were in Nebraska.

This roster of wild plants will be added to the "Big Picture" management formula for Theodore Roosevelt National Park, to ensure its human visitors and all of its wild plant and animal inhabitants an enduring natural badlands environment.



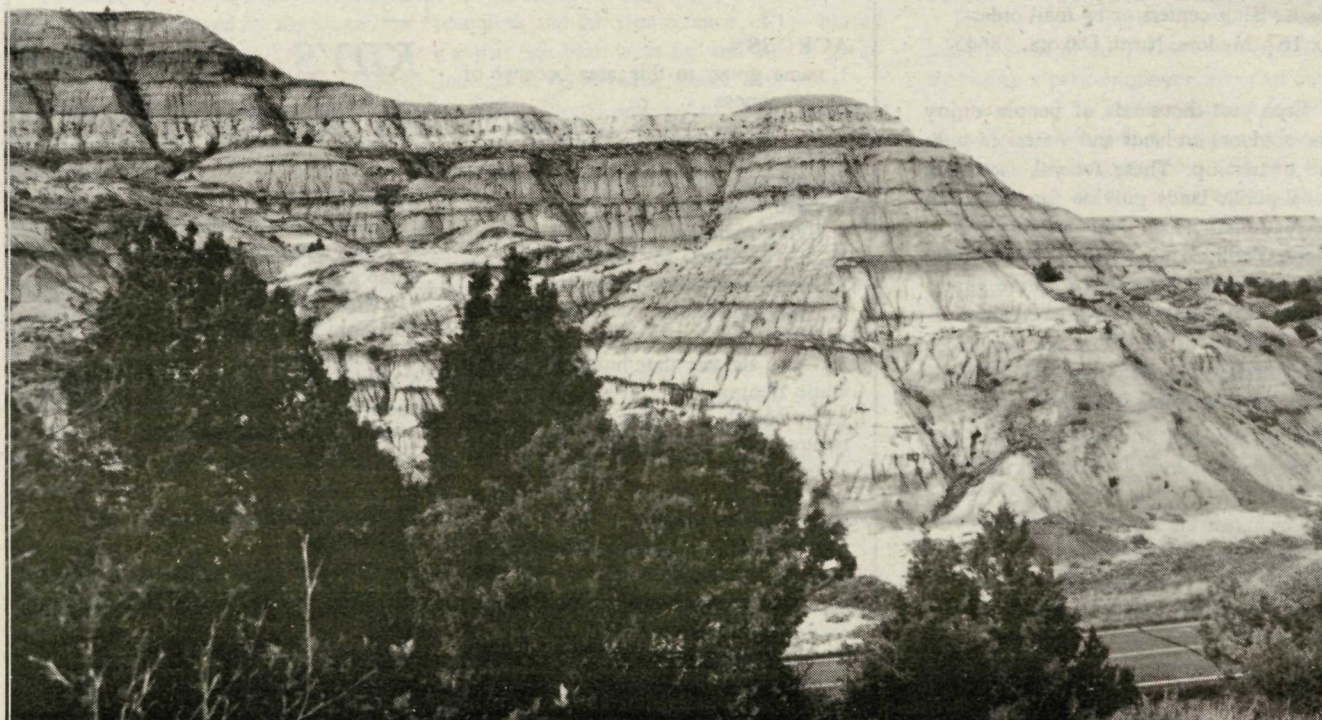
Panoramic views of the North Dakota Badlands are found along Interstate Highway 94, the South Unit 36-mile scenic loop drive, and the North Unit 15-mile road.

## Geology book reprinted

On the shelves at TRNHA Bookstores is a reprint of the United States Geological Survey Bulletin 1493, *Geologic Story of the Great Plains*.

TRNHA purchased the negatives of this publication, added a vibrant new cover, made minor text revisions, and had it typeset in a modern typeface.

This book offers a non-technical description of the origin and evolution of the landscape of the Great Plains. The book will retail for \$6.95 (\$5.91 for members).

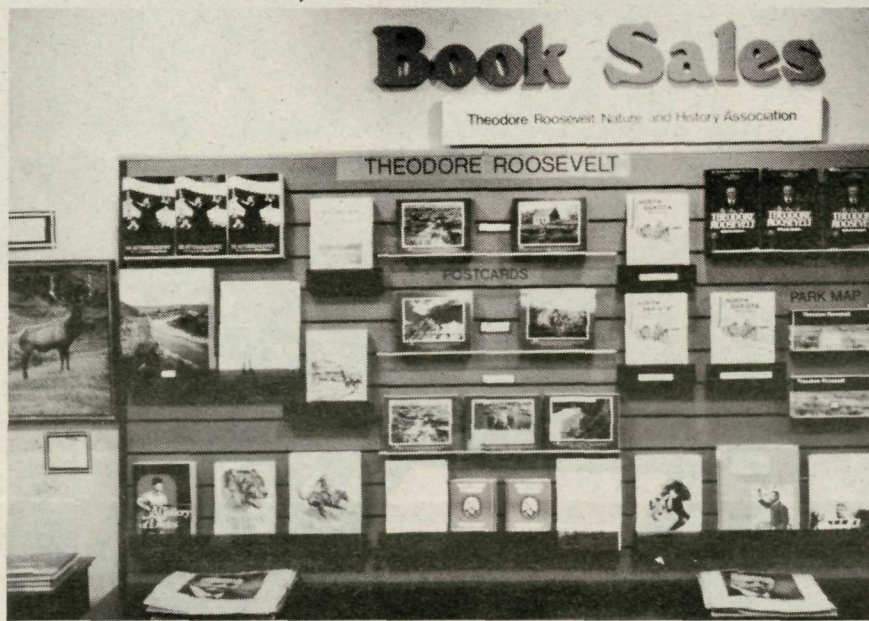


## Theodore Roosevelt Nature & History Association

Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association was organized in 1951 by a group of interested park enthusiasts to promote and support the historical, scientific and educational activities of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. This commitment has broadened to offer support to: Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site; Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site; and Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge.

The Association is a non-federal, non-profit organization governed by a volunteer board of directors. To accomplish their goals, the Association is authorized by the National Park Service to sell theme-related publications, maps and craft items. From its inception, the Association has donated more than \$200,000 from the sales receipts of these materials to the National Park Service and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service areas in North Dakota. Money has been used to support interpretive and visitor services activities such as trail guides, exhibits, informational handouts, funding for new publications and the printing of this paper, **Frontier Fragments**. The Association has also paid for housing volunteers, funded park librarian positions, sponsored scientific research, purchased film, and . . . the list goes on.

You are invited to join the Association. A membership fee of \$4.00 per year, \$10.00 for three years or a \$75.00 lifetime membership entitles you to a 15% discount on sales items. Memberships may be purchased at any one of the six Association sales outlets or by writing TRNHA, P. O. Box 167, Medora, ND 58645.



This is one of the sales areas offered by TRNHA. Members receive special price reductions.

### Books-Maps-Pamphlets

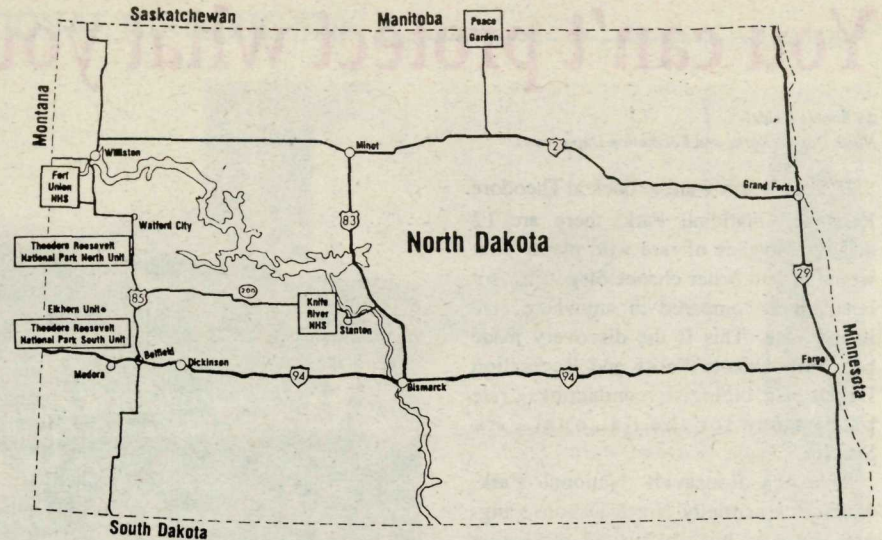
Publications and maps on the national parks in North Dakota and their related natural and human history may be purchased at the outlets of the Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association located at the park visitor centers or by mail order from the Association. Write TRNHA, P.O. Box 167, Medora, North Dakota 58645.



Each year thousands of people enjoy the outdoors on lands and waters in public ownership. These federal, state and local public lands provide for important recreational needs and public enjoyment. Public lands are managed to preserve valuable resources for future generations. This goal becomes a responsibility for each of us. How we use these lands today will determine their availability for our pleasure tomorrow.

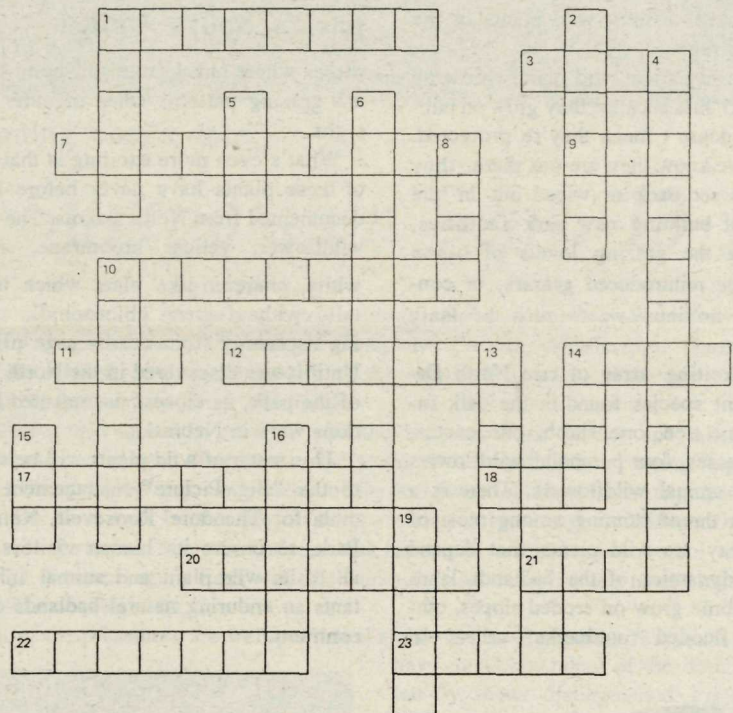
**FOR YOUR SAFETY...Don't let your visit be spoiled by misfortune. For your safety and for the protection of park resources, observe the park regulations and safety warnings:**

- View all wildlife from a distance. Do not feed or harass the wildlife.
- Be alert and watch for prairie rattlesnakes, poison ivy and prickly pear cactus.
- For walks, take an adequate supply of water, wear proper footgear and a hat, and check with rangers for other precautions. Don't drink from backcountry water sources unless you have boiled the water.
- Observe traffic regulations. Use your vehicle's seat belts! The life you save could be your own!



### REMEMBER...

BISON ARE WILD AND CAN BE DANGEROUS!  
VIEW FROM A DISTANCE!!



#### ACROSS --

- name given to this area because of its roughness
- grown by Native Americans for food
- Common type of poplar tree found along the river banks
- flying mammal
- correct name for antelope
- male mountain sheep
- only poisonous snake in this area
- male elk
- type of deer that holds its tail up while fleeing
- in March of 1985 this animal was reintroduced to Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
- Assiniboin, Crow, Cree, Blackfeet and Sioux
- John Jacob Astor obtained these from the Indians
- one of the two corner block-houses at Fort Union
- important trade item for guns and arrows

### KID'S CORNER

#### DOWN --

- correct name for the buffalo
- what a man is called who rides a horse and works cattle
- what Yellowstone, Glacier and Theodore Roosevelt are
- female deer
- small rabbit common in neighborhood yards
- direction on a river
- grasslands are also called the \_\_\_\_\_
- the Little Missouri is a \_\_\_\_\_
- male deer
- female mountain sheep
- lived at Knife River Indian Villages
- river near Sakakawea site
- what village Indian games are \_\_\_\_\_