

The YELLOWSTONE



News

January 28, 1993

Next Deadline: February 7

In Memory of Bob Mahn

A ranger in Yellowstone since 1976, Robert "Bob" Mahn died on January 17, 1994, in a snowmobile accident while on a routine patrol near the East entrance. Over the past 18 years in the park Bob's good humor, commanding presence, and easy manner touched many people, visitors and staff alike. "Bob was such a legend in and around Yellowstone. He very obviously loved the park and was well-loved in return. He will be sorely missed." said Superintendent Bob Barbee. Other staff members remember him as well...

I want to share with you a few good words about a man of many words. I remember being at the ranger station watching Bob talk to people who were desperate to get to the restroom just around the bend, but were so pleased to be listening to Bob that they did not want to leave. I actually wonder if some of them made it. And how frustrated Bob would get watching new summer employees with traffic backing up and finally going to clean up that line and in the end slowing things down even worse.

I'm desperately going to miss Bob. Never in five years did I see him have a bad day. Or hear him have something bad to say about anyone. First thing in the morning we would meet, and Bob always asked if I wanted to go up the road. Well, I knew how Bob enjoyed those rides, and I always came up with some reason it was better for him to go. Still, he always asked, and I know if I ever said "yes", he would have gladly let me go even though he enjoyed that morning drive best of all.

Bob loved the woods and the mountains he lived in, but would complain bitterly when the bears or other critters attracted a crowd. Still he would sneak off and watch the bears, swans, eagles, moose and any other critters whenever he could.

Nothing was more enjoyable than taking drives with Bob when the road was closed. It would be horrible driving and we would slip

and slide all the way over to Fishing Bridge and back and look at everything.

Bob is the only person I have ever known who always had the time for you. Sometimes he would not talk about what you wanted to talk about, but he would always make the time to discuss something. He never wanted to know who was calling him on the phone. He just came when called everytime.

Never did I know Bob to purposefully try to be funny, but his stories warmed your heart. One particularly bad weather day, Bob was on the road and radioed to say, in a voice that only he had, "You may as well close 'er down they're leaving like rats on a sinking ship." Or another time it was, "The sky is black a piece of coal and I reckon we shouldn't let too many people up this way." Then of course there was always "Winnapigasaurus".

Bob is the man I most respect. I came to him completely green as to what was expected to be a good ranger. There were never any rules except to serve, to help, and to protect at any cost. The cost was great. In the beginning I looked to Bob to make me a ranger. Over the last few days I've begun to understand that instead I've seen what it takes to be a truly good person. I and we and Grace, more than any of us, will miss Bob's voice, his caring, his protection, and the fine example that he set every single day.

Arthur Jawad
East Entrance Ranger

Bob Mahn was a mountain of a man. He seemed to belong amongst the giant peaks of the Absarokas. Large, so large that when he rode a snowmobile, it looked as if he had borrowed a neighbor child's tricycle. He was strong and imposing, especially when thunderclouds gathered.

Yet the mountain had a marshmallow filling, as you soon learned when you got to know Bob. As the East Gate Subdistrict Ranger, he saw his job as helping people more than regulating them.



Artist: Christy Stalder

Bob Mahn con't

My husband Terry and I came to know him during the nine years we lived at Lake Village. We can still see him grinning on top of Sylvan Pass in the midst of a swirling snow storm, frost grizzling his thick curly beard. He often spent several hours up there helping snowmobilers through the deep drifts or slides.

His strength was legendary. One day in March 1986, heavy winds drifted the top into a steep sidehill, stranding several parties on both sides. Bob expertly negotiated the difficult terrain, riding his machine back and forth several times to make a track. We started across, but the skis of our machine fell off the track, and we were hopelessly stuck. Bob came to the rescue. He grabbed the machine and literally threw it up the hill into the track, single-handedly.

Bob respected Sylvan and respected the rights of some of us to fear the pass. He didn't ridicule me for my fear. He was devoted to his wife, Grace; loyal to his friends; and kind to strangers, especially the elderly.

In some ways, he was an old time ranger, more comfortable in the wilds than in the company of bureaucrats. Somewhat of a maverick, he was the ideal person for the East Entrance position. He could deal effectively with the local people who feel they have known the park longer than some of the park administrators making the rules. His common sense often served as a buffer between them and headquarter policies.

He had a distinctive voice on the radio, giving slow and detailed descriptions of his road. The maintenance crew knew they could trust his judgment about what equipment might be needed for repairs or maintenance.

His voice is silent now. They tell us that he's gone. But somehow I still see him, grinning amongst the titans, high above the North Fork.

Marjane Ambler
Mancos, Colorado

One evening while Bob was stationed at Lake, he was dispatched to the bar at the hotel to break up a fight. As Bob gently assisted the aggressor to the floor and began to apply handcuffs, the second party in the fight jumped Bob from behind. Bob finished handcuffing the first troublemaker, and then tossed the second one off his back and to the floor. As backup rangers arrive they asked why he hadn't waited for assistance. Bob replied, "Twarn't nothing...more of a nuisance than anything."

And that is what Bob's absence will be...more of a nuisance than anything. His spirit lives on. As will our memories of him.

Gerry Mernin
Snake River District Ranger

Funeral services for Bob were held January 24 in Cody, Wyoming. Memorial donations may be sent to Cody Search and Rescue, Bob Mahn Memorial Fund, 1131 Eleventh Street, Cody, Wyoming 82414.



Personnel News

by Vanessa Ford
Personnel Staffing Specialist

RETIREMENT BOOKLETS

Rosanne has received a very limited supply of the Federal News Digest booklet on Retirement. (For those who attended the Pre-retirement Training, this is the book recommended by Fred Cook.) Copies will be distributed to each Division Chief. Feel free to contact your Division to browse through this booklet.

OPEN CLERICAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In case you haven't seen it yet, the National Park Service has opened on a continuous basis the "Clerical Register." What this means is that you can submit to the Yellowstone Personnel Office, a current "Notice of Rating" from any Office of Personnel Management under the covered Clerical Occupations. If you haven't already taken the Clerical exam, the next one given in Bozeman will be on March 30, at 10:00am at the Public library, 220 E. Lamme, Community Room. You can request the application forms and qualification information by calling (303) 969-7055. You may also write the Federal Job Information Center, P.O. Box 25167,, Denver, CO 80225.

The Federal Women's Committee would like to thank all of the women who attended the recent healthcare workshop with Dr. Patrick Holland. The attendance of over 30 women certainly is a testimony of support for the Federal Women's Program. We would also like to make everyone aware that the Research Library (in the basement of the Albright Visitor Center) has many interesting videos available for check-out. An excellent video about breast cancer is "Cathy saved her life and you can too" — a must for every woman to see. There are also a large number of videos on supervisory skills, stress management, women in business, and many, many more to be taken advantage of. A brand new set of premier videos of interest to many of us is the complete series "How The West Was Lost."

Check them out!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

✓ Host Families Needed

AYUSA (Academic Year in the USA) is looking for host families for semester and academic year students. The Gardiner-Mammoth communities have hosted nine students from seven countries in the last six years. Students are 15 to 18 years of age and want to experience a different lifestyle. I have received profiles for the 1994-95 academic year. If interested, please contact Dayna McClure, evenings at 848-7291.

✓ Vet Visit

Livingston veterinarian, Dr. James O. Murray, will be available to see patients at the Gardiner Exxon on Friday, January 28, from approximately 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. No appointment necessary. Housecalls available upon request. Next visit: February 11.

✓ Mammoth Community Library Hours

The Mammoth Community Library is now open Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Time to renew your library cards for 1994. We have many new donations including...westerns, cookbooks, juniors, and children's books. Come visit your library in the basement of the Canteen!

✓ Jardine Ski Run

The 9th Annual Jardine Ski Run will be held on Sunday, February 27, 1994. Registration for this Bear Creek Council fundraiser will be from 12 - 12:45 (adults \$6, children \$1) There will also be an obstacle/backcountry race (just for fun). Follow the signs above Jardine to locate the event. For more information call 344-7750.

✓ Canyon SnowBall

"Ski all day, Dance a little longer!" At the Canyon SnowBall to be held on Saturday, February 12. Beginning at 6 p.m. there will be a chili feed, and the dancing will start at 7 p.m. Overnight accommodations are available. Contact Melanie at 242-7568 to reserve a spot. Come help celebrate the engagement of Doug Lentz and Cathy Smith!!

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT

Pursuant to the provisions of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, notice is hereby given that the Mammoth Community TV and FM Association is required to file with the FCC, no later than February 1, 1994, an application for renewal of TV translator station, K06AD, serving Mammoth Hot Springs and the Gardiner Valley. Station K06AD operates with peak transmitter output power of ten watts from Bunsen Peak, rebroadcasting station KVSI, channel 6, Billings, Montana on output channel 09.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, notice is hereby given that the Mammoth Community TV and FM Association is required to file with the FCC, no later than February 1, 1994, an application for renewal of TV translator station, K09UT.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, notice is hereby given that the Mammoth Community TV and FM Association is required to file with the FCC, no later than February 1, 1994, an application for renewal of TV translator station, K10JH, serving Mammoth Hot Springs and the Gardiner Valley. Station K10JH operates with peak transmitter output power of ten watts from Bunsen Peak, rebroadcasting station KTVQ, channel 2, Billings, Montana on output channel 10.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, notice is hereby given that the Mammoth Community TV and FM Association is required to file with the FCC, no later than February 1, 1994, an application for renewal of TV translator station, K13VA, serving Mammoth Hot Springs and the Gardiner Valley. Station K13VA operates with peak transmitter output power of ten watts from Bunsen Peak, rebroadcasting station KULR, channel 8, Billings Montana, on output channel 13.

Individuals who wish to advise the FCC of facts relating to any of the above stations (call sign)'s renewal application and to whether any of the above stations have operated in the public interest should file comments and petitions with the FCC by May 2, 1994.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Wanted to Buy:

Flute. Call Maria 344-2032 days, or 344-7722 evenings.

For Sale:

*Tucker stackable recycle bins, \$8 ea.

*Vertical blinds, cream, \$50.

*Vivitar 70-210 lens, Nikon mount, \$75.

*Fish tank & accessories, \$40. Call 848-9423.

For Sale:

RCA 19" color television, \$150 OBO. Call 848-7244 after 3 p.m.

For Sale:

Queen waveless waterbed, wood desk, 2 dinette tables, nightstand w/4 drawers, Sears woodstove, Craftsman chainsaw, 2 trolling motors, double-size mattress & boxspring set, double-size mattress, end table, and other misc. items. Call 848-7623.

For Sale:

*Nakamichi CR1A cassette deck, SR2A receiver, and B&W speakers, \$395.

*Asolo double boots, size 9½, \$50. Call 344-9272.

For Sale:

Sony portable CD player, plugs into home or car speaker, \$150. Call 848-7910 evenings, 344-2144 days.

For Sale:

One Continental Airlines ticket, must use before 9/1/94. Call Joy 344-2203.

For Sale:

NordicTrack Pro cross country exercise machine, 2 years old, great condition, \$450. Call Allan or Barbara at 344-7928.