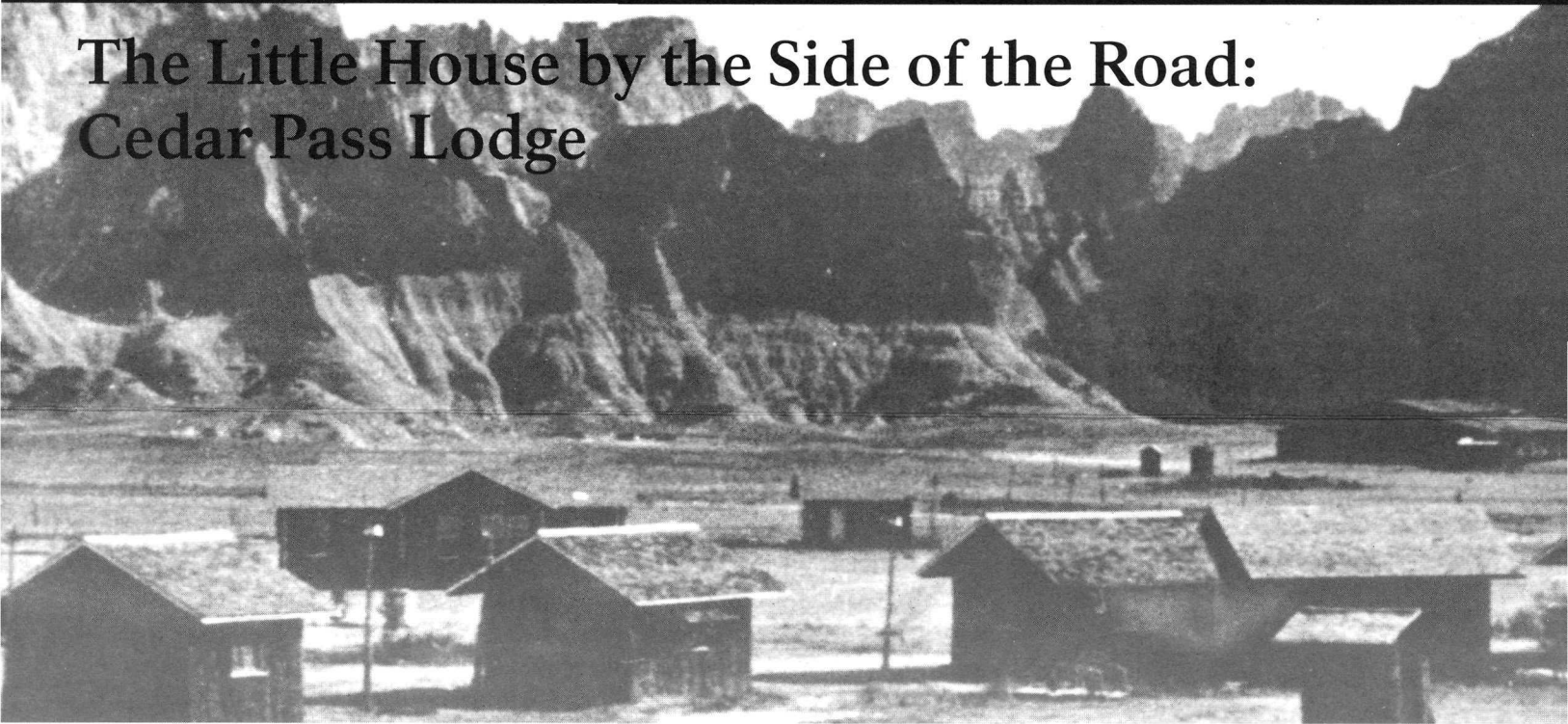


Badlands

Badlands National Park
South Dakota



The Little House by the Side of the Road: Cedar Pass Lodge



Up early mornings to serve breakfast, kept the dining room clean, served lunch and dinner. We had some time off to shower and get ready for dinner. It was very hot - no air conditioning in those days. We worked seven days a week with no time off, no entertainment, no transportation, and no place to go. We didn't have a radio. I don't remember any telephone. I used to send notes to Wall with the boy that drove the bread delivery truck.

- from *My Summer at Cedar Pass 1935* by Mary (Allburn) Aggergaard

Y'All Come



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The story of Cedar Pass Lodge begins in the mid-1920s when Ben H. Millard became fascinated with the colorful, rugged terrain of the South Dakota Badlands. In 1927, Millard and his family homesteaded a plot of land at the foot of Cedar Pass. The following year, Millard and his sister, Mrs. Clara Jennings, opened Cedar Pass Camp to provide refreshments and services to the growing number of sightseers braving the dusty, undeveloped roads.

Recognizing the potential value of the area as a public recreational and scientific reserve, Senator Peter Norbeck had been working for many years to establish a national park or monument in the Badlands. Ben Millard joined Norbeck in his fight. Working with other local proponents, Norbeck and Millard succeeded in gaining congressional authorization for Badlands National Monument in 1929.

In the 1930s, through the hard work of the Millards and their employees, Cedar Pass Camp and Tavern grew into an important oasis for Badlands travelers. Cabins, a café, a grocery and a filling station provided needed services. Ben Millard gave nightly lectures on the geology of the Badlands, initiating the tradition of education programs during the summer months. A large dance hall attracted local folks, tourists, and people from as far away as Rapid City for entertainment by such local performers as Lawrence Welk.

