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A  
HISTORY  
OF  
MOUNT MCKINLEY  
NATIONAL PARK

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A HISTORY OF  
MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK  
ALASKA

by  
Grant H. Pearson  
Superintendent

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
National Park Service

1953

# HISTORY OF MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK

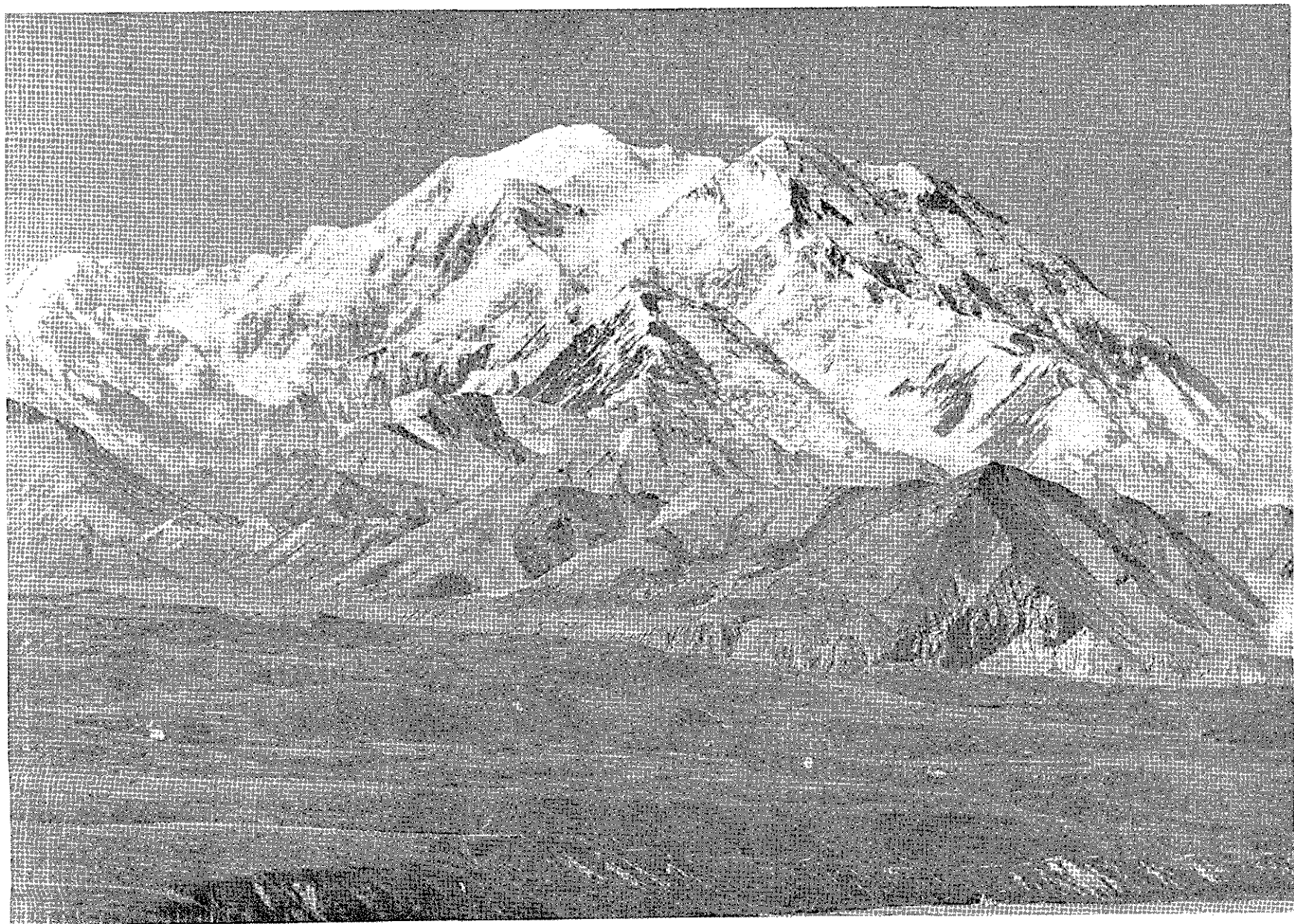
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Mount McKinley

## HISTORY OF MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK

### Geographical Setting

Mount McKinley National Park is located in south central Alaska, just north of 63°0', and is bisected by the 152nd meridian. It forms the apex and geographical center of the great wilderness south of the Yukon, west of the Tanana, and north of the Susitna via the Tokositna and Chulitna Rivers.

Part of the Alaska Mountain Range running east and west lies within the park. These mountains curve in a rugged mass around the headwaters of the Susitna, thus forming the divide between the Cook Inlet drainage on the south and the waters flowing into Bering Sea through the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers on the north. The southern end of the range lies to the west of Cook Inlet, but does not contain any unusually high peaks. Toward the north its relief increases, culminating in Mount McKinley, 20,300 feet in altitude and the highest mountain on the North American continent.

Mount McKinley is formed by a gigantic mass of granite which was forced upward through a stratum of slate. On many of the lower peaks close to the mountain the slate is still in position, giving them a strange, black-capped appearance. The granite of which the mountain is composed is of light tan color, which at a distance gives its grim cliffs a delicate pinkish hue. This differentiates it from all other mountains and stamps it with a beauty and grandeur of its own. 1/

### Aboriginal History of the Area

No one knows how many generations of natives have wandered over this region, but it seems certain that the indigenous population was greater at the first coming of the white man than it is now. As the natives depended largely on the chase for subsistence, they must have frequented the slopes of the Alaska range and the adjacent lowlands, for this is one of the best game regions in the Northwest. Much of the Alaska range formed an almost impassable barrier between the hunting grounds of the interior natives and the Cook Inlet natives.

To the relatively large Indian population of the wide regions of the interior of Alaska from which they are visible, these mountains have always borne Indian names. The natives of the middle Yukon, of the lower three hundred miles of the Tanana and its tributaries, and of the Kuskokwim, called these mountains "Denali" (Den-ah'-li) and "Denali's Wife," sometimes with a dialectical difference in pronunciation so slight as to be negligible.



Other natives of Alaska had different names for Mount McKinley. The Talkeetna Indians' name, "Trolika", signifies "High Mountain." <sup>2/</sup> The little handful of natives on the Susitna River, who never approach nearer than a hundred miles to the mountain, have a slightly different name for it. They call it "Traleika", which in their language also means "High Mountain." But the area in which and the people by whom this mountain is known as "Denali", preponderate so greatly as to leave no question which native name it should bear. <sup>3/</sup>

### Indian Legends

The following Indian legend of Mount McKinley is a condensed version of the one told to Judge James Wickersham in 1903 by Koonah, the blind chief of the Kantishna:

Long before Denali (Mount McKinley) was created, there lived in the forests of Alaska a certain Indian, the strong and brave Yako.

He lived alone, as there were no women in his land. He possessed great power over everything but he had no wife, which he greatly desired.

Ses, the great brown bear, told him that far to the westward he would find a village where there were beautiful females. This was the hunting grounds of the Raven War Chief, Totson, who was a great warrior. This pleased Yako, for he was a magician of great power, so he decided to travel to far away Yunana, the sunset land, that he might see these beautiful females and take one for his wife.

He built himself a birch bark canoe out of materials from the forests and painted the framework red, as the Tena have done ever since. Then he floated down the mighty Yukon River to Yunana land where, along the seashore, dwelt the tribes of Totson, the Raven Chief. He approached the village singing a song, telling Totson he had come to see the beautiful females of his village and ask him for one of them for his wife.

All of the young women of the village gathered along the beach to hear Yako's song. The wife of the second chief came down to the beach and spoke softly to Yako, saying: "Yako, you may have my daughter, Tsukala, who is yet a child, but will grow big and strong and good, for your wife. Take her and go quickly, for Totson, the Raven Chief, is now preparing to kill you."

The group of village girls, led by Totson's daughter, were jealous and came shrieking and clawing to Tsukala's mother to prevent her from giving her daughter to the

handsome Yako. While they were trying to club Tsukala's mother, Yako put the child into the canoe, then with a sweep of his magic paddle he caused a huge wave to overwhelm them, though it cast Tsukala's mother upon the beach safely.

Totson, the magician, caused a storm to arise which would destroy Yako in his light canoe and gave chase in his war canoe. With his magic he caused the waves to grow higher and higher. All this time he shot arrows and spears at Yako until they were gone, hoping that one of them would hit Yako in the back and kill him.

The waves became so rough Yako took his war-quelling stone that was fastened in the braid of his long black hair and threw it far ahead over the water toward his home in Tenaland. This caused the waters to be stilled in the path of his canoe, though mountainous green waves rolled threateningly on each side behind him where Totson labored in his pursuing canoe.

Totson now resorted to his never failing great war spear and threw the spear straight toward the back of the fleeing Yako.

Yako saw the spear coming and, putting all his magic force to his aid, he changed the oncoming rear wave into a mountain of stone upon whose crest the war spear struck with a crash of breaking rock, and from whose stony summit the weapon glanced upward high over Yako's canoe.

As the great spear flew skyward, it touched the greatest wave coming from the opposite direction, which Yako's magic instantly turned into a greater mountain of stone. From the summit of this mighty mountain the spear flew into the southern sky, where Koonah, the blind shaman, the descendent of Yako who possessed power and magic, can see it through his darkened orbs, though no man with mortal eyes can do so.

Disaster now overtook Totson as Yako's powerful magic changed the rear wave into a mountain of stone. Totson's canoe struck it and he was thrown headlong upon the rocks, where he was changed instantly into a large black bird, the croaking Raven, which flapped weaponless to the mountain top.

Yako's exertions had been so exhausting that he fell forward across the thwart of his canoe, where he lay long insensible and asleep. When he finally awoke, he was in the midst of his beautiful forest on the banks of the Yukon River, where Tsukala, now grown to young womanhood,

stood by his side with a dish of wild berries and dried salmon which she had prepared for his supper.

Gazing around the horizon, Yako saw the mountains he had created, the smaller one in the west, halfway back to Yunana, the sunset land, while the greater one, the mighty dome from whose crest the spear of Totson glanced as it sped to its position amid the stars, was that which the Tena call "Denali, the high one." Far above him, above the mountains and forests of Tenaland, floating lazily on outstretched wing, he saw Totson, the croaking Raven. 4/

There is another Indian legend associated with the highest mountain on the North American continent. Long ago, according to this legend, some of the natives were hunting near the foot of Denali. It being the longest days of the summer, they were camped on the south side of the "Big One" and they saw the sun disappear into Denali in the late evening. Early the next morning they saw it come out of the other side. Upon returning to their village, they told the chief, "Surely we found the home of the sun, as we saw with our own eyes the sun go into the mountain, and saw it leave its home in the morning."

Such a legend is easy to comprehend if one were standing at the foot of Denali on a summer's evening while the sun was setting. The early natives were a simple, hardy race and must have loved nature beyond anything else.

### Coming of the White Man

Alaska was discovered on July 15, 1741, by Alexei Ilich Chirikof, second in command to Vitus Bering, who headed the first Russian expedition to these coasts. Soon after, Russian fur hunters sailing east from the coast of Siberia first came upon the Aleutian Archipelago, which they took possession of in the name of the Czar. Having established themselves on these islands, they pushed farther east, explored the exterior coast of the mainland, and after many fights with the warlike tribes of those regions, established ports along the Bering Sea and the North Pacific. The Russian Government granted to these early adventurers special rights in the territory which they had discovered for the crown. Thus was the foundation laid of the Russian-American Fur Company, which held almost undisputed sway over Alaska until it was purchased by the United States in 1867 through the foresight, diplomacy and wisdom of Hon. William H. Seward, then Secretary of State. 5

Despite its commanding position, the significance of "Denali" was not realized until late in the nineteenth century. The Russians had named it "Bulshaia Gora" and the first known mention in literature of the mountain group in which it is situated was in the narrative of the English navigator, George Vancouver. While surveying the Knik Arm of Cook's Inlet in 1794, he had noted distant snow covered mountains which apparently were detached from each other.

Another who later saw it from a distance was William H. Dall, who named it the "Alaska Range" in 1867. Dall, Alaska Director of the Scientific Corps of Western Union Telegraph, was in charge of a party of engineers that at the time was seeking a route for a cable line from the United States to Asia.

In 1878 two Alaskan traders, Alfred Mayo and Arthur Harper, made an adventurous journey some 300 miles up the Tanana River. This was the first ascent of that river by white men. On their return they reported finding gold on the river bars and mentioned an enormous ice mountain visible in the south, which they said was the most remarkable thing they had seen on the trip. 6

Another to tell of "Denali" was Ivan Petroff, who, in his letter of transmittal to the Secretary of State, August 7, 1882, wrote:

"What the country north of Cook's Inlet is like no civilized man can tell, as in all the years of occupation of the coast by the Caucasian race it had remained a sealed book. The Indians tell us that the rivers lead into lakes and that the lakes

are connected by rivers with other lakes again, until finally the waters flow into the basins of the Tennanah and the Yukon; but conflicting with this intermingling of the waters are stories of mountains of immense altitude visible for hundreds of miles. The natives living north of this terra incognita give, however, a similar description, which may be accepted until reliable explorers are enabled to penetrate this region." 6a/

Lt. Henry T. Allen, who in 1885 made his hazardous exploration of the lower Tanana, also saw this peak, but at so great a distance that he was not especially impressed with its altitude.7/ He was followed in 1889 by Frank Densmore, a prospector, who with several companions crossed from the Tanana River to the Kuskokwim by way of Crochket and Lake Minchumina and had the magnificent view Minchumina affords. Densmore's description was so enthusiastic that the mountain was known for years among the Yukon prospectors as "Densmore's Mountain." 8/

Thus it was that explorers and traders, although impressed, did not seem to be aware that they had sighted the highest peak on the continent. When in 1895 scores of prospectors were attracted to Cook Inlet by the discovery of gold, they, too, saw the mountain, but apparently gave it no thought until the following year, when one of them, W. A. Dickey, recognized its importance. On his return to the States, he published a description of it and proposed the name of Mount McKinley. Although the mountain had been known to white men for over a century, and though scores of others had been as near to it as this prospector, or nearer, he was popularly termed the discoverer of Mount McKinley. He is to be honored for calling attention to it, but not as the discoverer. 9/ In brief, Dickey's story is as follows:

In 1896, he and his companion, Monks, "tacked" a boat up the Susitna River looking for gold. In the course of time they reached a point where, from some bare hills, they got an open view of the Alaskan Range with Mount McKinley towering above it. With remarkable accuracy he estimated its height at 20,000 feet, and on his return to civilization wrote a newspaper article describing the location and grandeur of the great peak, which he called Mount McKinley. He named it so because while he and his partner were prospecting on the Susitna River, they fell in with two prospectors who were rabid champions of free silver. After listening to their arguments for many weary days, he retaliated by naming the mountain after the champion of the gold standard.

In 1898, two years after the naming of the mountain, George Eldridge and Robert Muldrow, of the United States Geological Survey, in the course of their exploration of the Susitna River, located it accurately and determined its altitude at over 20,000 feet. Its height and location, and something of the

character of the southern flank of the range above which it towered were thus established. 10/

On August 12, 1898, Sgt. William Yanert, 6th Cavalry, U. S. A., was given instructions by Lt. H. G. Learnard, 14th Infantry, to break camp on the Chaniltna River, a tributary of the Susitna, and proceed to the Tanana. Quoting from his report, Yanert said:

"I was to take all the rations I could carry. My associates in the expedition were Private Jones, Company D, 14th Infantry, and Bate, a Skitig Indian, who was to act the part of guide. I was to pick out a trail through the Alaska Range to the Tanana River.

"Accompanied by Private Jones, 14th Infantry, and under the guidance of the Indian, Bate, I left Lieutenant Learnard's camp on the Chaniltna River on the morning of August 12, and proceeded in a north-westerly direction, following more or less closely the left bank of the Chaniltna for a distance of 12 miles. From this point the route ran north, following the divide between the first and second forks of that river and then up the middle fork of the Susitna. The Susitna was crossed on a raft below the mouth of a stream known as Indian Creek. The course taken then ran in a westerly direction to a range of mountains. These were crossed by way of a pass having an altitude of 3,000 feet, and beyond this range the course again turned northward and continued at the foot of the range to the headwaters of the Susitna River. Here the divide was reached and crossed, and on September 3, I arrived at a river which came from the northeast, which stream made a sharp turn, after which it proceeded in a northerly direction. The guide said it was a tributary of the Tanana. I took it for the Cantwell River. This probably was the Nenana River and Sergeant Yanert was undoubtedly the first white man to set foot on what is now Mount McKinley National Park.7

"Upon arriving at this river, the guide refused to continue in service as such, I therefore abandoned further progress. I began the return journey September 4, going to the mouth of Indian Creek via the same trail over which I had come."11/

Another expedition soon followed. On orders to explore the possibilities for an all-American overland route from Cook's Inlet-Pacific Ocean to the Yukon River in 1899, First Lt. Joseph S. Herron, 8th Cavalry, Sgt. Henry R. Carter, United States Army, Pvt. Sam L. Jones, Company D, 14th Infantry, Pvt. Gilbert Dillinger, Company D, 14th Infantry, and packers E. M. Webster and George Brown,

started overland with a pack-horse train carrying their supplies. As guides, they had Susitna Indians, Stepan and Slinkta. Their route was over 100 miles due west of Yanert's route.

On July 22, they crossed the crest of the divide of the Alaska Range and started down the other (north) side of the watershed. East of the divide, the drainage is into the Bering Sea. He reported hundreds of mountain sheep high in the mountains in the vicinity of what he called Simpson Pass.

On July 28, after exhausting all their arguments to persuade him to turn back, Slinkta and Stepan, theretofore faithful and energetic, slipped out of camp, deserted, and went back to the coast. There being no other Indians in that section of the country at the time, the loss of the natives was a serious blow to the expedition.

After encountering a deserted Indian village on the Chedotlothno River, a tributary of the Kuskokwim, the whites were able to cut a trail through the forest. The horses became weak from hunger and were fed part of the food meant for human consumption. Finally the Indians found them and helped them to their village at Telida. There the expedition went into camp for two months, where they waited for winter travel. While there, they prepared winter clothing and procured snow shoes from the Indians. During their stay at this village the members of the party hunted and explored in the surrounding country, brought in their caches and moose meat, and as far as possible, learned all the Indians knew. Their food during this period was chiefly moose, bear, beaver, fish and tea.

On November 25, with four Indians as guides, the expedition resumed its exploration of the last 171 miles on snow shoes, cutting and blazing the trail and mapping the country as before. They reached the junction of the Tenana and Yukon Rivers about 3:30 P. M., December 11, 1899, having travelled a total of over 1,000 miles. Among important accomplishments was the rediscovery of a second great mountain of the Alaska Range, 17,000 feet high, which they named Mount Foraker after Joseph Foraker, an Ohio politician. In addition, from the vicinity of Lake Minchumina the party had made a sketch map of the entire range. This map was part of their official report. As far as the records go, Lieutenant Herron's party were the first white men to cross from Cook's Inlet via the Alaska Range to the Yukon River. lla/

The northern face of the Alaska Range and the base of Mount McKinley yet remained to be explored, and this was the task assigned to Dr. Alfred Brooks as part of the general system of the exploratory surveys being undertaken by the U. S. Geological Survey in Alaska.

On May 27, 1902, Brooks' party arrived at Cook Inlet with provisions sufficient to feed seven men for 105 days. The food was packed in waterproof bags. The rest of the equipment was chosen with a view to lightness. The tents weighed only a few pounds, and carbines were carried instead of rifles. Sleeping bags were substituted for blankets because they give a maximum of warmth for a minimum of weight. The entire equipment weighed 3,500 pounds, of which 1,000 pounds were sent by boat and the rest distributed among the 20 horses.

By the middle of July, after noting the majesty of Mount McKinley and Mount Foraker, the expedition crossed the range by a pass, probably the one Herron called Simpson Pass. Because of storms which they encountered in the area, they called it Rainy Pass, which name still stands. From here they travelled in an easterly direction which paralleled the massive Alaska Range. From this point, Brooks' description is worthy of note. He wrote:

"Among the foothills, averaging a height of 3,000 or 4,000 feet, dwelt large numbers of mountain sheep. In the course of one morning's ramblings I counted more than 100 of these mountain dwellers.

"Since leaving the pass we had subsisted largely upon moose and mountain sheep. Not a day was spent in hunting, but when the supply of meat ran low an animal was shot near camp or on the march. Not only was game plentiful, but so little did it know of man that it regarded us rather with curiosity than mistrust. During our journey across the Piedmont Plateau, for days and weeks together we were hardly out of sight of caribou. They had a curious way of approaching, either individually or in bands, to within 50 yards of the moving pack train, then galloping away to a distance and returning by a series of large circles. Sometimes a lone buck would encircle our camp for hours at a time, one minute standing erect gazing at us with rapt attention, another flying across the smooth sod at break-neck pace, only to approach again from a different direction. There was no sport in hunting such innocently tame creatures, and we never molested them except when we needed meat.

"These were the happiest days of summer. Cheered by the thought that every day's march was bringing us visibly nearer to our goal, we lent ourselves readily to the influence of the clear, invigorating air and the inspiration of that majestic peak ever looming before us, the highest mountain of North America, which we were to be the first to explore.

"Our camp on August 1, was pitched in a grove of cottonwoods near the foot of a glacier which flowed down from the neve fields of Mount Foraker. This we called



the 'Herron Glacier', in honor of Joseph S. Herron, our predecessor in the exploration of the upper Kuskokwim basin. A short scramble through the underbrush brought me to the front of the moraine, which stretched like a cyclopean wall across the valley. Climbing to the top, I surveyed the mass spread before me, very like the preliminary dumping ground of a railway excavation. It was a striking scene and an unusual one, for a newly formed moraine is the exception in land forms. Nature in the sculptoring delights in rounded and symmetrical outlines and it is only when the forces of erosion have not had time to do their molding that such a crude, unfinished surface is exposed to view. It is, so to speak, the raw material which streams and rains will carve into beautiful rounded topography, and then vegetation, Nature's decorative artist, will clothe with greens of various hues.

"Two days later (August 3) we made our nearest camp to Mount McKinley in a broad, shallow valley incised in the piedmont plateau and drained by a stream which found its source in ice clad slopes of the high mountains. We reached the base of the peak, and a part of our mission was accomplished, with a margin of six weeks left for completion. This bade us make haste, for we must still traverse some 400 miles of unexplored region before we could hope to reach even the outposts of civilization. Notwithstanding all of this, we decided to allow ourselves one day's delay, so that we might actually set foot on the slopes of the mountain. The ascent of Mount McKinley had never been part of our plans, for our mission was exploration and surveying, not mountaineering, but it now seemed very hard to us that we had neither time nor equipment to attempt the mastery of this highest peak of the continent.

"The next morning (August 4, 1902) dawned clear and bright. Climbing the bluff above camp, I overlooked part of the valley, spread before me like a broad amphitheater, its sides formed by the slopes of the mountain and its spurs. Here and there glistened in the sun the white surfaces of glaciers which found their way down from the peaks above. The great mountain rose 17,000 feet above our camp, apparently almost sheer from the flat valley floor. Its dome-shaped summit and upper slopes were white with snow, relieved here and there by black areas which marked cliffs too steep for the snow to lie upon.

"A two hours' walk across the valley, through several deep glacial streams, brought me to the very base of the mountain. As I approached, the top was soon lost to view; the slopes were steep, and I had to scramble as best I could. Soon all the vegetation was left behind me, and my

way zigzagged across smooth, bare rocks and talus slopes of broken fragments. My objective point was a shoulder of the mountain about 10,000 feet high, but at three in the afternoon I found my route blocked by a smooth expanse of ice. With the aid of my geologic pick, I managed to cut steps in the slippery surface, and thus climbed 100 feet higher; then the angle of slope became steeper, and as the ridge on which the glacier lay fell off at the sides in sheer cliffs, a slip would have been fatal. Convinced at length it would be utterly foolhardy, alone as I was, to attempt to reach the shoulder for which I was headed, at 7,500 feet I turned and cautiously retraced my steps, finding the descent to bare ground more perilous than the ascent.

"I had now consumed all the time that could be spared to explore this mountain, which had been reached at the expense of so much preparation and hard toil, but at least I must leave a record to mark our highest point. On a prominent cliff near the face of the glacier which had turned me back I built a cairn, in which I buried a cartridge shell from my pistol, containing a brief account of the journey, together with a roster of the party.

"By this time I was forcibly reminded of the fact that I had forgotten to eat my lunch. As I sat resting from my labors, I surveyed a striking scene. Around me were bare rock, ice, and snow; not a sign of life, the silence broken now and then by the roar of an avalanche loosened by the mid-day sun, tumbling like a waterfall over some cliff to find a resting place thousands of feet below. I gazed along the precipitous slopes of the mountain and tried to realize again its great altitude, with a thrill of satisfaction at being the first man to approach the summit, which was only nine miles from where I smoked my pipe. No white man had ever before reached its base and I was far beyond where moccasined foot of the roving Indian had ever trod. The Alaskan native seldom goes beyond the limit of smooth walking and has a superstitious horror of even approaching glacial ice.

"Returning to camp, I found Raeburn had worked all day over his plane-table board sketching the topography of the mountain, which was plainly visible from his station. His map undoubtedly will serve as a guide to him who first reaches the summit. Prindle had spent the day making an excursion into the mountains to the south of my route and had come back burdened with geological and botanical specimens; Van and Fred had been shoeing some of the horses, while George had cooked a meal worthy of the occasion.

"Our immediate goal was the Tanana River, hoping to reach this by the valley of one of its tributaries, the

Cantwell (now Nenana River), which we believe to head in the northern part of the Alaska Range. We continued our course northeastward along the front of the range." 12/

Companions with Brooks were D. L. Raeburn and L. M. Prindle, as well as four able and enthusiastic camp men. They had participated in the greatest feat of pioneering ever undertaken in this mountainous region. In summary, from June 1 to September 15, the party had travelled from Cook's Inlet across the Skwentna Flats, up the Katchatna River, across Rainy Pass, along the entire northern slope of the Alaska Range to the Nenana River, thence to the Tanana River, Rampart, and St. Michael. The maps and geologic data which resulted from this expedition represent a monumental accomplishment for a single season's work. Brooks' discoveries, reports, writings and recommendations still represent the most complete and reliable single work on the McKinley region. For a distance of more than a hundred miles, his route of travel had taken him through the approximate center (east to west) of what is now Mount McKinley National Park. 13/

The next year, 1903, saw two actual attempts made to climb Mount McKinley. After holding the first term of court at the newly established mining camp of Fairbanks, Judge James Wickersham made the first attempt. In addition to himself, his party consisted of George Jeffrey, a court stenographer; Mort Stevens; Charlie Webb, packer and woodsman; and John McLeod, interpreter. McLeod, the son of a Hudson Bay Company trader, had spent the greater part of his life on the lower Mackenzie River. He spoke the Tena language -- all the northern Tena dialects -- and was hunter, canoe man, and trapper. He knew the wilderness as well as his foster-brothers, the Indians. Two other members of the party were Mark and Hannah, mules, so named in honor of Hon. Marcus Alonzo Hanna, of Ohio, the friend of President McKinley, after whom Dickey had named the mountain. The party's food supplies consisted of ordinary prospector's and miner's food. The river boat "Tanana Chief" was engaged to take them as far as possible up the river the Indians called "Kantishna."

On May 16, Wickersham's group left Fairbanks on the river boat "Isabelle" for the town of Chena, where the complete outfit was transferred to the "Tanana Chief." This was the first river boat to attempt to navigate that river.

The party unloaded their outfit on May 19 on the bank of the Kantishna River at the mouth of the Toklat River, at the Indian camp of Nachereah the moose hunter. There they were greeted by 50 Athabascans and 100 malamute dogs. Going on, the party arrived on May 23 at the Indian camp of Tecktagana, the blind Chief of the Kantishna, in the land of Koonah. This is 20 miles from the creek that the Indians call Chitsia, which is now named Moose Creek and has its source in the park.

Heading straight across an unknown country with their mules from Chitsia for the base of the mountain, the party unfortunately attacked the mountain by Peters Glacier and demonstrated the impossibility of that approach, being stopped by the enormous ice-encrusted cliffs of the north peak. Judge Wickersham used to say that only by a balloon or a flying-machine could the summit be reached; and, indeed, by no other means can the summit ever be reached from the north face.

After a week spent in climbing, provisions had begun to run short; therefore, the party returned by descending on a raft the rushing, turbid waters of that quite unnavigable and very dangerous stream, the McKinley Fork of the Kantishna. Reaching an elevation of 10,000 feet, they encountered a tremendous precipice beyond which they could not go. Finally, with some difficulty, they reached their base camp near Peters Glacier.

After Wickersham's party had returned to civilization, they filed mining notices at the Recorder's office at Rampart for gold placer claims on Moose Creek, and also filed a map as a part of their description, showing the general location and direction of descent of the creeks from Chitsia and the Kantishna highlands. It was immediately copied by numerous prospectors and the next year a horde of hardy men explored every creek in this height of land for gold. Rich gold placer diggings were located in 1905, which became the center of the rich Kantishna mining district. This mining district covers part of the area that is now within the boundaries of Mount McKinley National Park. 114

About the time that Judge Wickersham was leaving the north face of the mountain, an expedition under Dr. Frederick A. Cook set out from Tyonek, on Cook's Inlet, on the other side of the range. Cook was accompanied by Robert Dunn, Ralph Shainwald, and Fred Printz, who had been chief packer for Brooks and Raeburn. Fourteen pack-horses bore their supplies.

Cook had the advantage of topographical maps, forty miles of trail cut in the timber, and a guide familiar with the country. The route followed was that of Brooks and Raeburn. They skirted the base of the Alaska Range until a southwesterly ridge was reached, which is not easy to locate, but which, as Brooks judged, must have been near the headwaters of a tributary of the Kuskokwim. Here an attempt was made to ascend the mountain, but at 8,000 feet a chasm cut them off from further advance.

Pursuing their northeast course, they reached Peters Glacier, which Cook called the Hanna Glacier, and stumbled across one of Judge Wickersham's camps of a couple of months before. They were out of salt and found a can that Wickersham had left there. Here another attempt to ascend was made, but progress was stopped by the same stupendous cliffs which had turned back the Wickersham party.

Cook noted a promising route over the glacier between the eastern and western peaks. These are the north and south peaks as we speak of them. This route is, indeed, part of the only route from the east or north, but it can be reached only by the Muldrow Glacier. Cook further noted that the walls of the main mountain seemed to rise out of the Hanna (Peters) Glacier. The main mountain does have many walls; however, the walls by which the summit alone may be reached rise out of the Muldrow Glacier, a circumstance which was not to be discovered for some years.

The lateness of the season now compelled Cook's immediate return. Passing still along the face of the range in the same direction, the party crossed the terminal moraine of the Muldrow Glacier without recognizing that it affords the only highway to the heart of the great mountain. They then recrossed the range by an ice-covered pass to the waters of the Chulitna River, down which they rafted after abandoning their horses. Cook called this pass "Harper Pass."

The chief result of this expedition, besides the exploration of about one hundred miles of unknown country, was the publication by Robert Dunn of an extraordinary narrative in several consecutive numbers of Outing, afterward republished in book form with some modifications, as "The Shameless Diary of an Explorer", a vivid but unpleasant production for which every squabble and jealousy of the party furnishes literary power.

Three years later Cook organized an expedition for a second attempt upon the mountain. In May, 1906, accompanied by Professor Herschel Parker, Mr. Belmore Browne, a topographer named Porter, who made some valuable maps, and packers, the party landed at the head of Cook's Inlet and penetrated by motor boat and by pack train into the Susitna country, south of the range. Failing to cross the range at the head of the Yentna, they spent some time in exploration along the Kahiltina River. After finding no avenue of approach to the heights of the mountain, the party returned to Cook's Inlet and broke up.

With only one companion, a packer named Edward Barrile, Cook returned in the launch up the Chulitna River to the Tokositna late in August, after changing their minds as to the impossibility of climbing the mountain. Ascending a glacier which the Tokositna River drains, named by Cook the Ruth Glacier, they reached the amphitheater at the glacier head. From this point, "up and up to the heaven-scraped granite to the top", Dr. Cook grows grandiloquent and vague, for at this point his true narrative ends. The claims that Dr. Cook made upon his return are well known -- that he and his companion, Edward Barrile, reached the summit of Mount McKinley. Edward Barrile later signed an affidavit that they had never reached the summit. 14a



Prospectors' Camp at the foot of Copper Mountain. 1924.



Old Market Hunters' Shelter used by early park rangers for night shelter. 1926.

Following the discovery of placer gold in the Kantishna district along Moose Creek and other tributaries in 1905, several thousand prospectors and miners came to this area. Many of these went to the mountain sheep hills, now in Mount McKinley National Park, to hunt for mountain sheep. Market hunters and trappers also visited this area. Because of the lack of fresh meat, numerous mountain sheep were hauled to Fairbanks with dog teams and sold on the market. 15/

The year of 1906 saw an event which was to play an important part in the establishment of Mount McKinley National Park. This was the visit to the wilderness in the vicinity of Mount McKinley by Charles Sheldon.

Among the hunter-naturalists of America at that time, Charles Sheldon occupied a unique position. He was our most famous big game hunter. Choosing his hunting grounds in the most remote and inaccessible parts of the continent, possessed of physical strength and endurance beyond belief, of unbounded enthusiasm, of powers of observation second to none, and endowed with a conscience intolerant of exaggeration, the accounts of his hunts abound in vivid descriptions of localities not previously explored. His circumstantial studies of the habits of animals rank among some of the most valuable of the contributions made to the life histories of many species -- particularly the mountain sheep, caribou, moose, grizzly bear and wolverine.

Wishing to study the white or Dall sheep of Alaska, Sheldon determined to visit the northern slopes of the Alaska Range in 1906. On July 14 he left Fairbanks on the river boat "Dusty Diamond" with Jack Haydon, packer, and Harry Karstens, assistant, and five pack horses. Of Karstens, he wrote:

"As I look back upon my experiences in Alaska and the Yukon Territory, I recall no better fortune than that which befell me when 'Harry' Karstens was engaged as an assistant packer. Before he was twenty years of age he had left his home in Illinois bound for Alaska, and had reached Dawson during the early days of the Klondike gold rush. Later, after attempting mining on Seventy Mile Creek in Alaska, he had become a member of the small party of men who had laid out the town site of Eagle. After the discovery of gold near Fairbanks he became a mail carrier, driving dogs between Fairbanks and Valdez and other points; and the winter before my arrival he carried mail by dog team between Fairbanks and the Kantishna mining district. He is a tall, stalwart man, well poised, frank, and strictly honorable. One of the best dog drivers in the North, and peculiarly fitted by youth and experience for explorations in little-known regions, he proved a most efficient and congenial companion." 15a/



On this trip Sheldon spent 45 days during July to September, 1906, in the area which now lies within the boundaries of Mount McKinley National Park. The first man to make a study of wildlife in this area, he located mountain sheep, grizzly bear, moose, caribou, and many species of smaller wildlife, and made records of birds found in the area. Sheldon first spent some time near Peters Glacier to the north of Mount McKinley and found one of Dr. Brooks' old camps. He also reported finding several fair sized ram skulls. He later learned that during the previous winter of 1905, three prospectors from the Kantishna mining district had spent a short time there. That season's experience among the white sheep convinced him that he really knew very little about their habits. He realized that their life history could not be learned without a much longer stay among them, and determined to return and devote a year to their study. With this in view, he planned to re-visit the region, build a substantial cabin just below his old camp on the Toklat, and remain there through the winter, summer, and early fall.

He did return to the Alaska Range, where he remained from August 1, 1907, to June 15, 1908. His assistant was Harry Karstens, "The Seventy Mile Kid", who had been with him the previous summer. They built a log cabin on Toklat River at a location which is now almost the exact center of Mount McKinley National Park.

On September 18, 1907, he found an old camp which had been occupied by Dr. Alfred Brooks' geological survey party in 1902. The date of August 10, 1902, and the names of the members of the party were clearly marked with lead pencil on a spruce tree where a space had been cleared of bark. This creek is about five miles below the present park road and is now named Sheldon Creek.

While camped near Peters Glacier near the north face of Mount McKinley on January 12, 1908, Sheldon wrote in his diary: "When Denali National Park shall be made easy of access with accommodations and facilities for travel, including a comfortable lodge at the foot of the moraine of Peters Glacier, as it surely will be, it is not difficult to anticipate the enjoyment and inspiration visitors will receive." Even at that time Charles Sheldon had conceived the idea of this wilderness area being made a National Park. 16/



## Expeditions to Climb Mount McKinley

### The Pioneer Ascent

A discussion on the climbing of Mount McKinley took place in Billy McPhee's saloon in Fairbanks during January, 1910. Some of the miners from the Kantishna district said they would climb the mountain if someone would finance the cost of the expedition to the extent of \$1,500. McPhee and Peterson, saloon-keepers of Fairbanks, and Griffin, a wholesale liquor dealer of Chena, put up that amount. These men were of the opinion that Dr. Cook had never climbed Mount McKinley.

The enterprise took form under Thomas Lloyd, who was joined by Charles McGonagall, William Taylor, Peter Anderson, and Bob Horne, all experienced prospectors and miners from the Kantishna mining district, and E. C. Davidson, a surveyor, who was later Surveyor-General of Alaska. The Kantishna miners were then in Fairbanks getting supplies for the following year.

The party left Fairbanks in January via dog team and travelled to their headquarters in the Kantishna, 125 miles distant. By March 1, they had established a base camp at the north of Cache Creek, within the foothills of the range. Here Davidson and Horne left the party after a disagreement with Lloyd. The loss of Davidson was a fatal blow to anything beyond a "sporting" ascent, for he was the only man in the party with any scientific bent, or who knew much about the manipulation of a photographic camera.

The Lloyd expedition was the first to discover the only approach by which the mountain may be climbed. From several years of observation while hunting mountain sheep upon the foothills, Lloyd had found the key to the complicated orography of the great mass. He had previously crossed the range with horses in this neighborhood by an easy pass, now Anderson Pass, that led "from willows to willows" in 18 miles. Pete Anderson had also come into the Kantishna country this way, and had crossed and recrossed the range by this pass no less than eleven times. In addition, McGonagall, following quartz leads upon the high mountains of Moose Creek, had traced from his aerie the course of the Muldrow Glacier and had satisfied himself that within the walls of that glacier the route would be found. These men thus started with the great advantage of a knowledge of the mountain, and their plan for climbing it was the first that contained the possibility of success.

From the base camp Anderson and McGonagall scouted among the foothills of the range for some time before they discovered the pass (now McGonagall Pass) that gives easy access to the Muldrow Glacier. On March 25, the party had traversed the glacier and reached its head with dogs and supplies. A camp was made on the ridge at approximately 12,000 feet, while further prospecting was

carried on toward the upper glacier. This was the highest point that Lloyd reached. On April 3, Taylor, Anderson and McGonagall set out about two in the morning with great, home-made climbing irons strapped to their moccasins and homemade, hooked pike-poles in their hands. Disdaining the rope and cutting no steps, it was "every man for himself", with reliance solely upon the crampons. They went up the ridge to Grand Basin to about 15,500 feet, crossed the glacier (now Harper Glacier) to the ridge that leads to the north peak, and proceeded to climb it, carrying with them a 14-foot spruce flagstaff which was about four inches in diameter at the bottom.

At about 16,000 feet elevation, McGonagall did not go any higher but returned to the glacier at approximately 15,500 feet to wait for the return of Anderson and Taylor. The latter two, after climbing to what they estimated as 19,000 feet, had had enough for the day, so they left the spruce pole and rejoined McGonagall. All of them then returned to their 12,000 foot camp on the ridge.

After resting two days, Anderson and Taylor started out again, leaving McGonagall and Lloyd in camp. From 19,000 feet they took the pole to the last rocks on the ridge, where they guyed it with ropes brought along for that purpose. As the summit of the north peak is several hundred feet higher than the last rocks, they continued to the summit. Having a camera with them, they then exposed some film on the summit. Pictures of the pole were also taken.

On their descent, Taylor rested at 15,500 feet, while Anderson went up the upper glacier toward the south peak (true summit) to a point between the peaks at 18,160 feet. After returning to Taylor, they descended to their ridge camp.

Taylor has said the reason why they put the pole on top of the north peak was because they thought it could be seen from Fairbanks through a telescope. It was believed at that time that the north peak was the higher of the two peaks and the real summit.

Lloyd returned to civilization ahead of the rest of the party, while Anderson, Taylor, and McGonagall returned to their base camp. After Lloyd sent word in with one of the miners that the pictures taken were no good, Anderson, Taylor, and McGonagall went back up the mountain and took another set of pictures. Some of these were later printed in the New York Times with the story of the climb. 17/

It can be said that this first ascent was unique and one of the greatest feats of mountain climbing ever accomplished, especially when it is realized that these men were inexperienced and there was a lack of proper food and equipment. The party was discredited to some extent when Lloyd returned to Fairbanks ahead of the rest and made the statement that all of them had reached the top of the north peak. Only Taylor and Anderson had accomplished this feat. 18/

### Parker-Browne McKinley Expedition of 1910

In the summer of the same year as the pioneer ascent, Hershell Parker and Belmore Browne, members of the second Cook party, convinced by this time that Cook's claim was wholly unfounded, attempted to climb the mountain again; and another party, organized by C. E. Rust, of Portland, Oregon, also endeavored the ascent. Both of these expeditions confined themselves to the hopeless southern side of the range, from which, in all probability, the mountain never can be climbed. Belmore Browne made a duplicate of the picture Dr. Cook had in his book, "To the Top of the Continent", which was titled "The Top of our Continent. The Summit of Mt. McKinley, the Highest Mountain of North America. Altitude 20,300." Actually, this peak is over twenty miles air line from Mount McKinley, and only 250 feet above Ruth Glacier. 19/

### The Cairns Expedition of 1912

The next expedition to attempt to climb Mount McKinley was organized by Ralph H. Cairns and had the backing of the Fairbanks Daily Times newspaper of Fairbanks, Alaska.

As companions he had Martin Nash and George S. Lewis. This attempt took place during March and April 1912. The party travelled across country from Fairbanks via dog team and made their base camp near the Peters Glacier, in the same vicinity of the former base camps of James Wickersham and later, of Dr. Frederick Cook in 1903.

Some reconnoitering was done, but delays caused by severe storms and numerous difficulties in selecting their route forced them to give up the attempt from that side and return to Fairbanks.

### Parker-Browne McKinley Expedition of 1912

The next expedition to attempt to climb Mount McKinley was another party organized by Browne and Parker, which included Merle LaVoy and Arthur M. Aten as members. This expedition, Browne's third attempt to climb Mount McKinley, left Seward, on Resurrection Bay, late in January 1912. After nearly three months' travel, they reached the northern face of the mountain on March 25. Extreme difficulties had been experienced in crossing the range, where 17 days had been spent above all vegetation. Continuing on to the Kantishna diggings, they procured supplies and topographical information from the miners, and thus were able to follow the course of the Lloyd party of 1910 after reaching the Muldrow Glacier by the gap in the glacier wall discovered by McGonagall. A reconnaissance of the Muldrow Glacier to its head and a long spell of bad weather delayed the party so much, however, that it was the fourth of June before the actual ascent began.

On June 29, Browne, Parker, and LaVoy then pushed up the northeast ridge (now named Karstens Ridge) and the upper glacier

(now Harper Glacier) and made a first attack upon the summit itself from a camp at 17,000 feet. Within a short distance of the top, they were overwhelmed and driven down, half frozen, by a blizzard that suddenly arose. On July 1 another attempt was made, but the clouds ascended and completely enveloped the party in a cold, wind-driven mist, so that retreat to camp was again imperative. The party could linger no longer, as food supplies were exhausted. Disheartened, they broke camp and went down the mountain.

As it turned out, they were probably fortunate in having to leave, because immediately after they reached their base camp a terrible earthquake occurred which shattered the northeast ridge. In the circumstances it is very doubtful if they would have been able to negotiate the ridge safely. Probably, they would have been overwhelmed and crushed to death instantly or have perished by starvation. This earthquake was caused by the eruption of Mount Katmai. 19a/

### Stuck-Karstens McKinley Expedition of 1913

A mountain is not climbed until its highest point has been reached. In 1913 an expedition was organized by Archdeacon Hudson Stuck and Harry P. Karstens to climb Mount McKinley.

Reverend Stuck was an Episcopal missionary and had travelled throughout the interior of Alaska, both winter and summer, almost continuously since 1904. Seven years before his attempt to climb Mount McKinley, he had written in The Spirit of Missions of a view of the mountain from Pedro Dome, in the neighborhood of Fairbanks. Of it he said, "I would rather climb that mountain than discover the richest gold mine in Alaska."

Stuck's partner in the venture was the same Harry Karstens who was with Charles Sheldon in the Mount McKinley region in 1906, 1907, and 1908. He couldn't have chosen a better all-around outdoor Alaskan. The other two members were Robert G. Tatum of Tennessee, just twenty-one years old, a postulant for holy orders, stationed at the Episcopal Mission at Nenana, Alaska, and Walter Harper, who was Archdeacon Stuck's attendant and interpreter. The latter was of half-breed native stock, and twenty-one years old. The two Indian dog drivers, Johnny, fourteen years old, and Esaias, fifteen, were also from the Nenana Mission. Esaias went as far as base camp and then went back to Nenana with one of the dog teams. Johnny was with the expedition from start to finish, keeping the base camp while the rest of the party were above.

While the party was camped at the foot of McGonagall Pass, elevation 3,600 feet, they were overtaken by an Indian, his wife, and child, who had come all the way from Lake Minchumina, perhaps 100 miles, to have the child baptized. It was generally known to the natives of the region that the expedition was on foot, and "Minchumina John," hoping to meet Archdeacon Stuck in the

Kantishna, and missing him, had followed their trail. Archdeacon Stuck baptized the baby and after he was through, Minchumina John said, "Now will you marry us?" [Reference to marrying Minchumina John is from an article by Hudson Stuck in "Spirit of Missions", LXXIX, New York, January 1914, pages 17-25, ten photographs.] This was the first person baptized in what is now Mount McKinley National Park.

This expedition climbed to the peak of the true summit. The total elapsed time from the time they got on the glacier until they left it was 53 days. The northeast ridge (now named Karstens Ridge) was shattered to such an extent that the party practically had to carve a staircase for three miles. This is where Karstens' know-how and ingenuity were valuable.

The party saw the flagpole on the north peak which the Sourdough party had guyed in the last rocks. Harper was the first to see it. One by one, with the aid of field glasses, the others also saw it, thus confirming the previous ascent of the adjacent peak.

On their return they cached a minimum thermometer, graduated down to 95 below zero, at what Stuck called the 15,000 foot elevation. It was cached in some rocks which would be easy to find if another party ascended the mountain; and in a tin can that had contained photographic film, they left a record of their ascent.

This climb was the first accredited ascent of the south peak, which is the true summit of Mount McKinley. Harper was leading on the rope that day and was the first person to stand on the summit of Mount McKinley. He was closely followed by Karstens, Tatum, and Stuck, in the order named. 20/

### Transportation

In 1913, the Alaska Highway Commission undertook to finish the highway from Valdez on salt water to Fairbanks, on which work had been done intermittently since the beginning of the century. Shortness of the season had hampered the work, but by 1923 it had been carried through to completion. It was named the Richardson Highway in honor of Col. Reese Richardson. A highway of secondary importance was the Steese Highway, which connected Fairbanks with the Yukon River at Circle City.

Of even greater significance was the building of a railway to the interior, hitherto held up by obstacles that seemed insuperable. In 1912, President Taft named a commission to carry out a survey and to submit to the Executive a comprehensive report. This was not available in time for action by the outgoing President, but in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson authorized the construction of a line and appointed a commission of three engineers to supervise the work. Surveying parties were organized and sent out in the spring of the year to locate a possible route or routes. Construction was begun in 1915 and President Harding drove the last spike in 1923. 21/

From 1905 to 1917, many prospectors who had joined the gold stampede to the Kantishna trapped and prospected in this area. With the passage of the Bill to build the Alaska Railroad, more people came to Alaska and fresh meat was in demand. As a result, many market hunters visited the basins of the Teklanika and Toklat Rivers and killed large numbers of mountain sheep for the Fairbanks market. With the establishment of the town of Nenana, a market for wild meat was brought closer to this great game range, and the completion of the railroad made accessible to visitors a famous game country which had so far been preserved only by its inaccessible location. It was imperative, therefore, if the great game herds were to be preserved, that some provision should be made by law to prohibit hunting in this region. 22/

### The Establishment of Mount McKinley National Park

The establishment of Mount McKinley National Park grew largely out of the work of Charles Sheldon and the Boone and Crockett Club. As summarized by Madison Grant:

"The Boone and Crockett Club, founded originally by riflemen and hunters, has, with the transformation of North America from frontier to almost old world conditions, been itself transformed into a club whose achievements in the field of conservation have been far-reaching.

"One of its most recent achievements is the establishment of Mount McKinley National Park in Alaska, if the Club be allowed to appropriate to itself the results of the foresight and zeal of one of its members, Charles Sheldon. Mr. Sheldon has advised me that the interest of the Boone and Crockett Club in creating game refuges, especially in Alaska, was the sole cause which inspired in him the thought of preserving this area after personally studying the situation in that land ...

"The plan of conserving the Mount McKinley region as a national park was conceived in the summer and fall of 1906 by Charles Sheldon and by him alone, and during the following year he devoted much time to studying on the spot the proper boundaries of the proposed national park, so as to include therein territories suitable for a game refuge.

"Upon his return to the East in 1908, the Game Committee of the Boone and Crockett Club, of which he was chairman, took under consideration the question of game refuges in Alaska, and especially in the region adjacent to the northern slopes of Mount McKinley. It was felt, however, that the time was not favorable for congressional action and that the best hope of success rested on obtaining approval and support from the Alaskans themselves.

"Later, while this matter was under discussion, the construction of the Alaska Railroad from the southern coast of Alaska to Fairbanks was making rapid progress and the route as laid out crossed Broad Pass and so rendered easily accessible the eastern limit of the Mount McKinley Park outlined in Mr. Sheldon's plan.

"The first step was to secure the approval and cooperation of the delegate who represented Alaska in Congress. In October 1915, Mr. Sheldon took up the matter with Dr. E. W. Nelson, of the Biological Survey at Washington, D. C., and with Mr. George Bird Grinnell, with a view to introducing a suitable bill at the coming session of Congress. The matter was then again considered by the Game Committee of the

Boone and Crockett Club, and after full discussion received the Committee's endorsement. On December 3 of the same year, it was formally laid before James Wickersham, then delegate from Alaska, who, after some deliberation, gave his approval to the establishment of a park in the Mount McKinley region. The whole project was then presented to the Executive Committee of the Boone and Crockett Club and was unanimously endorsed by them on December 15, 1915.

"The plan was thereupon brought to the attention of Stephen T. Mather, in charge of national parks at Washington, D. C., as a plan originating with and endorsed by the Boone and Crockett Club. It received the immediate and cordial approval of Mr. Mather. He and Secretary Lane secured the cooperation of Thomas Riggs, Jr., later Governor of Alaska but at that time in charge of the Alaskan Boundary Survey. Mr. Riggs was asked to draw a bill for the establishment of a national park in the Mount McKinley region, with boundaries as suggested by Mr. Sheldon. The western, northern and eastern limits of the park were laid out by Mr. Sheldon from his own personal knowledge, based on observations made during an entire winter season spent on and near the northern slopes of the mountain. The southern boundary, of little importance with reference to the conservation of game, was based on convenient topographical features.

"After this plan had been formally presented to the authorities in Washington, several similar propositions, some including the Mount McKinley region, were brought forward, but the net result of these activities was the preliminary drawing of a bill by Mr. Riggs with the boundaries approximately as outlined by Mr. Sheldon.

"Mr. Sheldon suggested that the park be known as "The Denali National Park", "Denali" being the local Indian name for the mountain and signifying "The Great High One". This suggestion, however, was not followed. The drafted bill was submitted to and approved by Delegate Wickersham, who thereupon decided to introduce the bill himself.

"After prolonged discussion as to boundaries, the original outlines, approximately as suggested by Charles Sheldon, were accepted and were embodied in bills introduced in April, 1916, by Delegate Wickersham in the House, and in the Senate by Senator Key Pitman, of Nevada.

"Meantime, other organizations and individuals interested in game conservation and in national parks had taken up the proposed park scheme and were at Washington, arousing public sentiment in its favor.



"In order to retain and to coordinate all these favorable influences, Mr. Sheldon called, at his house in New York, a meeting of the Game Preservation Committee of the Boone and Crockett Club, which was attended also by a committee from the Camp Fire Club and one from the American Game Protective Association, both of which societies were deeply interested in the proposed bill and had done effective work in its behalf. At this meeting it was determined that the campaign in Congress be entrusted to the American Game Protective Association, its President, Mr. Burnham, assuming the active leadership. Mr. Burnham was duly authorized by his association to undertake this work, and the various clubs and individuals supporting the measure agreed to act unitedly under his direction.

"Immediately after the introduction of these bills in Congress, a widespread campaign was started to accelerate their passage and in this work George Bird Grinnell, now President of the Boone and Crockett Club, took an active part, ably backed by a number of clubs and associations and influential individuals. Hearings were held before the Committee on Public Lands, in the House, and of Territories, in the Senate.

"Some differences of opinion arose among the officials at Washington as to the advisability of certain amendments, and for a time no progress was made in the House, but in the Senate the bill was reported out by the Committee.

"All through the spring and summer of 1916, much active work was done by the Boone and Crockett Club. A banquet given by the Club in Washington gave the advocates of the bill an opportunity to explain its importance to the country to some members of Congress. Effective work in Washington and elsewhere was also done by individual members and, above all, by Mr. Burnham.

"Nevertheless, first one cause and then another, which had no relation whatever to the merits of the bill, delayed its passage. The chief impediment was a policy adopted by the Committee on Public Lands that not more than two national park bills should be reported favorably in any single session of Congress, and bills for the Mount Lassen National Park, the Grand Canyon National Park and the Sawtooth National Park all claimed right of way over the Mount McKinley bill.

"Public sentiment, however, kept piling up in favor of immediate action on the Mount McKinley National Park, in order to save its game while there was yet time. When the bill was finally reported out in 1917, it was so late in the session that it took its place on the Unanimous Consent Calendar of the House, where a single objection might block it. Yet, because of the ceaseless activity of Mr. Sheldon and

Mr. Burnham, the bill was finally reached in the House and passed with some small amendments on February 19, 1917.

"On the next day the Senate, which had already passed the bill, concurred in the amended House bill. After the necessary formality of obtaining the signature of the Secretary of the Interior, the bill, establishing Mount McKinley National Park, was personally taken from the office of the Secretary to the White House by Charles Sheldon on February 24, 1917. On February 26, 1917, the President of the United States signed it and presented to Mr. Sheldon the pen with which he had affixed his signature.

"Eleven years had elapsed from the conception of Mount McKinley National Park to the actual signing of the bill."23

### Early Administration

No funds were provided for the administration and protection of this area until April 12, 1921, when Henry (Harry) P. Karstens was appointed Chief Ranger in the National Park Service at large with headquarters in Alaska. This was the same Harry P. Karstens who had been guide for Charles Sheldon and who had climbed Mount McKinley in 1913. On July 1, 1921, he was given a permanent appointment as Park Superintendent with his headquarters at Nenana. This was 60 miles from the park. The railroad was not completed at that time. <sup>24</sup>

The first publicity to appear in the local newspapers relating to the administration of Mount McKinley National Park is the following, which appeared in the Nenana Daily News, June 9, 1921:

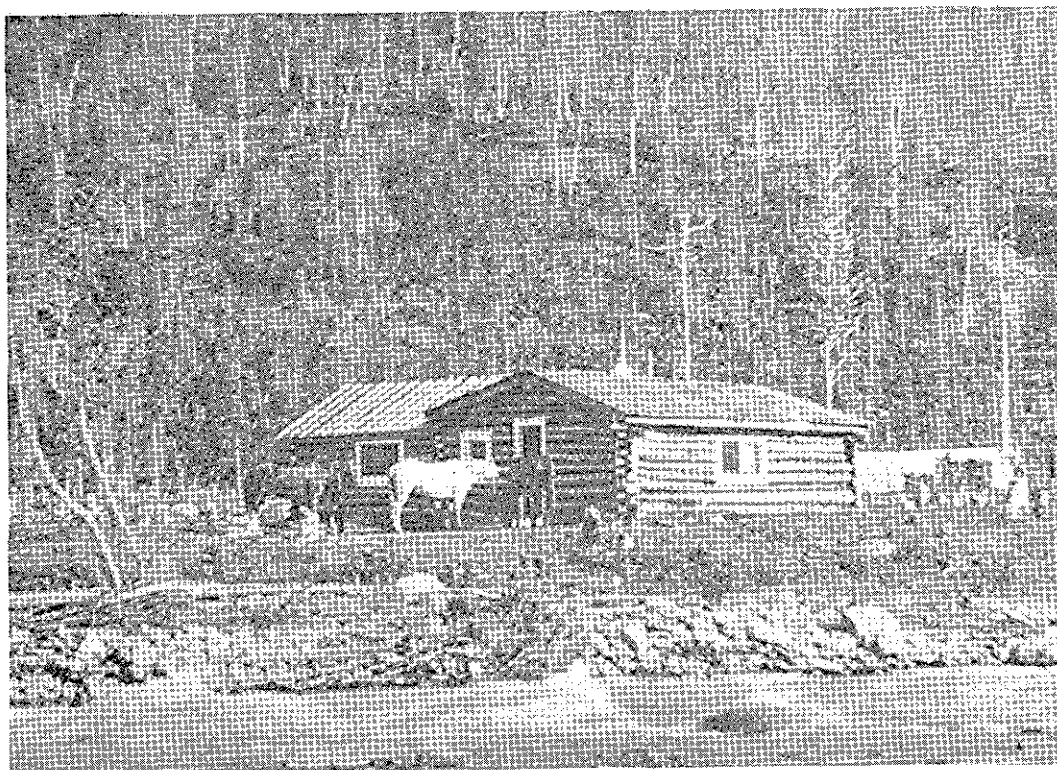
"Of great importance to Interior Alaska is the arrival of Harry P. Karstens, newly appointed Superintendent of Mt. McKinley National Park, who has come to assume his official duties; and Woodbury Abbey, who was sent from Washington to direct the activities of a survey party which will make the boundaries of the park. Their coming marks the beginning of a new epoch in the history of Interior Alaska, for they are here to blaze the trails for the thousands of tourists who even now are awaiting an invitation to visit America's largest National Park and one of the world's scenic wonders.

"The arrival of these representatives of the Federal Government means that it is the intention of the administration and Congress to put Alaska's park on the map by preparing it for the reception of visitors.

"Not much can be done this year in the way of opening the park to tourists, and none will be encouraged to come with the expectation of finding travelling conditions on a par with those obtained in other of the National Parks. But following closely on the heels of the boundary survey will come the building of a highway to connect the government railroad, and the building of hotels for the accommodation of visitors, who must be provided with some of the conveniences of travel if the park is to enjoy a full measure of popularity.

"These things will come as a matter of course. Of more importance to Alaskans at this time is the fact that a start has been made - that the existence of the park has been officially recognized by the appointment of a Superintendent and the authorization of a boundary survey.

"In the meantime, Alaskans can help the work by co-operating in every way possible with the park management - by observance of the park regulations, assistance in the



First Park Headquarters on Riley Creek near the McKinley Railroad Station, 1922-1925



Superintendent Karstens on the right and two Government photographers.

preservation of game within the boundaries of the park, and in such other ways as will help to speed the development of the park so it may become an important and enduring asset to the territory."

The Superintendent maintained an office at Nenana, Alaska, until the summer of 1922, when buildings for the Superintendent's dwelling and office were constructed at McKinley Park Station at mile 348 on the Alaska Railroad. Lumber and logs were recovered from deserted construction camps along the railroad. The railroad was not completed but construction was entering the final stages at that time.

The total appropriation, which included the salary of the Superintendent and a ranger, was \$8,000. Three horses with harnesses, sleigh, wagon, riding and pack saddles, blacksmith and shoeing outfit, and harness repair outfit had been purchased. For winter travel two dog teams of five dogs each, with sleighs, harness, dog feed and general equipment were purchased.

#### First Ranger

On November 1, 1921, Marcus V. Tyler reported for duty as Ranger, but on account of injuries he resigned from the Service December 9, 1921, and on January 21, 1922, Lewis A. Powless reported for duty as Park Ranger. These were the first two permanent Park Rangers appointed.

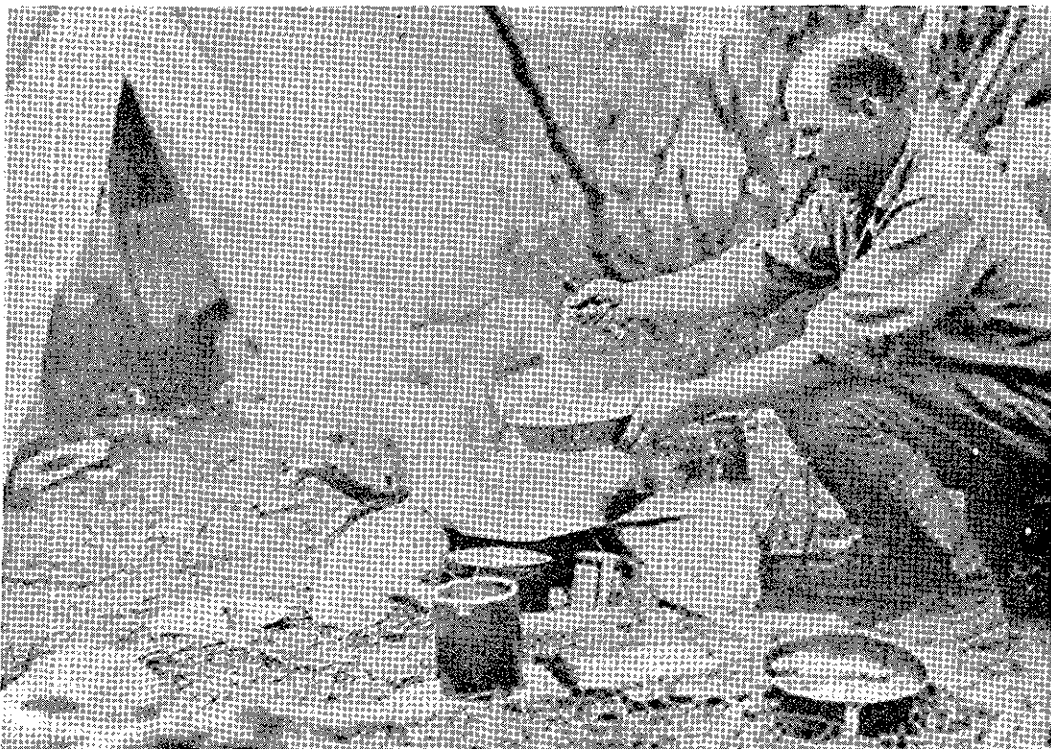
#### Boundary Changes

On January 30, 1922, the eastern boundary was extended eastward to the 149th meridian. This made a total of 2,645 square miles within the boundaries of Mount McKinley National Park. A further addition of 246,693 acres was made on March 19, 1932, which makes Mount McKinley National Park the second national park in size. This extension was an important administrative step for several reasons. On the northwest it brings into the park the Wonder Lake area, and on the east the park boundaries were extended to make the west bank of the Nenana River a natural wildlife boundary line for the park.

McKinley Park Station, located on the Alaska Railroad, is beautifully situated for a park entrance. At this point a strip of land one mile wide extending westward approximately three miles to the park boundary has been set aside by Executive Order for entrance and administration purposes.



Ranger Patrol Along Riley Creek, 1924



Fritz A. Nyberg, First Chief Ranger of Mount McKinley National Park, 1924-1931



### First Visitors

Many persons had travelled through the park on business to the Kantishna mining district. The first to make a purely park visit, however, was Mr. W. F. Chandler, of Fresno, California, who, during the summer of 1922 (date not known), accompanied the Superintendent on one of his rounds to the base of Mount McKinley, a distance of 85 miles. He was very much impressed with the wild-life and the vast bulk and majestic beauty of Mount McKinley.

Other early visitors were Mr. W. N. Beach and George McM. Godley of New York, who, on August 12, 1922, began an extended trip through the park to observe its interesting features and to take motion pictures of the game. They travelled by saddle and pack horses.

### Donations

Observing the great need for trails in the park, Mr. W. F. Chandler kindly donated \$1,000 to be expended for trail building.

### Roads and Trails

The pioneer road was started on July 7, 1922, when Superintendent Karstens, Ranger Powless, and two prospectors left base camp (headquarters) at McKinley Park Station with a four-horse team to pioneer a road into the park to the Savage River, a distance of 12 miles. This was accomplished in two days, and sufficient material was hauled in to build a small supply cache on the Savage River. Later the same year the park survey party hauled in their supplies by wagon to that point.

All roads and trails in Mount McKinley National Park have been constructed by the Alaska Road Commission. In 1922, a trail for horses and hikers was located from McKinley Park Station to the foot of Muldrow Glacier by way of Sable, Polychrome, and Thorofare Passes, thence down the McKinley River to Wonder Lake and Kantishna. The trail was brushed out and confusing points tripoded. Small tents with stoves were placed at 10-mile intervals for shelter, and mileposts and signboards erected at important points.

In 1923, \$5,000 was expended on an entrance road from McKinley Park Station into the park. This was the start of the road which now extends through the park to the north boundary near Wonder Lake. This road, 89 miles in length, was completed and opened for travel through the park in 1938. It continues beyond the park boundary for a distance of 6 miles to the Kantishna mining district.

In 1926 a 12-mile-long stage coach road was started to the head of Savage River from the Savage River Tourist Camp. Completed in 1927, this road was last used in 1941 and is now impassable.

Trails included a saddle horse trail of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles which was built in 1932 through the Savage River Canyon, thus making accessible a route to the northern boundary of the park. In 1939, a foot trail was built from the McKinley Park Hotel to Horseshoe Lake, a distance of one-half mile, which made accessible to hikers a beautiful small mountain lake inhabited by beavers, waterfowl and grayling. During the same year a foot trail was started from Riley Creek in the McKinley Park Station area to Triple Lakes,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles of this trail were constructed, but  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles of trail are required for its completion.

In the summer of 1950 a survey was made to connect the park with the Paxson-Cantwell road, which will give the park a connection with all the roads in Alaska and with the United States over the Alaska Highway. In the summer of 1951 work was started on this road. Only  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles of road construction in the park will be required to connect this road with our main park road. The main approach road is expected to be completed in 1953 or 1954.

The first permanent bridge was built across Savage River in 1951. It was of steel and concrete construction. 25/

#### Important Visitors

The year 1923 saw the arrival of the first official government visitors. On June 7 a congressional party numbering 65 persons spent one and one-half hours at McKinley Park Station. The Superintendent met this party and gave a short address on the park and its needs, as well as a brief outline of his ascent of Mount McKinley in 1913.

The presidential party of President Warren G. Harding, numbering 70 persons, also arrived at the entrance to the park and spent a half hour mingling with the local people. Many inquiries were made regarding the park and its needs.

The official dedication of the park took place in 1923. The Brooklyn Daily Eagle party, numbering 70 persons, which was specially organized as the result of an invitation from the Secretary of the Interior to assist in the dedication of the park, was one of the largest parties to visit Alaska. The formal dedicatory exercises for the park were held on the occasion of their visit to the park on July 9. Plans had been made to transport the party to Savage River, at which point the dedication services were to have been held, but because of the difficulties of the trip this plan was abandoned and the ceremony was held at the entrance to the park. The formal speech of dedication was made by William V. Hester, Jr., son of the President of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, who declared Mount McKinley National Park to be formally dedicated to its rightful owners, the people of the United States. Following the dedication a mountain sheep barbecue was served in the open air.



On August 22, 1926, Stephen T. Mather, Director of the National Park Service, arrived in Mount McKinley National Park. The following day the start was made from the Savage River Tourist Camp by saddle horse and pack horse for a trip through the park.

Mather, Superintendent Karstens, and Chief Ranger Nyberg left the main party at Toklat River and went down the main Toklat to the cabin of Mr. Charles Sheldon, who, in 1907 and 1908, had lived in this section. Here Sheldon had conceived of the idea of Mount McKinley National Park. After taking some pictures of Sheldon's cabin and its surroundings, Mather and his party continued their way over a lower pass, south of Mount Sheldon, to Stony Creek, up the right fork of that stream to the head of Moose Creek, and then on to Copper Mountain (now Mount Eielson). Departing from the park on August 31, Mather, the first Washington official of the National Park Service to visit the park, had gained a lasting impression of its wilderness character.

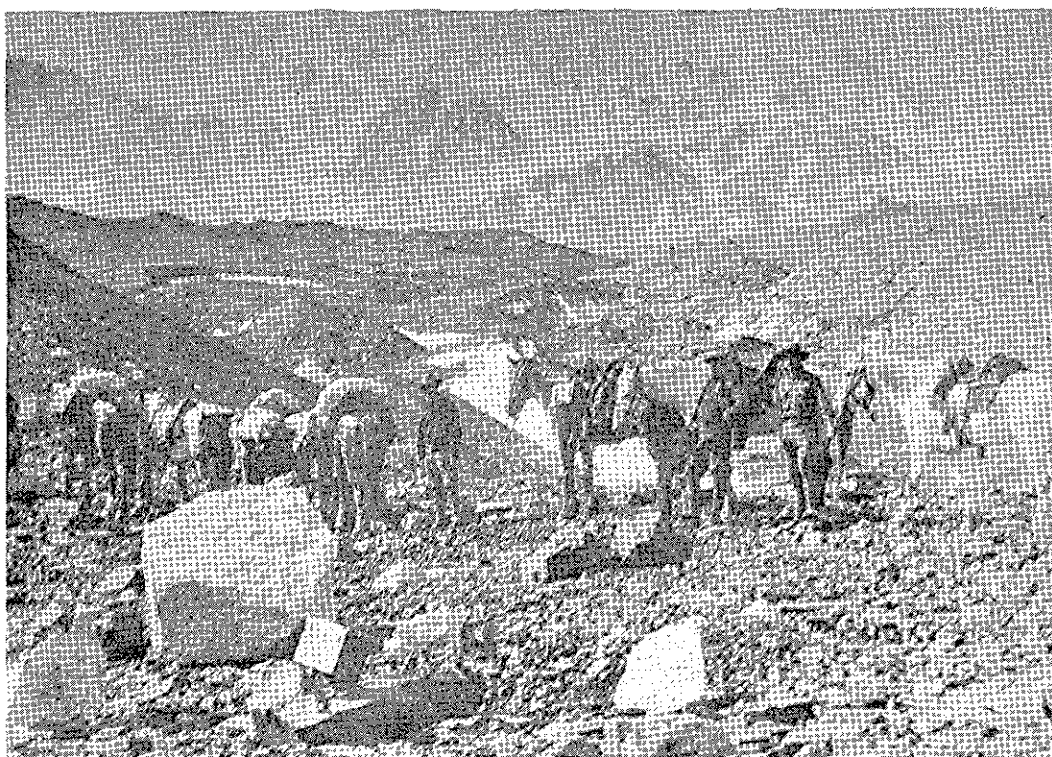
In August 1929, Mr. Thomas C. Vint, Chief Architect of the Service in San Francisco, went through the park in company with Superintendent Harry J. Liek and J. L. Galen, President of the Mount McKinley Tourist and Transportation Company. The purpose of this trip was to choose a probable location for tourist lodge or hotel in the Copper Mountain area. This was the first time a planner from the States had visited this area for the purpose of studying it.

Director Horace M. Albright arrived in the park on July 25, 1931, on his first visit to Alaska and Mount McKinley National Park. After inspecting the headquarters and the Savage River Tourist Camp on the 26th, he was stricken with an attack of appendicitis and was taken to the hospital in Fairbanks via airplane. There an operation was performed on July 29, and on August 19 he returned to the park after having spent nearly three weeks in the hospital. Although clearly showing the effects of his illness, he was able to get around in good shape, and numerous trips were taken into the park by automobile in company with Superintendent Liek.

Other important official visitors were Associate Director Arthur E. Demaray with Mrs. Demaray, June 23-26, 1936; the Honorable Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, August 11-12, 1938; Mr. Owen A. Tomlinson, Regional Director, Region Four, National Park Service, August 27-30, 1943; and Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Director, National Park Service, June 22-26, 1952.



Mount McKinley Tourist and Transportation Company automobiles transporting tourists to the head of Savage River in 1926.



Tourist party crossing Muldrow Glacier moraine near Copper Mountain. 1927.

### Concessioners

Early in 1923, Dan Kennedy was issued a permit to operate a tourist concession in the park. An old-time Alaskan, he had for many years operated a pack and saddle horse guiding service for big game hunters who came to Alaska in search of trophies. His permit called for three camps to be established, extending 50 miles into the park from the railroad. The first and only camp to be established was located near Savage River, 12 miles from the railroad. Because of the difficulty of travel by saddle and pack horses and the primitive accommodations available, all except the most hardy visitors were deterred from making the park trip. The number of persons actually to make it in 1923 was 34.

Dan Kennedy continued to operate the park concessions until the summer of 1925, when he sold his outfit to the newly organized Mount McKinley Tourist and Transportation Company. This company, organized by Mr. James Galen, President, with Robert E. Sheldon, Manager, replaced the horse transportation system between the railroad and their Savage River camp with modern automobiles.

The Mount McKinley Tourist and Transportation Company, which handled all concessions in the park until 1939, developed their concessions to keep pace with the increase in travel and extended their automobile sight-seeing trips as the park road progressed further into the park. Their Savage River camp was their main base of operations. They met all trains with cars and busses and transported the visitors 12 miles to that camp. There they had 30 horses. A rough mountain road, developed to the head of Savage River, a distance of 12 miles, was used by horse-drawn stages, which made this an all-day trip into the mountains. The main feature of this trip was the wildlife, as moose, grizzly bear, caribou, mountain sheep and many varieties of small wildlife could usually be seen.

In 1937, \$350,000 was appropriated to build a tourist hotel at McKinley Park Station. Completed and opened for business in June 1939, it was operated by the Alaska Railroad and used as a base of operations. People who arrived in the park on the train would stay overnight at the hotel, and then make a sight-seeing trip into the park by car or bus. The Mount McKinley Tourist and Transportation Company handled the transporting of the tourists and operated Savage River Tourist Camp. One unit was moved 66 miles out in the park and was operated as an overnight stop for tourists. Named Camp Eielson, it was 28 miles airline from Mount McKinley.

In 1941, the government bought out the Mount McKinley Tourist and Transportation Company, and the Alaska Railroad has operated all tourist concessions from that time on. 26/

### Early Inns and Hotels and Their Keepers

The first permanent resident of the park was Maurice Moreno. He was an old-time Alaskan, having come to Alaska in 1900. Envisioning the setting up of a roadhouse, he set out for this area at about the time Congress authorized the building of the Alaska Railroad in 1915. Others had had the same idea and located themselves throughout the section of the territory where they believed the railroad would be constructed. Moreno's choice for erecting his on a homestead which he staked was a fortunate one, for the railroad did come this way and right through his property. His first roadhouse was constructed on the bench below a later one.

Moreno benefited from the patronage of the people who constructed the railroad, an operation which terminated in 1923. He also operated a store and trading post in cooperation with the roadhouse, where he bought furs from the trappers and outfitted prospectors passing through this area for the Kantishna and other mining areas. The first tourists to visit the park also used his accommodations.

The building of the park highway brought in many workers of the Alaska Road Commission. Those who lived at McKinley Park were patrons of the Moreno Roadhouse, where they could obtain lodging, meals or supplies. They were allowed to construct cabins or shacks on Moreno's land where they could spend the winters when they weren't employed on the park highway. After becoming Moreno's property by arrangement when the builder left McKinley Park Station, he would then rent the structures to other transient workers or to visitors of the area.

In 1923, Moreno built a new roadhouse. Although this house was typically Alaskan in the services that were provided, the structure itself could scarcely be called "Alaskan" in all respects. True, it was built of native materials, but Moreno harked back to the designs of his homeland, sunny Italy, and had the roadhouse constructed by a fellow Italian in two stories with open verandas.

After Moreno had obtained a patent to 120 acres on August 1, 1934, his heirs sold the property to the National Park Service on October 24, 1947. He had died in 1937. Buried on a hill overlooking his homestead, it can be said that he was a man who loved Alaska as well as his roadhouse. Among his other accomplishments was the garden, where every summer he helped to supply food. He was also postmaster.

Other interesting characters near the park included Mary, one of the "gals" who located in the McKinley Park Station area in 1922. She also sold some supplies, including moonshine, which was illegal during the prohibition era. She vacated from the area in 1926. Catherine, who ran competition to Mary also left in 1926 when business dropped off.

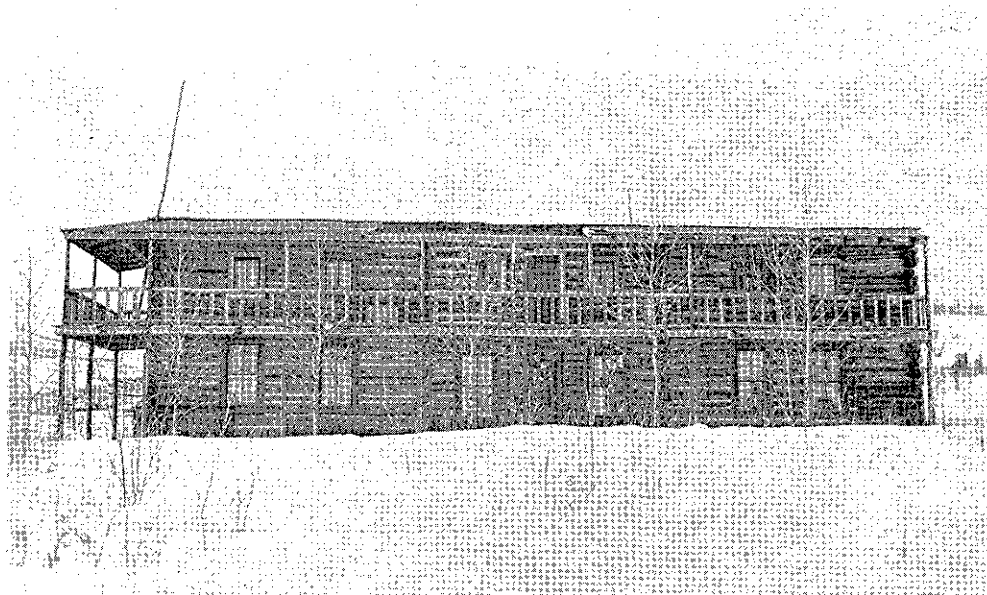
During the start of construction of the Alaska Railroad, Dan Bane built a roadhouse and trading post near Windy Creek in the southeast corner of the park. He sold it to a Mr. Gilkey who, in turn, sold it to John Stevens in 1925. Stevens operated it until he died in 1935. His trade included trappers and prospectors, and he outfitted miners who were living in the Valdez Creek area 60 miles east of the railroad.

In 1925, Duke E. Stubbs located a fox farm and trading post site of 35 acres near McKinley Park Station. There he operated a store where he sold groceries and supplies until 1936 when he left Alaska. Stubbs later sued the government for depriving him of a living when his property was included in Mount McKinley National Park. He was awarded \$50,000.

In 1918, John Anderson and Paula Anderson entered the park from the Cook Inlet side travelling by dog team. They crossed the Alaska Range via Anderson Pass (named after Pete Anderson). In 1922, when the McKinley Park-Kantishna trail was completed, they built a log roadhouse on the north end of Wonder Lake and staked a 160-acre homestead which later they proved up on. This roadhouse was used as a stopping place for travellers going to and from the Kantishna mining district. All the framework for the chairs, tables and other furniture was made from caribou antlers.

In addition to operating the roadhouse, they raised fox in captivity. They also raised sled dogs for sale. John Anderson did some prospecting and trapping. Their homestead, taken into the park during the boundary extension in 1932, was bought by the National Park Service in 1942.

All of the above-mentioned properties were taken into the park by the boundary extension in 1932. 26a/



Maurice Moreno's Roadhouse, located in the McKinley Park Station area.



First Park Concessioner's Camp in Mount McKinley National Park.  
Operated by Dan Kennedy.



Flora and FaunaWildlife

As previously mentioned, Charles Sheldon made the first study of wildlife in this area. The first report published was in 1907 when Dr. Wilfred H. Osgood reported Mr. Sheldon's collections in the Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington, Vol. XX, pages 59-60. This was the first printed matter concerning the wildlife of this area except for Dr. Brooks' mention of sheep and caribou in his report of 1903.

In the Auk, Vol. XXVI, No. 1, January 1909, Sheldon reported on 62 species of birds observed during 1907-08 on the upper Toklat River. Later publications indicate that 30 geographic races of mammals were encountered by Mr. Sheldon in the McKinley region between 1906 and 1908.

Biologist Claus J. Murie of the U. S. Biological Survey made some wildlife studies in Mount McKinley National Park from November 1920 to January 1921, and again from July 3, 1922, to September 26, 1922, being accompanied part of the time by his brother Adolph. Their purpose was to reconnoiter for a place to capture caribou for scientific studies, and they again visited the park from June 27, 1923, to October 5, 1923, on the caribou-capturing project.

In 1923, O. J. Murie found the first known nest of the wandering tattler, which he located near Savage River. His account of this discovery was published in 1924 in the Auk, Vol. XXXI, pages 231-237.

Field work was carried on in Mount McKinley National Park in 1926 by Joseph Dixon and George Wright from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California. Both of these scientists were biologists of the National Park Service. They spent 72 days in the field in 1926, during which they traversed a distance of approximately 500 miles on foot. The first surf bird's nest and eggs were found by them on May 28, 1926. The nest was 1,000 feet above timber line on a rocky ridge with a southern exposure.

Dixon returned to the park on May 15, 1932, and remained until September 1, 1932, studying the birds and mammals. The findings of these two expeditions were published in 1938 in the Fauna of the National Parks of the United States, Birds and Mammals of Mount McKinley National Park, Fauna Series No. 3.

Adolph Murie made a further field study in the park of the wolf-Dall sheep relationship, which was temporarily discontinued in August 1941. His publication, The Wolves of Mount McKinley, summarizing the results of this study, was published in 1944. Beginning again April 30, 1947, and continuing to October 1951, he devoted his time to further study of the wolf-sheep relationship and to the flora and other fauna of the park. He is now preparing material for publication on his findings. He was the first Biologist of the National Park Service to be assigned permanently to this park.

### Botany

During June and July, 1927, Mrs. Inez Mexia and her assistant, Miss Frances Payne, were in the park making a collection of wild flowers and shrubs for the University of California and other institutions. This was the first detailed study made of the botany of Mount McKinley National Park. The area covered was from McKinley Park Station to Copper Mountain (now Mt. Eielson) along the park road and park trail.

From June 23 to September 1939, Dr. and Mrs. Aven Nelson, from the University of Wyoming, collected and classified the park vegetation for the Museum of London, the Smithsonian Institution and Mount McKinley National Park. 27



### Physical Improvements

First construction at the present headquarters was in 1925, when, in August of that year, park headquarters was moved to a new location near mile No. 2 on the park road. Several cabins were torn down at the old headquarters on Riley Creek near the railroad and three one-room log cabins were erected at the new headquarters. In addition, a barn was built of salvage lumber for the four park horses; the park office was housed in a tent, as was the warehouse; the water system consisted of a pair of husky water buckets; and water was carried from a creek 100 yards distant. The sewer system consisted of outdoor toilets. Baths were taken in a wash tub, the water being heated on a stove.

In May and June 1926, a log office building 16 x 20 feet in size was constructed by rangers of spruce logs, which were cut near headquarters. During the same summer dog houses and a cook room for the sled dogs, and a one-room log cabin for the Chief Ranger were also built at headquarters by the rangers.

In 1924, \$200 had been expended for the construction of two ranger patrol cabins, one on Windy Creek at the southeast corner of the park and the other near Ewe Creek near the northern boundary in the vicinity of Savage River. Another structure included a log cabin, 10 x 12 feet in size, with pole roof and moss and dirt on top. This was constructed by Superintendent Karstens and Rangers Nyberg and Winn at Stony Creek near Boundary Creek. The total cost, including two windows and nails and a pair of strap hinges, did not exceed \$15.

In August 1926, Ranger Grant Pearson built a 10 x 12 foot cabin near the Kantishna entrance on the McKinley Fork of the Kantishna River. It was built of spruce logs and was of the same type as the Stony Creek cabin. Lumber was whipsawed for the floor. The cost was the same as for the Stony Creek cabin.

During the next two years, four additional patrol cabins were built by rangers at McLeod Creek, Mount Eielson (Copper Mountain), Toklat River, and Igloo Creek. Logs were hauled by dog team 20 miles for the Mount Eielson cabin.

The first money appropriated for building improvements was in 1928, when funds were appropriated for a water system, rangers' quarters for unmarried rangers, warehouse, and a barn. In 1929, funds were appropriated for a modern Superintendent's residence. Chief Architect Thomas Vint of the National Park Service arrived in the park in August 1929 to advise the Superintendent on future development and to select sites for a permanent headquarters layout.

During the next six years funds were appropriated and, with the help of rangers, nine additional ranger patrol cabins were built, making a total of 15. A temporary garage and machine shop and a boiler and log power house were also built. In 1935, a modern Ranger Club (bachelors' quarters), a log residence, a dog corral, and a cold storage garage were completed.

In 1937 construction was started on a tourist hotel accommodating 172 people at McKinley Park Station. This was completed and opened for business in June 1939.

With the establishment of a CCC camp in 1938 and 1939, two additional residences were built and headquarters sewer and water systems improved. The dog corral was moved to a new location and a modern machine shop and garage was built. Roads in the headquarters area were improved and some landscaping was done.

Construction was started in 1941 on a residence to replace the Superintendent's residence which was destroyed by fire. This was completed in 1943, and a modern ranger station was completed at Wonder Lake in 1939.

During the war years no new construction was undertaken. However, a log garage was converted into an administration building and the log office building used as a workshop for the naturalist. Horses are no longer kept by the Park Service and the barn has been converted into a carpenter shop.

In 1949 a temporary residence was built from a CCC infirmary, and in 1950-52 four new modern residence were built in the headquarters area and a new water system completed for the headquarters area. 28

### Mountain Climbs

No attempt was made to climb Mount McKinley after the park was established until 1932, unless one can count the time Stephen Jaross of Poznan University, Poland, entered the park on August 7, 1928, with the intention of climbing it. After talking to Superintendent Karstens, he decided that the Superintendent, for personal reasons, was trying to prevent him from climbing the mountain. He thereupon engaged the services of Leo Coppa, an Alaskan trapper, and the two started out with packs on their backs for Mount McKinley. They had no mountain climbing outfits. However, they did reach the base of Mount McKinley (McGonagall Pass), where food and foot gear gave out. On finding a ranger's cache of food on Clearwater Creek, they borrowed some food and finally got to the Kantishna mining district, where Joe and Fannie Quigley provided them enough to allow them to reach the railroad and civilization, with greater respect for Mount McKinley.

#### Mount Foraker

The summit of Mount Foraker, 17,000 feet elevation, was climbed for the first time on August 6, 1934, when Charles S. Houston, New York City, Thomas Graham Brown, Cardiff, England, and George C. Waterston, London, England, accomplished that feat. As this mountain is located in the wilderness far from roads, the party used a pack train to pack their supplies to the base of the mountain. The veteran Alaskan guide and packer, Carl Anderson, was engaged as a guide to the base of the mountain.

#### Other First Ascents of Mountains in the Park

Mystery Mountain, Elevation 11,820. The first ascent of Mystery Mountain was made by Bradford Washburn, James Gale, Richard C. Manual and Elmo G. Fenn on November 13, 1944.

Mount Silverthrone, Elevation 13,220. The first ascent of Mount Silverthrone was made by Bradford Washburn, Norman Bright and Frank P. Foster on April 15, 1945.

The first ascent of an unnamed snow dome, 12,515 feet elevation, west of Mount McKinley, was made by Bradford Washburn, James Gale, Henry Bushtel and William Hackett on June 26, 1951.

Peters Dome, Elevation 10,560, was climbed for the first time by Jerry Moore and Barry P. Bishop on June 29, 1951.

Mount Brooks, Elevation 11,930. First ascent made by Thayer Scudder, David Bernays, Winslow Briggs and John Humphreys on July 5, 1952.

Mount Mather, Elevation 12,100. The first ascent of Mount Mather was made by the above-mentioned party on July 20, 1952.

These revised elevations were sent to the author by Bradford Washburn and are expected to become official in the near future.

#### Lindley-Liek McKinley Expedition

In 1932, a party composed of Alfred D. Lindley, an attorney of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Harry J. Liek, Park Superintendent, Erling Strom, a Norwegian, for many years associated with the skiing activities at Lake Placid, New York, and Grant H. Pearson, Park Ranger, climbed both peaks of Mount McKinley, the first party to accomplish this feat.

At Browne's Tower at 15,000 feet the party found the thermometer left by the Stuck-Karstens expedition of 19 years before. After being photographed, the thermometer was removed from its case and examined. The minimum reading on the instrument was 95 degrees below zero, and the indicator was as far down in the bulb as it could go. So the actual temperature was below that point; and the position of the indicator appeared to point to a temperature of at least 100 degrees below zero. This is the coldest temperature ever recorded on the North American continent. The thermometer was later taken to Washington, D. C., and officially tested and declared to be in perfect working order.

Supplies were freighted by dog team a distance of approximately 105 miles to the 11,000-foot elevation on Muldrow Glacier. The climbing party travelled this distance on skis, except Pearson, who drove one of the dog teams to base camp which was located in the last willows on Cache Creek. At this point he joined the climbers and turned his dog team over to Warren G. Pearson. Two other dog teams were used and were driven by Chief Ranger Louis Corbley and Ranger John C. Rumohr. Rumohr and Warren Pearson freighted with their dog teams to 11,000 feet elevation. At 9,500 feet elevation Corbley returned to park headquarters to obtain dog fish as the supply of dog food was getting low.

In addition to their own supplies, this party hauled 800 pounds of supplies for the Carpe Expedition, which was going to make cosmic ray measurements at the 11,000-foot elevation. On arriving at the Carpe Camp, Grant Pearson knew that something serious must have happened as there was fresh snow about the tents and nobody was in them. Indications were that this party had left camp with most of their belongings in it. A further search revealed the diaries of Allen Carpe and Theodore Koven, and the last entry was on May 8.

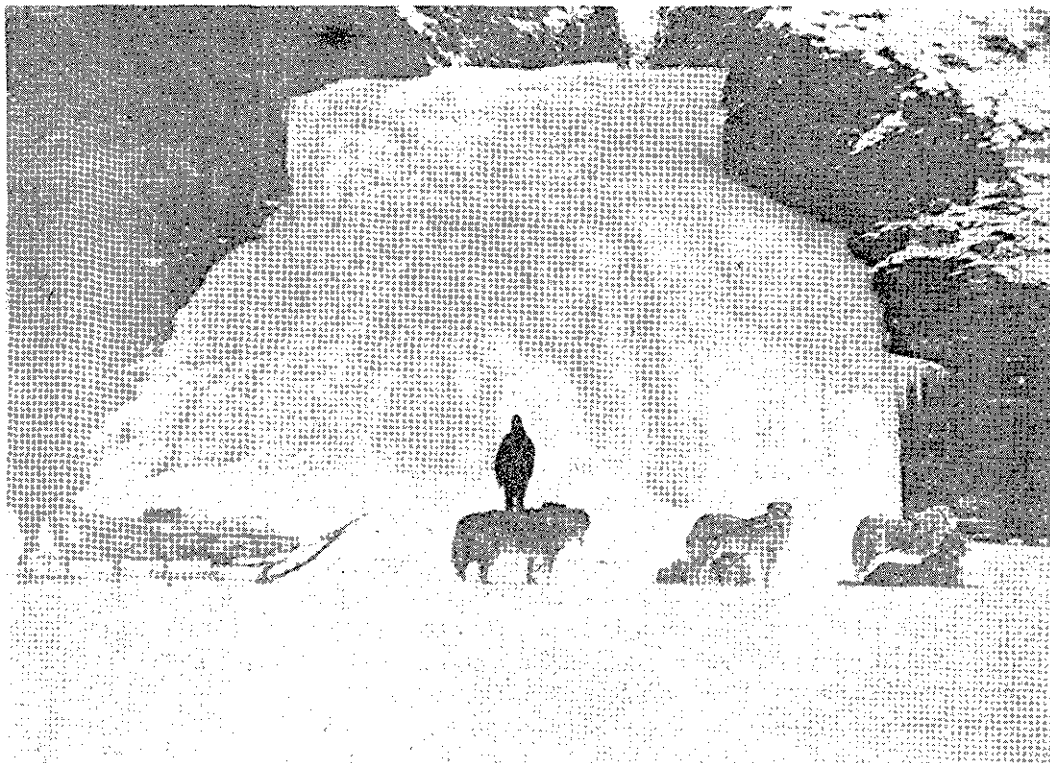
The Lindley-Liek party had a meal, put on skis, and started down the glacier. Koven's body was found about one-half mile below camp at an elevation of 10,500 feet, where he had died in a vain effort to get back to camp after being severely injured near a crevasse. Signs around it indicated that it was the scene of a disaster. There seemed to be no possibility of Carpe's being alive, from the length of time that had elapsed. He was called and there was no answer. The rescuers did not care to take any more chances, as a short time previously, while two of the party were pulling Koven's body on a sled with their only rope, Grant Pearson, on snowshoes behind and unroped, had broken through and dropped a full forty feet in a crevasse. Other than minor injuries, he was unhurt. He climbed out of the crevasse on a rope with the help of the others above.

As the Lindley-Liek party reconstructed Carpe's and Koven's accident, the two men had been travelling down the glacier together in search of their companions. The leader was on skis, the other without them. The skier, apparently, had skimmed over the crevasse into which the man behind had fallen. The first man returned to help him, for cautious ski marks showed at the edge of the crevasse. Then the snow broke away and he must have fallen in too. Somehow, Koven had managed to climb out, badly injured though he was, and started back to camp for help - the help that came too late. After Pearson's fall into the crevasse, the party left Koven's body, as it was too dangerous to attempt to take it down with the equipment at hand. He was wrapped in a mountain tent, and an eight-foot Yukon sled was stood on end as a marker should anyone return for the body.

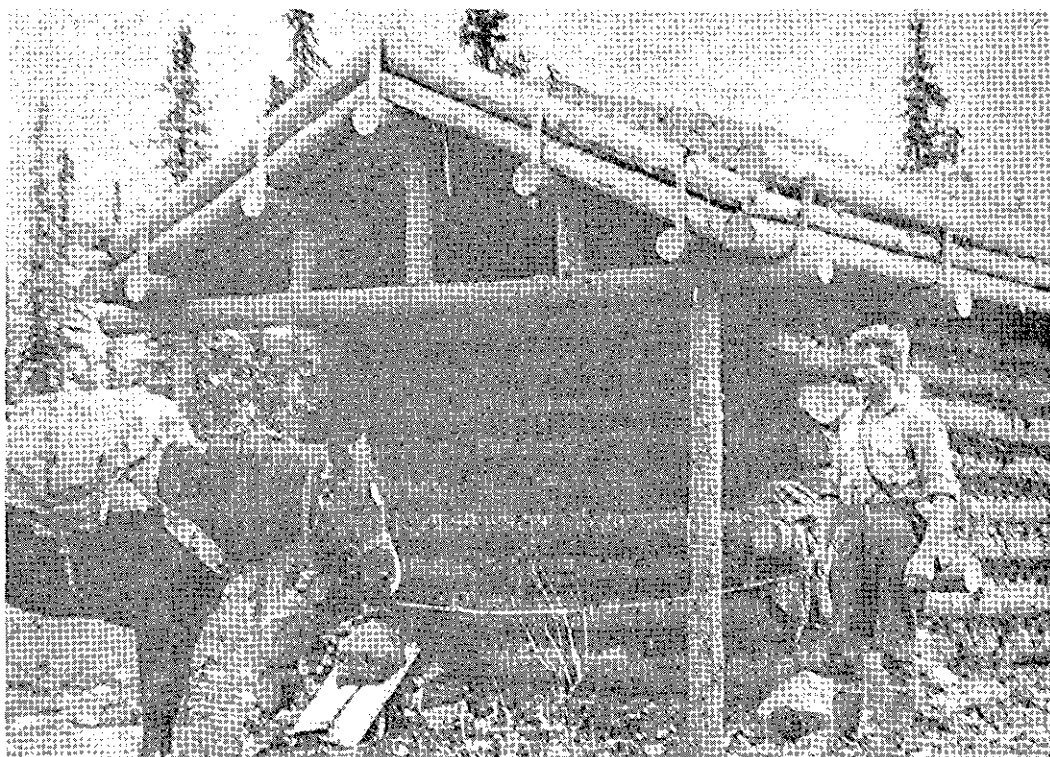
The party continued down the glacier and in a tent at the Cosmic Ray camp at McGonagall Pass, elevation about 5,600 feet, they found two other men, one of them, E. P. Beckwith, seriously ill. A third man, Nicholas W. Spadavecchia, had gone down the mountain to get an airplane to land on the glacier and rescue the sick man. The whole party had come in by plane, and Spadavecchia's tracks were headed in the wrong direction. Rangers Rumohr and Swisher later had to hike 180 miles on snowshoes to rescue him.

When the Lindley-Liek party reached the park phone 45 miles from the base of the mountain, they telephoned the Alaska Airways at Fairbanks to send a plane for the sick man. It was spring in Fairbanks and the fire department had to wet down the airfield to slick mud so that a plane could take off on skis for the glacier landing.

The Lindley-Liek party made a 16mm black and white movie of their trip. These were the first movies ever taken on Mount McKinley.



Ranger patrolling along the Nenana River in 1933



Ranger Grant Pearson on patrol at McLeod Creek in 1927.  
Rangers built this type of cabin in the early days of the Park.

### The Cosmic Ray Party

This ill-fated party, mentioned above, was organized by Allen Carpe. He had been asked by Dr. Compton, of the University of Chicago, to gather data for use in determining the nature of cosmic rays. The University and the Carnegie Foundation supplied the necessary apparatus and funds for getting the apparatus to Mount McKinley, which had been selected because it met the requirements of suitable elevation and proximity to the earth's north magnetic pole. The members of this expedition were Carpe, Koven, Beckwith, Percy Olten, and Spadavecchia.

To save time, this party planned on using ski-equipped airplanes and landing on Muldrow Glacier opposite McGonagall Pass at about 5,600 feet elevation. This was the first airplane landing ever made on Mount McKinley (Muldrow Glacier), and this was probably the first expedition to make use of a plane carrying full mountaineering equipment with the object of landing the climbers at as high an altitude as possible preliminary to the final climb on foot. Joe Crosson, veteran Alaskan pilot, was the pilot of the first airplane to land on Mount McKinley.

Carpe, Koven and Beckwith landed on Muldrow Glacier on April 25, while Beckwith returned to Fairbanks with Crosson. Olten, Spadavecchia, and Beckwith then landed on the glacier on May 3; and Carpe and Koven immediately moved to the head of the glacier at 11,000 feet elevation. The two parties never got together again.

No one returned at once to the camp at the head of the Muldrow Glacier. Late in August, Merle LaVoy, who had been with the Parker-Browne party of many years before, Andy Taylor, George Pitiff, an Alaskan trapper and prospector, and Grant Pearson, who served as guide, went in to the camp to recover Koven's body and bring out the diaries and cosmic ray measurement records of Carpe and Koven. Seven feet of snow had fallen at 10,500 feet where Koven's body had been since May 12. The sled was protruding only six inches above the snow.

The following is a list of persons who have climbed Mount McKinley:

	South Peak <u>20,300 ft.</u>	North Peak <u>19,600 ft.</u>
William Taylor		1910
Peter Anderson		"
Walter Harper (1)	June 6, 1913	
Henry (Harry) Karstens (2)	" " "	

## List of persons who have climbed Mount McKinley (cont'd.):

	South Peak <u>20,300 ft</u>	North Peak <u>19,600 ft</u>
Robert G. Tatem (3)	June 6, 1913	
Hudson Stuck (4)	" "	
Alfred D. Lindley (5)	May 7, 1932	May 9, 1932
Harry J. Liek (6)	" "	" "
Erling Strom (7)	" "	" "
Grant H. Pearson (8)	" "	" "
Captain Robert Bates (9)	July 23, 1942	
Einar Nilsson (10)	" "	
Terris Moore (11)	" "	
Bradford Washburn (12)	" "	
Capt. Albert H. Jackman (13)	July 24, 1942	
Lieut. Peter Webb (14)	" "	
Sterling B. Hendricks (15)	" "	
Barbara Washburn (16)	June 6, 1947	June 7, 1947
Bradford Washburn (2nd ascent)	" "	" "
William Deeke (17)	" "	" "
George Browne (18)	" "	
James Gale (19)	" "	June 7, 1947
Robert Craig (20)	" "	" "
William Sterling		" "
Robert Lange (21)	June 6, 1947	" "
Lieut. William Hackett (22)	" "	" "
Gordon Herreid (23)	July 29, 1947	
Henry Daub (24)	" "	
Frank Mills (25)	" "	
Walter L. Gonnason (26)	July 13, 1948	
John McCall (27)	" "	
Charles E. Piper (28)	" "	
Bradford Washburn (3rd ascent)	July 10, 1951 (climbed from west)	
James Gale (2nd ascent)	" " " " "	
Capt. Wm. Hackett (2nd ascent)	" " " " "	
Henry A. Buchtel, MD. (29)	July 13, 1951 (climbed from west)	
John V. Ambler, MD. (30)	" " " " "	
Barry C. Bishop (31)	" " " " "	
Melvin Griffiths (32)	July 14, 1951 (climbed from west)	
Jerry Moore (33)	" " " " "	



## List of persons who have climbed Mount McKinley (concl'd):

	South Peak <u>20,300 ft</u>	North Peak <u>19,600 ft</u>
Capt. Wm. Hackett (3rd ascent)	July 12, 1952	
Robert Anderson (34)	" " "	
Robert Goodwin (35)	" " "	
Ernst Bauman (36)	" " "	

Mexican Red Cross Party (First party of foreigners to ascend Mount McKinley)

Eduardo de Maria Campos (37)	July 14, 1952
Cristobal Abarea Alvares (38)	" " "
Guillermo Garcia Colin (39)	" " "
Agustin Guerrero Dias (40)	" " "
Higinio Alvarado Reyes (41)	" " "
Eduardo San Vicente Cravioto (42)	" " "

Army C-47 Crash Expedition

On September 18, 1944, an Army Transport C-47 airplane, on a routine flight from Anchorage to Fairbanks, Alaska, crashed into an ice-and-snow-covered mountain peak (about 12,000 feet elevation), 16 miles east of Mount McKinley. This was in the unexplored and unmapped area of Mount McKinley National Park.

An aerial reconnaissance revealed that all nineteen persons aboard the airplane had perished and the aircraft itself was completely demolished after tumbling down a fifty-degree slope for 1,600 feet.

In order to determine the details of what clearly appeared to be a totally fatal crash, the Commanding General of the Alaskan Department, U. S. Army, asked Grant H. Pearson, Acting Superintendent of Mount McKinley National Park, to make an aerial flight to the scene of the crash and advise if it was possible to take a party of men to it. The air turbulence was so violent it required three trips before a thorough inspection could be made. This was October 2, fifteen days after the crash.

When asked by the General if men could be taken to the crash on foot, Pearson advised that the crash could be gotten to safely, and recommended that a party of four men, for which equipment was available immediately, go to the crash and try to find the bodies before snow covered them entirely. The crash was on the southern slopes of the Alaska Range in a heavier snow belt than the northern slopes.

The General insisted that a party of 44 men, the number required for the job, go in and bring the bodies out. He asked Acting Superintendent Pearson if he would organize and lead a party to do this. Pearson agreed, but was noncommittal about bringing the bodies out. He was ably assisted in organizing and leading this expedition by Sgt. James Gale of the Search and Rescue Squadron of Elmendorf Field. The services of Bradford Washburn, the greatest authority on Alaska mountaineering, were also secured for the expedition. He was then testing cold weather equipment and food in that area.

This was one of the most extraordinary and modern exploits in the history of Alaska mountaineering. Every labor saving device and the latest in modern equipment were used. Most of the supplies were delivered by air-drop. Portable radios were installed in every camp, and modern snow tractors were used in transporting supplies on part of the glacier.

On October 10, Pearson, Washburn, Gale and nine other men crossed the Alaska Range and roped down a 45-degree slope to the crash. Part of this distance was over an ice slope. This was 1,000 feet below where the party crossed the Alaska Range. Supplies for a camp at the wreck had been dropped the previous day on the bench where the wreckage, covered by 10 feet of snow, rested.

The next three days proved to be an unusual experience. The party was camped less than 200 yards from the wreck and for the next two days every effort possible was made to locate the bodies. The airplane had crashed into the mountain 1,600 feet above camp and tumbled end over end down a 50-degree slope. The port engine was embedded firmly in the ice far above the point of impact.

By November 13, everything possible had been done to locate the bodies, with no success. Every major part of the airplane had been discovered and excavated, yet not one single trace of the occupants, except some blood on one piece of the fuselage, had been found. Several items, including the co-pilot's personal canvas suitcase - the familiar B-4 bag, were dug out of a drift near the remains of the cabin of the airplane.

Washburn, Gale, Sgt. Richard C. Manual and Pvt. Elmo G. Fenn investigated the area near the motor and then continued on to the summit of the mountain, now named Mystery Mountain. This was the first party to accomplish this feat.

The expedition, including organizing, took 43 days, 25 days of which were spent above timber line on snow and ice. All members of the expedition returned safely. There were no injuries.

The final postscript to this tragic accident took place in January, 1945, when a memorial service for the men was conducted

at Ladd Field, Fairbanks, Alaska, at which Army chaplains representing the Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant faiths spoke briefly. A military guard of honor fired a volley, which was followed by the playing of taps. An Army Transport Command airplane then took off from Ladd Field and winged its way to the scene of the crash, high in the rugged peaks of the Alaska Range. There three floral wreaths were dropped over the snow-covered mountainside where the bodies of the victims are buried beyond recovery. 30/

### McKinley Park During Wartime, 1942 to 1946

During the months of April and May, 1942, arrangements were negotiated to assist the U. S. Army with the Alaska Test Expedition to Mount McKinley. The expedition, led by Lt. Col. Frank G. Marchman, QMC, was made during June and July, 1942, to test Army clothing and equipment in arctic temperatures. Most of the supplies and equipment were dropped by plane at designated camps. The party consisted of 17 members, all experts in their particular phase of the experiments. Four members of the expedition, namely Capt. Robert H. Bates, Einar Nilsson and Terris Moore, QMC consultants, and Bradford Washburn, climbed to the summit of Mount McKinley on July 23, 1942, and three members; Capt. Albert H. Jackman, Lt. Peter Webb, Royal Canadian Air Force, and Sterling B. Hendricks, QMC consultant, on July 24.

Superintendent Frank Been and Chief Ranger Grant H. Pearson made the trip to McGonagall Pass to confer with the party and escorted Capt. Rex Gibson out to the road, as he had become ill while on the mountain. Later, when the experiments were completed, the Chief Ranger and two rangers took horses to the top of McGonagall Pass and packed out the supplies left there. This was the first time that horses had ever been taken to the top of McGonagall Pass. 31/

### U. S. Army Recreation Camp

On April 10, 1943, the Army took over the McKinley Park Hotel and used it until March 1945. During this time, 11,324 persons visited the park. Each visitor stayed an average of seven days, and approximately 90 percent were members of the armed forces and 10 percent civilian defense workers. Civilian tourist travel was at a standstill during the war because of restricted travel in Alaska. All means of travel to Alaska were taxed to capacity in the transportation of war workers, troop movements, and the moving of military supplies.

The following recreation program was carried out by the U. S. Army Recreation Camp: winter sports, including skiing, skating, tobogganing and dog team rides; regularly scheduled motor trips into the park during the summer; saddle horse trips from Savage River Camp; camping and fishing at Wonder Lake; fishing in many of the park streams; hiking, picture taking and other outdoor activities.

In February and March of 1944, over 500 U. S. troops used the eastern portion of Mount McKinley National Park to hold winter maneuvers. Dog teams, skis and snowshoes were used, but no mechanized equipment. Lt. Col. Walthers was in charge of the maneuvers.

Another Army cold weather test party from Wright Field used the park during October-December, 1944, when 87 days were spent in the wilderness of the Alaska Range testing food and clothing for the Air Force. Washburn, technical advisor for the Air Force, was in charge of the party. He was assisted by Major Bass, Captain Sharp, and Lieutenant Eveler. A similar party led by Washburn again visited the Alaska Range during March-May, 1945. Washburn was assisted by Maj. Frank Foster (M. D.), Lt. Jack Pechman, and Norman Bright, civilian advisor from Wright Field. On this trip this party made the first ascent of Mount Silverthrone, elevation 13,800 feet. 32/

### Interpretive Services

During the period from 1921 to 1928, all interpretive services in the park were performed by the Superintendent. The program consisted mainly of talks to the tourists at the Savage River concessioner's camp. In addition, a park ranger was generally present at the dog kennels to explain the use of sled dogs.

From 1929 to 1951, interpretive services conducted by the Superintendent and rangers consisted of giving illustrated talks at the Savage River tourist camp until 1939, when this camp closed, and thereafter at the McKinley Park Hotel. From 1944 to 1950, a one-room log building was used at park headquarters for an exhibit building. Since its condemnation in 1950, another building has been provided.

### First Ranger Naturalist

During June-August, 1932, the first temporary ranger-naturalist, David Kaye, was employed. A medical student, he was employed as there was no doctor or nurse in the park. In addition to his first-aid duties, Ranger Kaye gave talks on the natural history of the park. He was instructed in naturalist work by Joseph Dixon, Field Naturalist of the National Park Service, who was in the park at that time.

### First Park Naturalist

On June 29, 1951, the first permanent naturalist was established in the park with the appointment of Park Ranger William J. Nancarrow to that position. On occasion he and other park personnel travel to other parts of Alaska to give interpretive programs relating to the natural history of Mount McKinley. 33/

## Miscellaneous

### Forest Fires

The only serious forest fire in Mount McKinley National Park occurred in 1924, when over 1,000 acres of spruce forest were destroyed in the McKinley Park station area.

### Building Fires

A summary of structures destroyed by fire at Park Headquarters include: June, 1934, a ranger quarters burned to the ground; May 1937, the garage and repair shop; October, 1939, the superintendent's residence, and November, 1950, a residence.

### Accidents

On November 7, 1952, a United States Air Force C-119 airplane crashed into Mount Silverthrone (13,220 elevation) at approximately 12,000 elevation. It carried 19 members of the armed forces. All aboard were undoubtedly killed instantly.

The location of the crash is approximately 12 miles from the site of the C-47 crash of 1944, in which 19 persons were killed.

### Deaths

The first person known to have lost his life in the interior of Mount McKinley National Park was Tom Kenny. He and his partner, Tom Black, were in the park looking for a lost gold placer mine. After becoming separated from his partner, it was approximately four weeks before rangers found his body about 90 miles from headquarters, near the mouth of Clearwater Creek. He was buried near where he was found.

### Marriages

The first wedding known to have taken place in the park was on February 22, 1945, when Miss Gladys Marquardt, hostess at the U. S. Army Recreation Camp, was married to Cpl. Harry Stiver. The wedding ceremony was held in the lounge of the McKinley Park Hotel, and the services were conducted by U. S. Army Chaplain Howard J. Wiant.

### Religious Services

The first religious services held in Mount McKinley National Park were the Easter services in April 1943. They were conducted by U. S. Army Chaplain J. D. Foster at the McKinley Park Hotel.

### First School

The first public school in McKinley National Park was during 1922-1923 and 1923-1924. Mrs. Dave Firburn was the teacher and seven children attended. A log school house was built by the early settlers. The location of this school was near the location of the present hotel at McKinley Park station.

### First Commercial Moving Picture Filmed in the Park

Norman Dawn filmed part of the scenes for the moving picture The Chechako in the park during the winter of 1922-23. Moreno's roadhouse and the Park Service dog teams were used in some of the scenes.

### First Death Caused by Shooting

John Bernard, an old-timer living in the McKinley Park Station area, was shot and killed in the fall of 1923 when prohibition officers and the U. S. Marshal made a raid on a bootlegger's cabin. This cabin was located near the banks of the Nenana River opposite mile 344 on the Alaska railroad.

### Commercial Mining of Coal

A coal mine (lignite coal) was operated near mile 340 on the Alaska Railroad in 1923. Mine buildings were erected (they are still visible), but after a few months of operation this mine ceased operation due to the coal being of inferior quality. This mine was operated by a Mr. Seaberg.

In 1922 fifteen tons of blacksmith coal were mined on Little Creek, a tributary of Riley Creek.

### First Article

An article by Hal Evarts, published in 1926 in the Saturday Evening Post, was the first written about Mount McKinley National Park. Mr. Evarts made a trip with saddle and pack horses to the base of Mount McKinley to get material for this article.

The above information was given to the author by former Chief Ranger Fritz A. Nyberg, and confirmed by former Superintendent Harry P. Karstens.

### Citations

In February 1940, Tige, a park sled dog, was awarded the Dog World International Diploma of Honor for saving the life of Park Ranger John C. Rumohr. Rumohr and his dog team and sled had broken through the ice on Toklat River into six feet of water. The

temperature was below zero. Tige excited the rest of the dog team and they were able to pull the sled to firm ice.

Grant H. Pearson, Chief Park Ranger, acting as Superintendent, was awarded the Medal of Freedom by the War Department for leading the party of 44 soldiers and civilians during October 1-November 18, 1944, to investigate the crash of an Air Transport airplane which crashed in the unexplored portion of the park with 19 persons on board.

Upon his retirement after approximately twenty-three years of Government service, of which twenty-one years were served with the National Park Service, John C. Rumohr was awarded a Citation for Commendable Service. This was presented to Rumohr on March 4, 1952.

### Births

On March 23, 1926, a son was born to Park Clerk and Mrs. Ralph P. Mackie. Mrs. Mackie had gone to the hospital in Fairbanks, Alaska, for the event. This was the first child born to an employee of Mount McKinley National Park.

### Prospecting and Mining

A discovery of base ore which contained lead, silver, zinc, copper and gold was made on July 12, 1921, on Copper Mountain (now Mount Eielson), by prospector O. M. Grant. This caused a stampede to this area of about 40 prospectors. Although never developed, Grant is still holding his claims.

Gold and copper ore were discovered in 1921 on Slippery Creek, near the north face of Mount McKinley, by prospector William Shannon. Many thousands of dollars have been spent prospecting this discovery, but it was found to be too low in value to allow mining.

A discovery of antimony ore has been made in the East Fork canyon, but no development work has been done on it.

### Aviation

The first airplane to land in the park was piloted by Mr. Ben Eielson, who landed on a gravel bar one-half mile from Muldrow Glacier near the north point of Copper Mountain (now Mount Eielson) on June 17, 1924, at 11:15 p. m. Pilot Eielson was flying a World War I type Jenny (JN-D4) powered by an OX5 motor. This was a commercial flight and Eielson had as passenger a prospector named Jack Tobin. The flight was made from Fairbanks, Alaska.

The next flight was made to the same location by Joseph Crosson in a Waco biplane powered by an OX5 motor, in August, 1926, when he took Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Aiken from Mount Eielson to Fairbanks.



In 1930, a landing field was leveled off on a bar on the Savage River near the tourist camp. Alaska Airways, which made sight-seeing trips to Mount McKinley, operated a Fairchild 71 six-passenger cabin airplane from this field. It was also used by different operators until 1938.

The first airplane to fly over the top of Mount McKinley was piloted by Matt Nieminen on August 15, 1930. He was accompanied on the flight by his mechanic, Cecil Higgins.

In 1933, a small strip was cleared on the Moreno homestead, parallel to the railroad, and was used as a landing field. It had a length of about 1,000 feet.

On August 4, 1934, the first airplane was used in the park in conjunction with the park's wildlife. At that time Alaska's first flying Game Warden, Sam White, and Superintendent Liek made an aerial count of the Dall mountain sheep. They were in the air four hours and made an actual count of 2,280 sheep. They estimated they missed about 20 percent because of the character of the terrain. The airplane used was a Swallow TP, powered by a 100hp Kinner Motor.

In 1943, the U. S. Army Engineers enlarged the McKinley Park landing strip to 2,985 feet in length and surfaced it with gravel.

#### Memorials

A bronze plaque of Stephen T. Mather has been placed in the park headquarters area; and a mountain, 11,500 feet in elevation, to the southeast of Mount McKinley, has also been named Mount Mather in honor of the first Director of the National Park Service.

A bronze plaque, presented by the Boone and Crockett Club, was placed on the east bank of the Toklat River and dedicated to the memory of the late Charles Sheldon on June 22, 1951. Robert Reeve, a member of the Boone and Crockett Club, gave the dedication address.

### Friends of the Park

Following is a list of friends of the park:

Horace Albright, New York City  
 Newton B. Drury, San Francisco, California  
 Arthur E. Demaray, Washington, D. C.  
 Governor Ernest Gruening, of Alaska  
 E. L. "Bob" Bartlett, Delegate to Congress from Alaska  
 University of Alaska  
 Sierra Club of California  
 Bradford Washburn, Director, Boston Museum of Science, Boston, Mass.  
 Eduardo de Maria y Campos, Chief of the Mexican Red Cross,  
 Expedition to Mount McKinley, Mexico, D. F.  
 Claus J. Murie, Wilderness Society, Jackson, Wyoming  
 Adolph Murie, Moose, Wyoming  
 Albert Day, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.  
 Dr. Charles Brunnel, President Emeritus, University of  
 Alaska College, Alaska  
 Jessons Weekly Newspaper, Fairbanks, Alaska  
Fairbanks News Miner, Fairbanks, Alaska  
 Duis Bolinger, Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon  
Anchorage Daily Times, Anchorage, Alaska  
 Alvin Bramstedt, Manager, Radio Station KFAR, Fairbanks, Alaska  
 Auggie Hiebert, Manager, Radio Station KENI, Anchorage, Alaska  
 Clarence Rhodes, Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service,  
 Juneau, Alaska  
 Lowell Puckett, Regional Director, Bureau of Land Management,  
 Anchorage, Alaska  
 Frank Hientzleman, Regional Forester, U. S. Forest Service,  
 Juneau, Alaska  
 John Reed, Director, Alaska Division, U. S. Geological Survey,  
 Washington, D. C.  
 Anthony Dimond, District Federal Judge, Anchorage, Alaska  
 Lois and Herb Crisler, Walt Disney Studios, Hollywood, California

## APPENDIX A

## HISTORY OF MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK

(From Boone and Crockett Club, Hunting and Conservation,  
New Haven, 1925, pp. 520-526)

A detailed abstract of correspondence and summary of events as to this Park may be useful to some future student of our National Parks.

## Letter

1. H. P. Karstens, Fairbanks, Alaska, to H. M. Albright, Washington, D. C., July 25, 1918.

"While I worked for Sheldon as guide, perhaps in 1906, he suggested that the country on Toklat River would make a fine park and game preserve." Names people still in the Kantishna country who know Sheldon wished to set that country aside for a park.

2. C. Sheldon, Woodstock, Vermont, to E. W. Nelson, Washington, D. C., October 10, 1915.

Believes time now ripe to push through Congress bill to establish Denali National Park, Denali (Mount McKinley) to be its center. Plans contemplated.

3. Hon. James Wickersham, Washington, D. C., to C. Sheldon, New York, December 8, 1915.

Acknowledges letter of December 3, suggesting Mt. McKinley Park. Doubtful about the matter because it might interfere with prospectors. (Sheldon's reply suggests bill be so framed as to remove Wickersham's objections.)

4. Wickersham, Washington, D. C. to Sheldon, New York, January 3, 1916.

Promises careful attention to McKinley Park bill when put in shape by Mr. Mather and others.

5. Henry G. Gray, Secretary, Boone and Crockett Club, New York, to C. Sheldon, New York, December 21, 1915.

Transmits resolution of Boone and Crockett Club, endorsing Mt. McKinley National Park project and appointing Sheldon and Grant committee to do various things and to advocate the plan as the plan of the Boone and Crockett Club.

6. Sheldon, New York, to S. T. Mather, Washington, D. C.,  
December 15, 1915.

Proposes the establishment of the park and says that he has been in correspondence with Wickersham.

(The matter had been placed before the Boone and Crockett Club Game Committee December 13, and approved by above resolution).

7. S. T. Mather, Washington, D. C., to Sheldon, New York,  
December 16, 1915.

Asks Sheldon to come to Washington and confer with him or with R. B. Marshall, Superintendent National Parks. Suggests coming now, as Riggs, of Alaska Engineering Commission, is there.

8. Sheldon to Mather, December 18, 1915.

Prefers to postpone visit to Washington until he can see both Mather and Secretary Lane. Wickersham's attitude will depend on that of Lane.

9. Mather, Washington, D. C., to H. F. Osborn, New York,  
December 18, 1915. (Refers to letter 12)

Acknowledges election to associate membership in Boone and Crockett Club. Has already heard from Sheldon about proposed national park in Alaska, and has taken steps to go into matter.

10. Enos Mills (Colorado), Washington, D. C., to Sheldon, New York,  
December 18, 1915.

Asks for fuller information about proposed National Park in Alaska and if they can help the matter along. Acknowledges Boone and Crockett Club's help in creation of Rocky Mountain National Park.

11. Enos Mills, Colorado, to Sheldon, New York, December 22, 1915.

Acknowledges reply of December 20 and hopes to be present in Washington when Sheldon has conference with Mather.

12. Refers back to letter 9. H. F. Osborn, New York, to Mather,  
Washington, D. C., December 16, 1915.

Announces Mather's election to associate membership in Boone and Crockett Club and commends Sheldon to Mather.

(Memorandum. Herschel Parker lunched with Sheldon December 27, and Sheldon consulted him about boundaries of the park. Parker at once consulted Browne).

December 29, Sheldon had conference with Mather and others in Washington.

13. R. S. Yard, Washington, D. C., to Grinnell, New York, January 6, 1916.

Saw Sheldon in Washington, hopes he will keep his hand on the business (of park) until it actually comes before Congress as a good bill.

"Meantime Belmore Browne of the Campfire Club turned up in Washington yesterday upon the same errand. He is Chairman of the Conservation Committee of that Club and he came down here to see if there was anything at all being done toward getting McKinley made a National Park. He was much surprised to find that Mr. Sheldon and the Boone and Crockett Club were first in the field. He is going to get in touch with Mr. Sheldon immediately upon his return."

14. Yard, Washington, D. C., to Sheldon, New York, January 7, 1916.

Refers to visit "yesterday" by Belmore Browne, talking Mt. McKinley.

15. Sheldon, New York, to Yard, Washington, D. C., January 8, 1916.

Advises consultation with Wickersham so that he shall be interested. Mather spoke before whole Boone and Crockett Club Thursday night (annual meeting) and received with enthusiasm. Belmore Browne will be of much assistance. Professor Parker suggested the south lines.

16. H. G. Gray, Secretary, Boone and Crockett Club, New York, to Sheldon, New York, January 10, 1916.

Transmitting resolution adopted at annual meeting of the Club held January 6, approving plan for Mt. McKinley Park, appointing Sheldon and Grant committee to do various things and to advocate the plan prepared as the plan of the Boone and Crockett Club.

17. Thomas Riggs, Jr., Washington, D. C., to Sheldon, New York, January 12, 1916.

Is drafting bill. Asks for description of boundaries; says Belmore Browne was down there for a few days after S. was in Washington.

18. Sheldon, New York, to Riggs, Washington, D. C., January 13, 1916.

Sends description of boundaries, hopes park may be called Denali. Talked with Browne day before; suggestions as to securing Wickersham's approval.

Memorandum attached. Penciled notes of the limits of the park drawn by C. Sheldon and by him sent to Riggs, January 15, 1916.

19. Riggs, Washington, to Sheldon, New York, January 14, 1916.

Acknowledges memorandum of boundaries, encloses rough draft of bill, believes McKinley better known name than Denali, decides not to say anything about game refuges advocated by Belmore Browne.

20. Copy of the bill drafted by Riggs and sent to Sheldon.

- 20a. Sheldon, New York, to Riggs, Washington, D. C., January 15, 1916.

Suggests certain changes in the bill.

21. Riggs, Washington, D. C., to Sheldon, New York, January 17, 1916.

Acknowledges letter of January 15 and believes the suggested changes should be made.

22. Sheldon to Riggs, January 25, 1916.

Asking as to progress of the matter and promising to go to Washington with others when Riggs is ready for a conference.

23. Riggs to Sheldon, January 26, 1916.

"Will notify you."

24. Riggs to Sheldon, January 28, 1916.

Detail as to the bill. Memorandum from Browne acknowledging receipt of something.

25. Sheet of carbon copy which has something to do with boundaries of proposed park. Changes.

26. Sheldon to Riggs, January 29, 1916.

Approving changes.

27. Sheldon to Mather, Washington, D. C., February 8, 1916.

Urging meeting about the bill in Washington.

28. Mather to Sheldon, February 9, 1916.

Promises to arrange for a conference.

29. Sheldon to Mather, February 26, 1916.

Advises of his departure for Mexico in two or three days. States that it has been arranged to put the matter of the bill in the hands of John B. Burnham, and that he will organize people throughout the country in behalf of the bill.

30. Sheldon to Mather, March 25, 1916.

Has just returned. Speaks with enthusiasm of the limits of the proposed McKinley Park.

31. Mather to Sheldon, April 3, 1916.

Bill will soon be transmitted to Wickersham. Unable to suggest a Senator to introduce it. (Sheldon pencils note, "I advise Senator Pittman.")

32. Copy of bill introduced by Wickersham April 18, 1916, to establish the Mount McKinley National Park in the territory of Alaska.

33. Bill, S. 5716, introduced by Mr. Pittman April 22, 1916, same title.

34. "A Plea for Mount McKinley National Park", by Belmore Browne and R. S. Yard, published by the Campfire Club of America, Boone and Crockett Club, American Game Protective Association, 1916.

35. Hearings before a sub-committee of the Committee on Public Lands on bill introduced by Wickersham, held May 4, 1916.

36. Hearing before the Committee on Territories, United States Senate, on S. 5716, held May 5, 1916.

37. Sheldon to Mather, May 5, 1916.

Report of interviews with Senator Pittman and Wickersham; and expression of hope that bill establishing park may be passed even if not in perfect shape.

38. John B. Burnham, New York, to Sheldon, Woodstock, Vermont, June 2, 1916.

Report of trip to Washington; bill is being held up in House apparently because of friction between Wickersham and sub-committee over Lane's amendment.

- 38a. Sheldon to Mather, June 13, 1916.

Indirectly suggests withdrawal of Lane amendment to the bill. Suggests that McClintic be influenced to report bill without amendment.

39. H. M. Albright, Washington, D. C., to Sheldon, New York, June 15, 1916.

Mather absent; bill came up in Senate about two weeks ago; was objected to and failed.

40. McClintic, Washington, D. C., to Burnham, New York, June 28, 1916.

Letter as to progress of bill. This letter sent to Sheldon with letter 41.

41. Burnham, New York, to Sheldon, Vermont, July 7, 1916.

Detailed report of visit to Washington, telling of friction between Wickersham and Interior Department on account of amendment.

42. Burnham, New York, to Mather, Washington, D. C., July 7, 1916.

Letter which accompanied copy of Burnham's letter to Sheldon of July 7, sent to Mather.

43. Burnham to Sheldon, Vermont, July 21, 1916.

Enclosing letter from Mather's secretary, showing that Lane has withdrawn amendment.

44. Copy of letter from Mather's secretary to Burnham, July 20, 1916, as above, sent to Sheldon.



45. Wickersham, Washington, D. C., to Sheldon, Vermont, July 26, 1916.

Reference to Lane's delay in withdrawing amendment.

46. Congressional Record, September 8, 1916, pp. 16, 548-549 and p. 16,551. Discussion of bill amendments and final passage.
- 46a. Copy of S. 5716, 64th Congress, 2d Session, bill to establish Mount McKinley National Park.
47. Program of National Park Conference, January 26, 1917.

Sheldon spoke in the afternoon, and in the evening Stephen R. Capps delivered an illustrated lecture.

48. Mather to Sheldon, Washington, D. C., January 11, 1917.

Congratulations on his speeches and on his coming to Washington.

49. Sheets from National Geographic Magazine, January, 1917, illustrated article on proposed McKinley National Park by Stephen R. Capps, of the United States Geological Survey.
50. H. R. Report 1273, 64th Congress, 2d Session, January 10, 1917, by Mr. McClintic, on Senate Bill 5716.
51. Page 4134 of Congressional Record, February 20, 1917, concurrence of Senate with House amendments.
52. Act to establish Mount McKinley National Park, S. 5716, approved February 26, 1917.

## APPENDIX B

ORIGINAL ACT  
OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
ESTABLISHING MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK  
Signed by President Wilson, February 26, 1917\*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the tract of land in the Territory of Alaska particularly described by and included within the metes and bounds, to wit: Beginning at a point as shown on Plate III, reconnaissance map of the Mount McKinley region, Alaska, prepared in the Geological Survey, edition of nineteen hundred and eleven, said point being at the summit of a hill between two forks of the headwaters of the Toklat River, approximate latitude sixty-three degrees forty-seven minutes, longitude one hundred and fifty degrees twenty minutes; thence south six degrees twenty minutes west nineteen miles; thence south sixty-eight degrees west sixty miles; thence in a southeasterly direction approximately twenty-eight miles to the summit of Mount Russell; thence in a northeasterly direction approximately eighty-nine miles to a point twenty-five miles due south of a point due east of the point of beginning; thence due north twenty-five miles to said point; thence due west twenty-eight and one-half miles to the point of beginning, is hereby reserved and withdrawn from settlement, occupancy, or disposal under the laws of the United States, and said tract is dedicated and set apart as a public park for the benefit and enjoyment of the people, under the name of the Mount McKinley National Park. (U. S. C., title 16, sec. 347.)

Sec. 2. That nothing herein contained shall affect any valid existing claim, location, or entry under the land laws of the United States, whether for homestead, mineral, right of way, or any other purpose whatsoever, or shall affect the rights of any such claimant, locator, or entryman to the full use and enjoyment of his land. (U. S. C., title 16, Sec. 348.)

Sec. 3. That whenever consistent with the primary purposes of the park, the Act of February fifteenth, nineteen hundred and one, applicable to the location of rights of way in certain national parks and national forests for irrigation and other purposes, shall be and remain applicable to the lands included within the park. (U. S. C., title 16, Sec. 349.)

Sec. 4. Nothing in this Act shall in any way modify or affect the mineral land laws now applicable to the lands in the said park. (U. S. C., title 16, sec. 350.)

Sec. 5. That the said park shall be under the executive control of the Secretary of the Interior, and it shall be the duty of

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\*Minor amendments to this Act have occurred at several subsequent dates.

the said executive authority, as soon as practicable, to make and publish said rules and regulations not inconsistent with the laws of the United States as the said authority may deem necessary or proper for the care, protection, management, and improvement of the same, the said regulations being primarily aimed at the freest use of the said park for recreation purposes by the public and for the preservation of animals, birds, and fish and for the preservation of the natural curiosities and scenic beauties thereof. (U. S. C., title 16, sec. 351.)

Sec. 6. That the said park shall be, and is hereby, established as a game refuge, and no person shall kill any game in said park except under an order from the Secretary of the Interior for the protection of persons or to protect or prevent the extermination of other animals or birds; PROVIDED, That prospectors and miners engaged in prospecting or mining in said park may take and kill therein so much game or birds as may be needed for their actual necessities when short of food; but in no case shall animals or birds be killed in said park for sale or removal therefrom, or wantonly. (U. S. C., title 16, sec. 352.)

Sec. 7. That the said Secretary of the Interior may, in his discretion, execute leases to parcels of land not exceeding twenty acres in extent for periods not to exceed twenty years whenever such ground is necessary for the erection of establishments for the accomodation of visitors; may grant such other necessary privileges and concessions as he deems wise for the accomodation of visitors; and may likewise arrange for the removal of such mature or dead or down timber as he may deem necessary and advisable for the protection and improvement of the park; PROVIDED, That no appropriation for the maintenance of said park in excess of \$10,000 annually shall be made unless the same shall have first been expressly authorized by law. (U. S. C., title 16, sec. 353.)

Sec. 8. That any person found guilty of violating any of the provisions of this Act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be subjected to a fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both, and be adjudged to pay all costs of the proceedings. (U. S. C., title 16, sec. 354.)

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