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The History of Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park

Dale J. Strand

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THE HISTORY OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK

by

Dale J. Strand

B.S. in Education, Valley City State Teachers College 1957

A Thesis

Submitted to the Faculty

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1962

This thesis submitted by Dale J. Strand in Partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in the University of North Dakota, is hereby approved by the Committee under whom the work has been done.

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INTRODUCTION

While viewing the modern media of television, most of us have been exposed many times to the western movie. A favorite scene that the script writers seem to prefer is the eastern dude casually stepping from the train into the dusty little cow town. You might imagine a very similar scene as my story begins. The dude in my account is a very real individual, and my story is one that has had and will continue to have a tremendous effect upon the state of North Dakota.

During the same decade that North Dakota was destined to become a state, twenty-four year old Theodore Roosevelt, himself destined to be the most distinguished citizen who ever lived in North Dakota, dropped from the train into that dusty little cow town of Little Missouri. It was about three o'clock in the morning of September 7, 1883.¹

Young Roosevelt, acting upon the advice of his friends, had come to Little Missouri to hunt buffalo.² After a night at the Pyramid Park Hotel he made the acquaintance of Joe Ferris, who escorted him south about fifty miles to the Gregor Lang ranch at the mouth of Little Cannonball Creek. Roosevelt got his buffalo and developed an interest in the area that was to start him in the ranching business.³

On September 27, 1883,⁴ Roosevelt entered into an agreement

¹Hermann Hagedorn, Roosevelt in the Badlands (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1921), pp. 3-4.

²Little Missouri was located on the west bank of the Little Missouri River opposite the townsite of Medora.

³Hagedorn, p. 45.

⁴Ibid. p. 480.

with Sylvane Ferris and William Merrifield to place about four hundred cattle on the Chimney Butte Ranch at a cost of not more than \$12,000. This ranch, also called the Maltese Cross because of the brand he selected, is located in section 21, township 139, range 102,¹ on the east bank of the Little Missouri River about seven miles south of Medora.

Roosevelt decided that if the cattle wintered well, he would start another ranch. In the summer of 1884 he selected the site of his second ranch, which he named the Elkhorn after a pair of locked antlers he found nearby. The Elkhorn site is located on the Little Missouri River about thirty-five miles north of Medora on lots 2,3,6, and 7 of section 33, township 144, range 102.²

From 1884 to 1886 Roosevelt spent over half of every year with his ranching operations along the Little Missouri River.³ Roosevelt's letters tell much of his activities during this period, and from them one may conclude that he loved the Badlands and surely enjoyed living there. In 1884 he wrote to his friend Henry Cabot Lodge: "I heartily enjoy this life, with its perfect freedom, for I am very fond of hunting, and there are few sensations I prefer to that of galloping over these rolling, limitless prairies, rifle in hand, or winding my way among the

¹Letter of J. J. Eaton to William Lenke, October 25, 1945, in William Lenke Papers (University of North Dakota Library, Grand Forks, N. Dak.).

²Ibid.

³Hermann Hagedorn, Theodore Roosevelt in North Dakota (n.p., n.d.), p. 1. A booklet written for Minishoshe Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Hereafter cited as Hagedorn, Booklet.

barren, fantastic and grimly picturesque deserts of the so-called Bad Lands."¹

Roosevelt probably had less than average skill and ability as a cowhand. Ray H. Mattison, a National Park Service historian, has written: "Most of the old timers who knew him respected him for his willingness to work and do the tasks assigned him."² Roosevelt described the roundup this way:

I have been on the round-up for a fortnight, almost steadily. When we started, there were sixty men in the saddle who splashed across the shallow ford of the river; every one a bold rider, and every one on a good horse. It has been great fun; but hard work—fourteen to sixteen hours every day. Breakfast comes at three; and I am pretty sleepy, all the time.³

Roosevelt experienced excitement of a more dangerous nature too, such as his hunting trips to the Rocky Mountains and the capture of the thieves who stole his boat. He described the later incident like this:

I got the three horsethieves in fine style. My two Maine men [William W. Sewall and Wilnot S. Dow] and I ran down the river three days in our boat and then came on their camp by surprise. . . . We simply crept noiselessly up and rising when only a few yards distant covered them with the cocked rifles while I told them to throw up their hands. . . . I took the three captives overland a two days journey to a town [Dickinson]⁴ where I could give them to the Sheriff.⁵

Roosevelt's cattle business prospered until the winter of 1886-87 when

¹Theodore Roosevelt to Henry Cabot Lodge, August 24, 1884, in Elting Morison, ed., The Letters of Theodore Roosevelt (Cambridge, Mass., 1951), I, 80. Hereafter cited as E. Morison, Roosevelt Letters.

²Ray H. Mattison, "Roosevelt and the Stockmen's Association," North Dakota History, XVII (April, 1950), 177. Hereafter cited as Mattison, N.D.H.

³Theodore Roosevelt to Henry Cabot Lodge, June 7, 1886, in E. Morison, Roosevelt Letters, I, 102.

⁴Mattison, N.D.H., XVII, (April, 1950), p. 181.

⁵Theodore Roosevelt to Henry Cabot Lodge, April 16, 1886, in E. Morison, Roosevelt Letters, I, 98.

western North Dakota experienced one of the worst winters on record. It is estimated by many that he lost over 60 per cent of his herd.¹

After this tragedy and because of increased interest in politics, Roosevelt's association with the North Dakota Badlands declined. He did, however, spend some time there in the late summers and early autumns of 1887, 1888, 1890, 1893, and 1896.² Then with the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, he sold his cattle to Sylvane Ferris.

Politics soon completely dominated his life, and he returned in triumph to Medora as candidate for the vice-presidency in 1900 and as President in 1903.³ As President of the United States he established the policies of conservation that are still followed to this day. The knowledge that he gained in the Badlands on natural resources and conservation helped to shape the philosophy that he practiced as President. Roosevelt succeeded in establishing forest reservations in the Badlands and in withholding its enormous coal deposits from private exploitation.⁴ Under him the Forest Service was revived and enlarged; he also paved the way for the later organization of the National Park Service and the Soil Conservation Service.

Approximately two months before his death, he wrote on November

¹U.S., Department of the Interior, Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, National Park Service Publication (Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1959), p. 5.

²Ibid.

³Hagedorn, Booklet, p. 6.

⁴Lincoln A. Lang, Ranching With Roosevelt (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1926), p. 364.

8, 1918: "I have always said I would never have been President if it had not been for my experiences in North Dakota."¹ He boasted that North Dakota did much for him, and certainly he has repaid his debt. The simple fact that he lived in the state has meant millions of dollars to North Dakota in the past and will mean more and more as the years go by.

Now, a few decades later, the state has a memorial which commemorates Theodore Roosevelt's services. This memorial, dedicated to the conservation of natural resources, is appropriately found in the area that he lived in and loved so well. It is neither a bronze plaque nor a stone statue, but approximately seventy thousand acres of the beautiful land where he hunted, ranched, and vacationed.

Here is the story of the long, hard fight by the many individuals who created Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park as a tribute to the man for the enjoyment of all people and the economic betterment of North Dakota.

¹"Col. Theodore Roosevelt," North Dakotan, March, 1949, p. 1. This is the useful publication of the Greater North Dakota Association.

CHAPTER I

NORTH DAKOTA PARK SYSTEM

Brief History of Early Parks

The development of publicly owned parks is of relatively recent origin. The nobility of Egypt and Rome had their hunting preserves, but the practice of setting aside the open spaces for the use of all is one which came into being in the early nineteenth century. Most of the early parks and gardens in Europe were owned by the upper classes. Usually the common people were allowed to use these areas only on special occasions or when the owner happened to want greater support from the lower classes.¹

Changing ideas of city building first led to the introduction of parks for the poorer classes, but for a long time a park was regarded as a place for quiet and passive enjoyment. In the nineteenth century, because of increased urbanization and industrialization, the necessity of parks became greater. The new conception of parks as places for active enjoyment, sport, and recreation came about as a relief to workers confined for long hours in buildings with poor working conditions.

In the United States, however, the early colonists provided for public open spaces. The commons in New England were originally used for pasturing stock as well as market places and drill fields. Centers

¹"Parks," Encyclopedia Americana (1961 ed.), XXI, 331.

of community social life in the Southwest were the plazas that were introduced by the Spaniards, and in the South the parades and squares served the same purposes. The original public functions were gradually outgrown, but the open space idea was retained. The Boston Common, established in 1634, was the earliest development for outdoor recreation. With the growth of cities and the disappearance of adjoining woodlands, the value of reclaiming areas of open space within the cities was realized. As a result in New York City, we have Central Park with 843 acres in 1853; in Boston, Franklin Park with 527 acres in 1883; and in Philadelphia, Fairmont Park with 2,816 acres in 1867.¹

In the twentieth century the greater concentration of population brought a greater demand for such facilities. In addition, the automobile made possible the location of parks in places formerly inaccessible. Because of these and other less important reasons, the park system in the United States has enjoyed continued growth at almost all levels.

Development of North Dakota Parks

In 1904, while Theodore Roosevelt was serving his first term as President of the United States, the North Dakota park system had its beginnings. A recent arrival in the state at that time, Dr. Orin Grant Libby, may well be regarded as the founder of the state park system. He had left the University of Wisconsin in 1902 to become assistant professor of history at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.

¹Charles E. Doell and Gerald B. Fitzgerald, A Brief History of Parks and Recreation in the United States (Chicago: The Athletic Institute, 1954), p. 5; "Parks," Encyclopedia Americana (1961 ed.), XXI, 331; "The National Park System," Encyclopaedia Britannica (1959 ed.), XVI, 152.

In the following year, Dr. Libby helped to reorganize the North Dakota State Historical Society.¹

The system of state parks in North Dakota may be largely credited to the energy and foresight of Dr. Libby. As secretary of the State Historical Society for over forty years, he planned and directed the establishment of a number of state parks. They include Walhalla State Park, Fort Abercrombie State Park, Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, Fort Rice State Park, Pembina State Park, and Cavalier County State Park.²

On March 19, 1903, the North Dakota Legislative Assembly passed legislation authorizing the state park system. This law authorized the State Historical Society to acquire historic sites in North Dakota that were worthy of preservation for future generations. The sites included such areas as military posts, Indian battlegrounds, and camp sites of the Sully and Sibley expeditions in the state. All of the sites were to be controlled by the board of directors of the State Historical Society and governed by appointed local park boards.³

The first site secured in 1904 by the state was at Walhalla, North Dakota. It was a site believed to have been occupied by a branch fur trading post of Alexander Henry, the Younger, in 1801. It was also

¹Robert P. Wilkins, "Orin G. Libby: His Interest, Ideas, Opinions," North Dakota Quarterly, XXIV (Summer, 1956), 71.

²George F. Shafer, "Dr. Orin Grant Libby," North Dakota History, XIII (July, 1945), 108.

³Russell Reid, "The North Dakota State Park System," North Dakota Historical Quarterly, VIII (October, 1940), 138. Hereafter cited as Reid, N.D.Q.; N.D., Session Laws, 1903, c.15, sec. 1.

secured for the preservation of the Norman-Kittson trading post.¹ During the same year the State Historical Society, in cooperation with old settlers associations, acquired other historic sites that formed the nucleus of the present park system.

Wisely, the efforts of the State Historical Society centered first on the acquisition of the titles to the tracts of land. The first areas saved in the state were points of historical interest, with some recreational areas coming later.

By 1919 six state parks had been established, each located on some well-known historic spot.² The Walhalla State Park was located near the Pembina River on the outskirts of Walhalla. This spot is just a short distance from where Norman W. Kittson had located his trading post as far back as 1844. It has since been reclassified by the State Historical Society as a 5.88-acre historic site.³

Fort Abercrombie State Park was located on the site of the first Federal fort within what is now North Dakota. Built in 1858, the fort played a very important part in the Indian uprising of 1862. Serving as a gateway to Dakota, this beautiful tract on the bank of the Red River is also presently classified as a historic site and contains 21.95 acres.⁴

Another area in 1919 was the Pembina State Park, which was

¹Ibid.

²N. Dak., Secretary of State, Legislative Manual, 1919, p. 390.

³Report of State Historical Society on North Dakota State Parks and Historic Sites, September 22, 1960 (mimeographed), p. 2. Hereafter cited as Parks and Sites.

⁴Ibid.

located in the town of Pembina at the junction of the Red and Pembina rivers. It included the site of the first trading post in the state that was built in 1797 by Chaboillez.¹ In 1801 Alexander Henry established a fur trading post on this same site; and in 1863 Fort Pembina, the first Federal military post in this portion of the state, was established.² This area is now reclassified as a historic site and is 3.50 acres in size.³

The Cavalier County State Park was the newest state park in 1919 and is no longer a part of the state park system. It was located near O'Briens Coulee on the site of numerous battles fought between the buffalo hunters from Canada, the Chippewas and the French half-breeds, and their old enemies, the Dakotas.⁴

Fort Rice State Park was located thirty-five miles south of Bismarck at the site of old Fort Rice, which was built in 1864 by General Alfred Sully during his Indian campaign. It was the first Federal fort on the Missouri River within the present limits of North Dakota. For many years the fort protected steamboat navigation on the Upper Missouri and, of course, played an important part in the settlement of the region.⁵ This seven-acre tract is presently classified as a historic site.⁶

¹O. G. Libby, "North Dakota's State Park System," State Historical Society of North Dakota, Collections, VI (1920), 219-20. Hereafter cited as Libby, N.D.H.C.

²Ibid.

³Parks and Sites, p. 2.

⁴Libby, N.D.H.C., VI, p. 221.

⁵Ibid. p. 218.

⁶Parks and Sites, p. 2.

The largest of the state parks in 1919 and presently exceeded only by the International Peace Garden was Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park. The first 75-acre tract, located 4.5 miles south of Mandan, was acquired through a gift to the State Historical Society on March 2, 1907, by an Act of Congress.¹ The original deed was signed by President Theodore Roosevelt. The size of the park has since been increased to its present 740 acres.² About 315 acres were acquired through purchase, and the remainder was added due to the shifting eastward of the channel of the Missouri River.³ This park contains three important historic sites; a Mandan Indian earth-lodge village, Fort McKeen Infantry Post, and Fort Abraham Lincoln Cavalry Post.

In the thirty years between 1904 and 1934 most of the state's many valuable parks and historic sites were acquired, but little development could then be undertaken because of limited state funds. Appropriations for state parks were not included in the budget of the State Historical Society before 1921. There were, however, a few special appropriations for the development of specific parks. The state legislature provided \$500 in 1909⁴ and \$1,000 in 1913⁵ for the development of Fort Abercrombie State Park. The State Historical Society received \$1,250 for development of the parks at Pembina, Abercrombie, Walhalla,

¹Arnold O. Goplen, "The Historical Significance of Fort Lincoln State Park," North Dakota History, XIII (October, 1940), 213.

²Parks and Sites, p. 1.

³Goplen, loc. cit.

⁴N. D., Session Laws, 1909, C. 10, Sec. 1.

⁵N. D., Session Laws, 1913, C. 18, Sec. 1.

Fort Rice, and Fort Lincoln in 1919.¹ Other small amounts were occasionally provided. The budget of the State Historical Society included a specified amount starting in 1921. This amount, which was used mostly to buy historic sites, ranged from the low of \$500 for the 1927-28 biennium to the high of \$1,500 for both the 1921-22 and 1923-24 bienniums.²

In 1933 a representative of the National Park Service called on Dr. Russell Reid, superintendent of the State Historical Society at Bismarck, to see if the state could sponsor Civilian Conservation Corps camps. Dr. Reid submitted an application, and nine camps were authorized by the end of the following year. Six of these were to develop new or existing state parks and three to develop metropolitan park areas.³

Included among the state parks to receive camps were Fort Lincoln, Turtle River, Peace Garden, and three areas in the Badlands. These camps contributed tremendously to the development of North Dakota parks.⁴ Civilian Conservation Corps activity consisted of such things as building roads, cutting trails, constructing shelters and buildings, digging water supplies, and, in general, conditioning the areas so that they were suitable for public use.⁵ Specific activity of the Civilian Conservation Corps included the reconstructing of the block houses and palisades at Fort McKeen, and providing descriptive markers that tell the story of the two military posts.⁶ The workers built a lodge equipped

¹N. D., Session Laws, 1919, C. 52, Sec. 1.

²N. D., Session Laws, 1921-33.

³Interview with Dr. Russell Reid, superintendent of State Historical Society, Bismarck, N. Dak., August 16, 1961.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Reid, N.D.Q., VIII, October, 1940, p. 67.

with sleeping dormitories, recreational rooms, and administrative quarters at Lake Metigoshe State Park. This lodge, built to accommodate two hundred persons, is located near the Lake Metigoshe beach, which is provided with appropriate recreational facilities.¹ The Civilian Conservation Corps provided the International Peace Garden State Park with picnic facilities, cabins, a large meeting lodge, and an outdoor amphitheatre.² At Turtle River State Park the workers developed picnic areas, parking lots, roads, trails, shelters, and a recreational lodge. A bath house and an artificial lake, made by damming the Turtle River, provide adequate swimming for all.³ The Works Progress Administration developed the Fort Abercrombie Historic Site by restoring three block houses and the adjoining palisades. They also marked the sites of other buildings, erected signs, and built roads.⁴

Because of a shortage of funds, little could have been done toward developing state parks without the Federal assistance offered through the public works programs of the 1930's. Dr. Reid had this to say concerning state park development: "It can be truly said that the development of North Dakota state parks and historic sites really commenced with the establishment of the first CCC park camp assigned to the state."⁵

On March 7, 1935, an enabling act was passed by the North Dakota legislature that authorized the state to acquire land for park

¹Ibid. p. 68.

²Ibid. p. 67-68.

³Ibid. p. 70.

⁴Ibid. p. 74.

⁵Ibid. p. 64.

purposes.¹ This enabled the state to acquire land by purchase, exchange, gift, condemnation or otherwise for the purpose of establishing a public park, recreational area or wildlife conservation project.²

On March 14, 1935, the state legislature passed a law authorizing and directing the State Historical Society to appoint a State Parks Committee with the advice and consent of the Governor and appropriated \$10,000 for this purpose.³ Those appointed to the State Parks Committee who assumed all the duties that were performed by the State Historical Society were: Russell Reid, Orin G. Libby, Colonel Dana Wright, George F. Will, and Robert Byrne.⁴ This committee accomplished wonders and within five years had added sixteen new park areas which totaled 4,511 acres. In addition to this five existing park areas were enlarged by 411 acres.⁵

From 1919 to 1934 the state park system had greatly changed, and from 1934 to 1940 the state park system, partly because of the enabling act and partly because of the State Parks Committee, had increased five times in area. Areas classified as state parks in 1940 include the International Peace Garden State Park, which is located thirteen miles north of Dunseith. This park, situated on the

¹North Dakota State Park Committee cooperating with North Dakota State Planning Board National Park Service, The North Dakota Park and Recreational Area Plan, January, 1939 (mimeographed), p. 73. Hereafter cited as North Dakota Park Plan, January, 1939; N. D., Session Laws, 1935, C. 214, Sec. 1.

²Ibid.

³N. D., Session Laws, 1935, C. 216, Sec. 2.

⁴Reid, N.D.Q., VIII, January, 1940, p. 138.

⁵Ibid., p. 139.

longest unfortified international boundary in the world, contains 887 acres¹ of land in North Dakota and well over 2,000 acres in Manitoba. Its primary purpose is the development and maintenance of the International Peace Garden found within its borders.

Lake Metigoshe State Park is located fifteen miles north of Bottineau. This heavily wooded area of 727.7 acres² contains the largest and one of the most attractive lakes in the Turtle Mountains.

Six miles east of Larimore is the Turtle River State Park. This area, which was acquired in 1934, is quite heavily wooded and contains some of the finest picnic grounds in the state. Some of the higher beach lines of old Lake Agassiz can still be located in this 486.19-acre tract.³

Other areas that were classified as state parks by 1940 were the North and South Roosevelt Park (Although really under the control of the Federal government), which will be thoroughly discussed in a later chapter, and Fort Lincoln State Park.

In the twenty years from 1940 to 1960 some changes were made in the state park system. On September 22, 1960, North Dakota had six state parks.⁴ These included Fort Lincoln, International Peace Garden, Lake Metigoshe, Turtle River, and two new additions—Garrison Reservoir and Totten Trail. Garrison Reservoir State Park is a 661-acre tract located in Mercer County, and Totten Trail State Park contains 116 acres and is found in McLean County.⁵

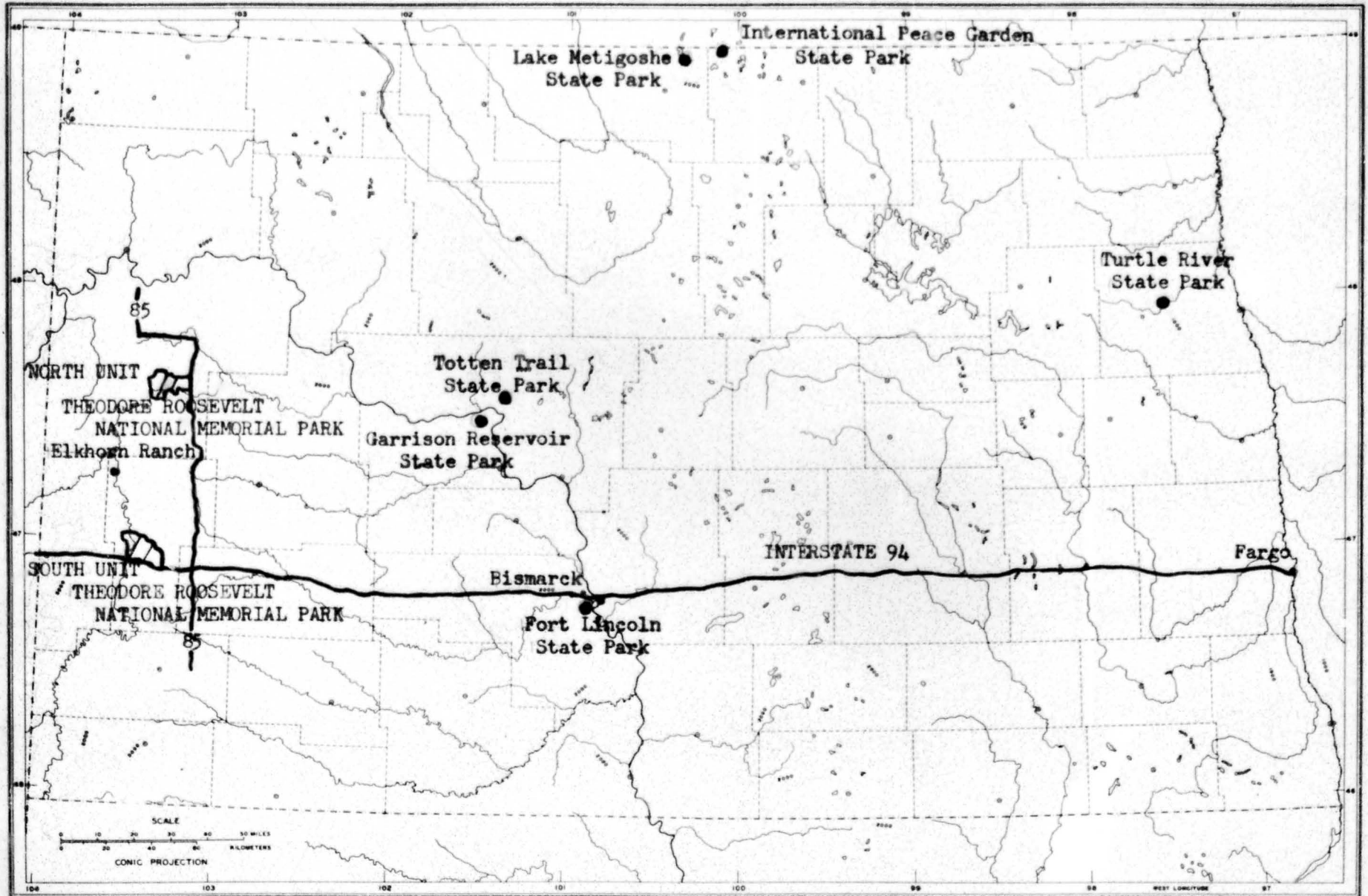
¹Parks and Sites, p. 1.

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Ibid.



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GOODE'S SERIES OF BASE MAPS
HENRY M. LEPPARD, EDITOR.

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Prepared by Henry M. Leppard
Published by the University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois
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FIGURE 1—NORTH DAKOTA PARKS

As of September 22, 1960, North Dakota had six recreational parks, forty-nine historic sites, and five archeological sites.¹

Most of the emphasis throughout the years has been placed on the acquisition of title to the areas under the state park system and not on their development. The main reason that more development has not been accomplished is the extremely low budget that the system has been handicapped with throughout the years. From 1935 to 1956 the budget for North Dakota state parks ranged from a low of \$750 for the first biennium to \$74,000 for the last. The increase began in 1939 when the legislature raised it from \$750 to \$10,500 per biennium.² This increase came because the Federal works projects in the state had proved to the people the worth of developing North Dakota parks. For the 1957-59 biennium the state-parks budget was \$80,000. This was increased, mainly through the efforts of the Greater North Dakota Association, in 1959-61 to \$172,000 and again in 1961-63 to \$282,200.³ Certainly this shows an improvement, but it is still far below what most other states appropriate for their park systems. Contrast this with the Fargo, North Dakota, Park Board annual budget for 1960-61 of \$310,000.⁴ Because of the influence of various groups throughout the state, such as the Greater North Dakota Association, the legislature

¹Ibid. pp. 1-3. Refer to the table at the end of work for a complete list.

²N. D., Session Laws, 1935-55.

³"Elliott Named Parks Director," North Dakotan, November, 1961, p. 16.

⁴"How to Build a Tourist Industry," North Dakotan, December, 1960, p. 1.

will probably be appropriating more for this purpose in the future.

The Greater North Dakota Association estimates that the tourist business is worth \$24 million annually to North Dakota.¹ The system of state parks, recreational parks, historic sites, and archaeological sites, as well as one national park, Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, are certainly big reasons for the addition of this wealth to the North Dakota economy.

¹Ibid. p. 8.

CHAPTER II

THE FIRST YEARS OF STRUGGLE

Organisation and Battle of 1920's

Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park is the key area in a \$24-million industry. The park, although in close association with the state park system, is actually a part of the national park system. The system began in 1872 when the United States Congress established Yellowstone National Park "as a pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people."¹ Before the century was over, four more national parks had been established, and others followed in the early 1900's. The first parks established were mostly of the scenic-wilderness type.²

In 1906 an important development in the growth of the national park system occurred when Congress enacted the Antiquities Act. This act gave the President power to establish as national monuments areas containing historic, prehistoric, or scientific objects.³ Because of growth and expansion of the national park system, there arose a need for a Federal agency to co-ordinate the activities of the various parks. As a result, Congress created the National Park Service on August 25, 1916.⁴

¹"The National Park System," Encyclopaedia Britannica (1959 ed.), XVI, 152.

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Ibid. See table 2 at end of work for complete list of parks.

During the early 1920's a few individuals, upon seeing the effects that already created national parks were having upon the economic well-being of other states, banded together to promote the area of the Badlands as a future park site. These men believed that North Dakota was entitled to a national park, and, since noted European geographers had said in 1912 that the Badlands contained the most unique scenery in America, this was the area that they chose to promote.¹

On a Thursday evening August 7, 1924, the Roosevelt Memorial Park Association was organized in the dining room of Carl B. Olsen's Peaceful Valley Ranch, five miles north of Medora.² This organization meeting came at the end of a tour of the Badlands by over forty interested men of North Dakota and Minnesota. These included representatives of the Twin City newspapers, high officials of the Soo, Northern Pacific, and Milwaukee railways and many others who were anxious for the creation of the park because of the tourist business it would bring into the state.³

The officers, elected the following morning in Medora, were W. F. Cushing, Beach, president; Dr. A. H. Yoder, Grand Forks, vice-president; E. E. Fredeen, Ryder, secretary; B. A. Dickinson, Minot, treasurer; and the following board of directors: Dr. A. H. Yoder, E. E. Fredeen, Carl B. Olsen, Walter J. Johnson, Walter Black, B. A. Dickinson, and W. F. Cushing.⁴

¹Albert H. Yoder, "The Proposed Roosevelt Memorial Park," Quarterly Journal of the University of North Dakota, XV (November, 1924), 46.

²Beach Advance (Beach, N. Dak.), August 14, 1924. Hereafter cited as Advance.

³Ibid.

⁴Ibid.

In Bismarck on September 1, 1924, Governor R. A. Nestos appointed the directors of the association as members of the Roosevelt Park Commission.¹ At the same time, Nestos appointed fifty-three prominent citizens, one in each county, as members of an advisory committee, with the following members at large: Dr. E. H. Stickney, chairman, Dickinson; P. S. Williams, secretary of the Minneapolis Civic and Commercial Association; Ray G. Hilton, St. Paul; A. B. Smith, Northern Pacific Railroad, St. Paul; H. B. Early, Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad, Seattle; and H. M. Lewis, Soo Railroad, Minneapolis.²

In addition those appointed to an honorary commission were the widow and children of Theodore Roosevelt, as well as others: Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Sr., Oyster Bay, New York; Mrs. Alice Roosevelt Longworth, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Douglas Robinson, New York City; Hermann Hagedorn, Montclair, New Jersey; Dr. Henry Waldo Coe, Portland, Oregon; and Major General Hugh H. Scott, Princeton, New Jersey.³

The Roosevelt Memorial Park Association began their organized effort and soon found that they were handicapped by a lack of funds. It was for this reason that they sold memberships in the association for one dollar each.⁴

¹University of North Dakota News Letter (Grand Forks, N. Dak.), October 22, 1924.

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Advance, December 4, 1924.

The association decided to send its president, Editor Walter F. Cushing of Beach, to Washington to promote the park project. On January 16, 1925, Editor Cushing arrived in Washington after spending the previous day in New York discussing the project with the head of the Roosevelt Memorial Association, Hermann Hagedorn.¹

Editor Cushing spent about ten days in Washington enlisting the aid of many influential people, Congressmen, and the like. He used the press to help publicize the Badlands and got the assistance of Senator Lynn Frazier who felt that the bill could eventually be pushed through Congress.²

Editor Cushing returned to North Dakota convinced that the park would eventually become a reality. Knowing that it would be a hard task and would take many months he said:

Congressmen Sinclair and Burtness, who, together with Congressman Hall and Senator Frazier, are taking a lively interest in the matter and have pledged their earnest efforts to get the bill through Congress.³

The prospects for the park in the Bad Lands is not at all bad, in fact it is very good in the next session, there being as much chance of such legislation going through this session as a snowball would have of passing through Hades unscathed, for nothing gets by between now and March 6th but the bigger things, and many of these will fall by the wayside in the scramble.⁴

Promotion of the proposed Roosevelt Park continued, and on Sunday, June 14, 1925, a tour party of ninety started on an extensive trip through the Badlands. This expedition included Raymond H. Torrey,

¹Advance, January 22, 1925.

²Advance, January 29, 1925.

³Advance, January 29, 1925.

⁴Advance, January 29, 1925.

field secretary of the National Conference on State Parks, who came to view the territory at the request of the National Park Service.¹

During the summer of 1925 at a meeting held in Dickinson, the directors of the Roosevelt National Park Association decided to merge with the larger Greater North Dakota Association.² The Greater North Dakota Association, which had held its inaugural meeting a little more than a year before this on May 15, 1924,³ was to carry on the long, hard fight to the objective which was to come nearly a quarter of a century later.

Members of the new park committee under the Greater North Dakota Association were T. A. Tollefson, Dickinson; W. F. Cushing, Beach; A. H. Yoder, Grand Forks; and C. B. Olsen, Medora.⁴ Other members of the park committee during the same year were E. E. Fredeen of Ryder and C. E. Danielson of Minot.⁵

"An aggressive campaign" to have Congress establish a national park was planned and formally launched in Bismarck on November 18, 1925.⁶ Within four days Walter F. Cushing, chairman of the park committee, was again on his way to Washington with one hundred large, tinted pictures of the Badlands area. He felt that the pictures would certainly appeal to the Congressmen.⁷

¹Advance, June 18, 1925.

²Advance, August 20, 1925.

³Advance, May 23, 1924.

⁴Advance, August 20, 1925.

⁵"National Park in Bad Lands is Aim of Park Committee," North Dakotan, December, 1925, p. 2.

⁶Ibid. p. 1.

⁷Advance, December 3, 1925.

Cushing returned to North Dakota on December 22, confident that the project would eventually be a success. Cushing stated at that time: "It is a tremendous job to get any measure through Congress, even though it has no opposition, so we are not going to get this park this year, and maybe not for three or four years, but in the end I am confident we will win out, but it will be a monumental job for all concerned."¹

During 1926 Congressman J. H. Sinclair again worked in Washington to promote his bill on the park, but he was met with constant opposition. The national park sentiment in Congress was subsiding and the shift was toward state-owned parks instead of national. Editor Cushing stated: "Park propositions have gradually drifted toward state ownership, many organizations interested in outdoor recreation believing this to be the best solution of the park problem, and this sentiment is gradually possessing Congress."²

The consensus of Governor A. G. Sorlie and officers of the Greater North Dakota Association came to be that this was the solution. It was the one recommended by Raymond Torrey of Washington, D. C., field secretary of the National Conference of State Parks.³

Still, North Dakota Congressmen, led by James H. Sinclair, continued their efforts for action in Washington. Finally the Senate authorized a subcommittee, headed by Senator Gerald P. Nye, to inspect the proposed park area in North Dakota on July 13, 14, and 15, 1928.

¹Advance, December 24, 1925.

²Advance, July 7, 1927.

³Ibid.

Stephen T. Mather, director of national parks, accompanied the party. After the inspection it was generally agreed that prospects were good for the park.¹

The park proposal as presented in 1928 by Representative Sinclair and Senator Nye consisted of 640,000 acres along the Little Missouri River. It was a strip of country twelve to fourteen miles wide extending about ninety miles from Marmarth to about sixteen miles south of Watford City. In addition to the establishment of the park, the bill asked for an appropriation of \$1 million to develop the area.²

While the North Dakota Congressmen were working with the bill in Washington, the Greater North Dakota Association in 1929 hired Phelps Wyman, nationally known landscape architect, to survey the Badlands area and to indicate which portions were the most suitable for a park.³ Wyman, considered an authority on charting out parks, was guided through what is known as the Grand Canyon by E. E. Freedom of Ryder. Walter F. Cushing of Beach directed him from Medora north along the Little Missouri River, and Mart J. Connolly, editor of the New England Herald and a director of the Greater North Dakota Association, guided him from Medora south to Marmarth.⁴ After his study, Wyman made the following recommendations:

1. Acquisition of the river chasm and its entering coulees where they formed a continuous block of better scenery.
2. A independent encircling highway built as near the river

¹Advance, July 19, 1928.

²"Proposed Roosevelt National Park," North Dakotan, August 1, 1928, p. 3.

³Advance, October 17, 1929.

⁴Ibid.

as was feasible, coming inside the park where possible but more often passing outside through the decorated meadows.

3. To establish hotel and recreation centers at suitable points within the park at termini of branches of the circuit drive, and to connect them by horseback and pedestrian trails.

4. The restoration of much of the wild life.

5. Legislation to permit a zoning of the counties affected.¹

These recommendations, because of the changes of the times, are not all practical at this day, but over the years they have been partially followed. The Civilian Conservation Corps developed the area during the 1930's, the National Park Service restored some of the wildlife in the 1950's, and the Medora Restoration Commission is planning the development of suitable hotel and motel accommodations.

The United States and its economy was rapidly changing; the enthusiasm of the promoters seemed to be dying; the Congressional bills on the park continued to meet defeat. The great change in the economy of the country, brought on by the depression and World War II, was probably the main reason why plans for Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park received a temporary postponement. The next time, however, that the embers in Congress were rekindled, the dreams of so many years became reality.

Development of Badlands in 1930's

During the 1930's there was a shift in emphasis concerning the Badlands. Rather than continued efforts in Congress, the emphasis was put on the development of the area.

¹Phelps Wyman, "A Preliminary Park Study of the Bad Lands of Western North Dakota," Landscape Architecture, XX (April, 1930), 184-85.

Through application by Dr. Russell Reid, superintendent of the State Historical Society, North Dakota was able to secure nine Civilian Conservation Corps camps. Three of these went to the Badlands, one to Medora and two to Watford City.¹ During the fall of 1934, five of these camps, which contained about two hundred enrollees each, were made permanent installations. The three camps in the Theodore Roosevelt Park area were included among these five.²

The Civilian Conservation Corps actually began work in the Badlands on August 20, 1934, at 7:20 A. M. when five hundred workers set up camp at the site of Grand Canyon near the Little Missouri River.³ The North Dakotan described the scene:

The cluster of 74 canvas homes is located at the east entrance to the area.

Arriving at Watford City by train the CCC workers loaded their baggage into 16 shining new trucks and carefully picked their way to the campsite.

Activity is intense to complete adequate winter quarters, which will include 31 frame buildings, permitting year-round residence and work on the park grounds.⁴

Since the State Historical Society sponsored the camps, they had to acquire land in the Badlands. Through the Band of North Dakota Russell Reid, responsible state officer, was able to borrow \$30,000 for the purchase of three sections in the Badlands⁵ and small tracts at Fort

¹Reid, N.D.Q., VIII, October, 1940, p. 64.

²Ibid.

³"Creation of Roosevelt Park in Badlands Under Way by 500 CCC Workers," North Dakotan, September, 1934, p. 4.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Interview with Reid, Bismarck, August 16, 1961.

Lincoln and Turtle River. In 1935, the legislature appropriated \$28,000 to repay the Bank of North Dakota.¹ These areas provided work for the Civilian Conservation Corps until the Federal land purchase programs were completed.²

Before it was acquired by the Federal government, the state of North Dakota owned much of the land that was developed in the Badlands by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The state received 42,000 acres, known as state school lands, from the Federal government under the Enabling Acts of February 22, 1889. The state also bought additional land in the Badlands when the legislature appropriated \$200,000 for this purpose on March 12, 1929. The land was purchased with this appropriation so it would be readily available in event the Federal government decided to establish a park in the area.³

The Civilian Conservation Corps worked throughout most of the remainder of the 1930's in the Badlands, building shelters for picnic purposes, providing water supplies, grading roads and trails, marking points of historical interest, and constructing buildings in various areas, such as those at Peaceful Valley Ranch.⁴ The camps in the Badlands were recreational demonstration projects. In short, they were to demonstrate what could be done to develop a recreational area. By

¹N. D., Session Laws, 1935, C. 34, Sec. 1.

²Reid, N.D.Q., VIII, October, 1940, p. 69.

³N. D., Session Laws, 1929, C. 213, Sec. 4.

⁴Interview with Nathaniel R. Lacy, Chief Ranger at Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, Medora, N. Dak., August 15, 1961.

the spring of 1938, much of the area was acquired by the Federal Resettlement Administration, working in cooperation with the National Park Service and the State Parks Committee.¹ The retirement of sub-marginal land, the allocation of the land to a more appropriate use, and the demonstration of its worth to the community if managed for other than farm use were the reasons for the acquisitions.

The Roosevelt Recreational Demonstration Area, which consisted of 94,000 acres,² remained a recreational demonstration project until 1946, when it was transferred to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.³ The transfer was ordered by President Harry S. Truman upon the recommendation of acting Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman. At that time Chapman stated that the area would be administered as an upland game refuge, but the trails, picnic areas, and campground facilities, that had been developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps, would continue to be available for public use.⁴

¹North Dakota Park Plan, January, 1939, p. 80.

²William Lenke to H. F. Proehl, December 18, 1945.

³Interview with Reid, Bismarck, August 16, 1961.

⁴"Fish and Wildlife Service Takes Over Badlands Park Area," North Dakotan, April, 1946, p. 7.

CHAPTER III

THE DREAM BECOMES REALITY

William Lemke's Fight Through Congress

Being well aware of the fact that the state was unable to bear the financial burden of developing and maintaining the Badlands park, the leaders of the Greater North Dakota Association and the State Historical Society continued to promote the idea that the area should be made a national park.¹ During the 1930's and early 1940's, when efforts towards the establishment of the park had all but ceased, the Greater North Dakota Association kept the idea alive with periodic articles in the North Dakotan on the Badlands and numerous films and slides on North Dakota that were distributed to interested organizations in the state and even outside the state. The National Park Service, however, wanted the area to be established as a state park.²

Congressman William Lemke was certainly aware that there was interest in the area, and, as a member of the Public Lands Committee in the House of Representatives, he took a tour of the Badlands during the summer of 1944. Lemke was impressed by the effect that the area had upon the committee chairman, J. Hardin Peterson of Florida. Peterson

¹"Government To Build Dude Ranch at Medora," North Dakotan, June, 1940, p. 6; Reid, N.D.Q., VIII, October, 1940, p. 69.

²Interview with Reid, Bismarck, August 16, 1961.

had viewed most of the national parks in the country, and, because of the awe expressed by him, Lemke concluded that North Dakota had missed a chance for national recognition.¹ Lemke was also concerned over the sub-marginal lands in the Badlands. He felt that the situation was extremely difficult for the local farmers and should be remedied. In a letter to B. E. Groom of the Greater North Dakota Association Lemke stated:

Under the condition that they would be resettled and get a better and more permanent home, some of the farmers signed the option. However, they were never resettled, but were kicked and are being kicked out of their homes.

You have this situation. On one side of the road is a farmer who refused to sign the option and who now has received four good crops, averaging 30 to 35 bushels to the acre. On the other side is the poor devil who gave an option and who they promised to resettle, but whom they are now trying to evict, even though he is willing to pay the mortgaged indebtedness and save his home. The government says that the government agent that promised resettlement had no such authority. Well when a farmer cannot believe a government agent what is this nation coming to?

Our committee has had no jurisdiction over the case but we shall make some recommendations to the committee on agriculture, But as far as the park is concerned our committee has jurisdiction and when Congress is again open for business it will receive our consideration.²

In the fall of 1944, Lemke wrote the bill that he would introduce at the next session of Congress. He enlisted the aid of Dr. Russell Reid, J. J. Eaton, postmaster at Madora, and other old-time backers in

¹Edward C. Blackorby, "Prairie Rebel; The Public Career of William Lemke" (unpublished Ph. D. dissertation, University of North Dakota, 1958), p. 601.

²William Lemke to B. E. Groom as quoted in "Lemke for Roosevelt National Monument in North Dakota Badlands," North Dakotan, September, 1944, p. 5.

favor of the national park.¹

Lemke introduced the bill to establish Theodore Roosevelt National Park (H. R. 1441) on January 15, 1945.² Because the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service had offered to take over both the area near Medora and the area near Watford City, there were those who opposed the Congressman's bill. In fact, the Medora Chamber of Commerce went on record as wanting Lemke to withdraw the bill so it would not hinder any action to be taken by the Fish and Wildlife Service.³ Not discouraged in the least, he went ahead with his plans and gathered additional support along the way.

Sentiment in the proposed park area was shifting in Lemke's favor. A meeting was held in Medora in September, 1945, at which a representative of the Wildlife Service and Lemke appeared. Those at the meeting were practically unanimous for a national park and not for a game preserve. It was suggested, however, that the boundaries be changed and some land be added.⁴ In an effort to correct the shortcomings of the first bill, Lemke returned to Washington and wrote a new bill (H. R. 4435) which he substituted for H. R. 1441 on October 18, 1945.⁵

The Roosevelt Recreation Area consisted of 94,000 acres, but Lemke included only 36,000 acres in his bill. His idea at one time

¹J. J. Eaton to William Lemke, August 18, 1945.

²U. S., Congressional Record, 79th Cong., 1st Sess., 1945, Vol. 91, Pt. 1, p. 268.

³Ann M. Brown to William Lemke, May 10, 1945.

⁴William Lemke to A. E. Demaray, September 27, 1945.

⁵U. S., Congressional Record, 79th Cong., 1st Sess., 1945, Vol. 91, Pt. 7, p. 9821.

was to give the balance to the returning veterans of World War II.¹ The area that was included in the bill was located north of U. S. Highway 10 near Medora. The bill did not include any of the territory located near Watford City; however, it did call for the building of a monument at Medora at a cost not to exceed \$35,000.²

Lenke worked almost singlehandedly to establish the park. He was, however, looking for some assistance from the various Roosevelt organizations, especially to get the bill through the Senate. In addition, he wrote others to request that they bring pressure on any individuals that might help the cause.³

A possible snag was encountered in March, 1946, when the area was transferred to the control of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Some thought this meant the end of the project, but as Lenke said: "It is still in the hands of the Secretary of the Department of Interior and simply means it goes from the left hand to the right hand in that department."⁴

Lenke was having some difficulty with the House Rules Committee. Each time his bill came up, some member of the Committee rose and requested that the bill be passed over. Lenke finally asked Adolph Sabath, chairman of the House Rules Committee, for a decision that

¹William Lenke to H. F. Proehl, December 18, 1945.

²"Bill Introduced For Roosevelt National Park in Badlands," North Dakotan, December, 1945, p. 1.

³William Lenke to Edward A. Rumely, March 11, 1946.

⁴William Lenke to Hugh D. McGarvey, March 28, 1946.

would permit the bill to come to the floor of the House.¹ This request brought results, and within a month, on June 17, 1946, H. R. 4435 passed the House of Representatives.²

Now that he had conquered the House, he was faced with the problem of lobbying it through the Senate. Both North Dakota Senators, Langer and Young, were back in the state faced with political battles; so Lemke would have to repeat his performance in the Senate.³ He was over on the Senate side the following month when on July 30, 1946,⁴ the bill unanimously passed the Senate, just as it had the House.⁵

H. R. 4435 was sent to President Harry S. Truman to be signed into law. Much to the surprise and disappointment of William Lemke, the President used the pocket veto to kill the bill.⁶

The men in the administrative departments of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service had blocked his accomplishment. They had been able to convince the President that he should veto the bill for the following reasons which were made public on August 9, 1946: (1) the area did not possess natural features or scenic qualities that are outstanding enough; (2) the area had no direct historical association

¹William Lemke to Adolph Sabath, May 21, 1946.

²U. S., Congressional Record, 79th Cong., 2d Sess., 1946, Vol. 92, Pt. 6, p. 7019.

³William Lemke to Ann Brown, August 1, 1946.

⁴U. S., Congressional Record, 79th Cong., 2d Sess., 1946, Vol. 92, Pt. 8, p. 10446.

⁵William Lemke to Ann Brown, August 1, 1946.

⁶U. S., Congressional Record, 79th Cong., 2d Sess., 1946, Vol. 92, Pt. 8, p. 10791.

with Theodore Roosevelt because neither the Maltese Cross Ranch nor the Elkhorn Ranch were included in the proposed tract; (3) the land is best fitted for use as a wildlife protection and management area and not of national park caliber; and (4) the land titles were to be examined by the Department of Interior rather than by the Attorney General to determine their validity. He said that this last provision alone would have been sufficient for him to disapprove the measure.¹

As Lemke had proved many times before in his career, he was not one to become discouraged and give up. He rewrote the bill, revising it to counteract the President's criticisms, and introduced H. R. 731 at the next session on January 9, 1947.² The major revision that he made in the bill was for the inclusion of the Roosevelt Elkhorn Ranch with provisions for the reconstruction of the log buildings on the site.³

Although Lemke alone was doing the work in the Capitol, he did have many faithful supporters back in North Dakota. Dr. Russell Reid was elated to hear that he had introduced a new bill and stated that he was willing to assist in any way possible.⁴

Armed with pictures of the Elkhorn Ranch area and strengthened with his usual determination,⁵ Lemke was confident that he would once

¹Ibid., pp. 10791-92.

²U. S., Congressional Record, 80th Cong., 1st Sess., 1947, Vol. 93, Pt. 1, p. 209.

³New York Times, February 7, 1947.

⁴Russell Reid to William Lemke, February 5, 1947.

⁵William Lemke to Harry Roberts, February 21, 1947.

again be able to put his bill through Congress.

When the first bill was introduced in 1945, there were many in the National Park Service that were quite cool toward the idea because they were not ready to add additional areas; however, now their support seemed to be in favor of a Great Plains National Park. The Park Service felt that it would be very desirable in connection with people going to Yellowstone Park from the East and to the Great Lakes from the West.¹ Some members of the House expressed concern for the additional expense if the National Park Service were to take on another area. Lemke, assuring them that he was actually saving the government money, replied: "Mr. Speaker, I will answer that there is no expenditure required in connection with this bill for this year because the budget has already been completed; and further, if the present land remains under the Wildlife Service it will cost more than to create this national monument to a great statesman."² With support shifting in his favor, Lemke was able to lobby the bill through with seemingly little difficulty, and on March 3, 1947, it was approved by the House of Representatives.³ Back to the Senate he went and at this time the word "memorial" was amended to the title of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The National Park Service suggested that the word be added to separate it from other national parks.⁴ The word suggests that a good part of its reason for

¹U. S., Congressional Record, 80th Cong., 1st Sess., 1947, Vol. 93, Pt. 2, p. 1624.

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Interview with Reid, Bismarck, August 16, 1961.

being is that it is memorializing Theodore Roosevelt.¹ It was felt by some that since the word "memorial" would put it into a special class from other national parks it would serve to degrade it. Lemke said that this would place it in a class by itself; but it would suggest that it means something more, not less, than a national park in the ordinary usage.²

H. R. 731 was amended and passed the Senate on April 7, 1947.³ Now there was but one obstacle in the way, the President. He offered no problem as he had with the first bill, and on April 25, 1947, the dreams of so many became a reality when President Truman approved the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park as Public Law Number 38.⁴ Although many individuals had worked for years on the establishment of the park, it was generally recognized that Lemke was responsible for an almost single-handed effort on the enactment of the law.⁵

Lemke was not finished with the project yet; because, at the second session of Congress in 1948, he introduced two more bills (H. R. 5587 and H. R. 5816) which approximately doubled the size of the park. The first bill, for the creation of a North Unit of twenty-five thousand acres near Watford City, was introduced on February 26,⁶ while

¹Interview with Lacy, Medora, August 15, 1961.

²Minot Daily News, June 4, 1949.

³U. S., Congressional Record, 80th Cong., 1st Sess., 1947, Vol. 93, Pt. 3, p. 3143.

⁴Ibid., Pt. 4, p. 5275.

⁵"Truman Signs Bill for Roosevelt Park in N. D. Badlands," North Dakotan, May, 1947, p. 1.

⁶U. S., Congressional Record, 80th Cong., 2d Sess., 1948, Vol. 94, Pt. 2, p. 1815.

the second, which added ten thousand acres to the South Unit, came on March 11.¹

Lenke seemed to encounter little difficulty with the two bills, and on June 10, 1948, H. R. 5816 became Public Law Number 620,² followed two days later by H. R. 5587, which was titled Public Law Number 631.³

Congressman William Lenke had set the scene, the National Park Service had moved into the area on August 13, 1947,⁴ and the Greater North Dakota Association was busy planning for the long-awaited dedication ceremonies.

Park Dedication, June 4, 1949

Plans for the formal dedication were suggested and headed by W. L. Gardner of New England, state director of the Greater North Dakota Association.⁵ Originally it had been planned to hold the dedication in 1948, but a combination of circumstances prevented this. Two bills were pending during part of the year affecting the park, the park staff was not yet complete, and other organizational work was still incomplete.⁶

Gardner had the able assistance of Allyn Hanks, park superintendent; James E. Connolly, manager of the Dickinson Chamber of

¹Ibid., p. 2607.

²Ibid., Pt. 7, p. 8944.

³Ibid.

⁴New York Times, August 14, 1947.

⁵"Planning Park Dedication," North Dakotan, July, 1948, p. 4.

⁶"Roosevelt Park Dedication to be at Medora in 1949," North Dakotan, April, 1948, p. 3.

Commerce; F. L. Whitney, Greater North Dakota Association director; Leroy Pease, secretary of the Greater North Dakota Association; and Mart J. Connolly, assistant secretary of the Greater North Dakota Association.¹ Gardner also appointed a fifteen-man state steering committee to help formulate and direct plans for the park dedication, which was set for June 4, 1949.²

Plans continued with a goal of one hundred thousand guests set for the dedication ceremonies.³ Leske led a special Congressional group who called at the White House on February 17 and personally presented President Truman with an invitation to the ceremonies.⁴ Thirty-foot highway signs in attractive colors were erected in strategic spots throughout the state to advertise the dedication. Activity was evident at the park, too, where Ray H. Mattison was busy securing life stories of the old timers of the region, some of whom personally knew Theodore Roosevelt, to make a part of the park records.

Elwyn A. Nellis of Bismarck was also busy preparing a pageant for the day of the dedication. The pageant was to be presented in a somewhat different style. Instead of the action taking place at some fixed location, it was presented in eleven separate scenes along the scoria-surfaced highway that the visitors used to travel through the park. As one drove through the park one could view a panorama of

¹Ibid.

²New York Times, February 18, 1949.

³"Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park to be Dedicated," North Dakotan, February 1949, p. 1.

⁴New York Times, February 18, 1949.

history unfold in the scenes of the pageant.

Scene I—The Indians. Forty Indians of the Sioux nation from Standing Rock Reservation depicted a village scene before the coming of the white man.

Scene II—La Verendrye. The Boy Scouts from Glen Ullin presented a scene in the Badlands camp of the first white man to explore what is now North Dakota.

Scene III—Trappers. A community group from Sidney, Montana, presented a group of early trappers and traders at their annual rendezvous.

Scene IV—General Alfred H. Sully. A reproduced battle scene showed General Sully and his troops fighting Indians on their way through the Badlands.

Scene V—General George A. Custer. General Armstrong Custer III enacted the role of General George Custer on his way to the Little Big Horn.

Scene VI—The Roosevelt Cabin in the Badlands. Performing before a replica of the Maltese Cross Ranch House, Lyle Delaney of Dickinson College enacted the role of Theodore Roosevelt, rancher in the Badlands.

Scene VII—The Ranchers. The Watford City Cowboy Band showed a sample of Western justice as administered to a horse thief.

Scene VIII—The Railroad. Dickinson State Teachers College students depicted a surveying crew preparing the way for the Northern Pacific.

Scene IX—The Stagecoach. Members of the Beach Junior Chamber

of Commerce re-established the Medora-Deadwood stage line of the Marquis De Mores.

Scene X--The Homesteader. This scene by a Belfield community group showed the individual who came to squat and fence the land.

Scene XI--Peace. This final scene was symbolic of Theodore Roosevelt. It showed Kitty Page of Fargo, Miss North Dakota, with Roosevelt's famous slogan: "Speak softly and carry a big stick."¹

The program for the dedication ceremonies was ready as the warm, sunny² day of Saturday, June 4, 1949, dawned over the Badlands. Julius R. Krug, Secretary of the Interior, who received the park in the name of the United States, was the main performer; but in a sense all of the men that had worked for this over the past quarter century were on parade through the Badlands that day. Some were there in body, but many, such as Walter F. Cushing, were there in the thoughts of many of those present.³

Among the most distinguished notables at the hour and a half dedication ceremonies were: Representatives William Lemke, North Dakota; Walter Baring, Nevada; Compton White, Idaho; and Fred Crawford, Michigan.⁴ Other guests included: Senators Milton Young of North Dakota and Willis Robertson of Virginia; Newton B. Drury, director of the National Park

¹"Mammoth Crowd Attends Park Dedication at Medora on June 4," North Dakotan, June, 1949, p. 1. Hereafter cited as "Park Dedication," North Dakotan; Greater North Dakota Association, Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park Dedication June 4, 1949 Fargo, unpag.

²Valley City Times Record, June 6, 1949.

³"Park Dedication," North Dakotan, p. 1.

⁴Ibid. p. 4.

Service; Conrad L. Wirth, Department of the Interior; Conrad Skinner, director of information of the National Park Service; and Fred Aandahl, governor of North Dakota.¹

The crowd in the Badlands on that day was tremendous. The North Dakota Highway Patrol estimated that there were fifteen thousand cars in the area.² Secretary Krug declared that the crowd was the largest ever to attend a dedication of a national park. More than one hundred acres of land was covered with parked cars at the dedication site on the edge of Painted Canyon.³ Attendance estimates vary from twenty to sixty thousand people. It was certainly the largest crowd ever assembled to witness any event in the history of North Dakota.⁴

As Secretary of the Interior Julius A. Krug was accepting Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park "with the hope that the area we are now dedicating will be forever a source of enjoyment, education and inspiration",⁵ he was being heard nationwide on radio over the National Broadcasting Company. This half-hour national broadcast is reported to be the longest nationwide broadcast ever to have originated in North Dakota.⁶ A network of Northwest stations carried the entire hour-and-one-half ceremony with the last half hour going nationwide.

Every daily newspaper in the state gave excellent coverage, with the Fargo Forum sending pictures via its portable wirephoto to

¹Ibid.

²Ibid. p. 1.

³Ibid.

⁴Leroy Pease, "G.N.D.A. Notes," North Dakotan, June, 1949, p. 2.

⁵New York Times, June 5, 1949.

⁶U. S. Department of the Interior, Annual Report, 1949, p. 313.

numerous widely scattered newspapers of the nation.¹

The nearby town of Medora saw a day such as it had never before witnessed. The town mushroomed with hamburger and pop stands during the entire weekend. Hungry and thirsty tourists kept the citizens on a twenty-four hour schedule. Many thousands attended such scheduled events as tours of the Chateau De Mores, rodeos, puppet shows, and art exhibits, while others took part in the public dance or listened to the band concert.²

The weekend passed and within a few days things were back to near normal in the newly dedicated Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park area; the people of Medora and the personnel at the park went back to their regular routines.

¹"Park Dedication," North Dakotan, p. 2.

²Fargo Forum, June 7, 1949.

CHAPTER IV

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK

The Badlands

The area that is the setting for this newly created park is undoubtedly the most fantastic in North Dakota and certainly among the most beautiful and unusual in the United States. Roosevelt expressed his feelings of the area in this way: "I grow very fond of this place . . . it has a desolate, grim beauty that has a curious fascination for me."¹

A well-known Chinese proverb states: "One picture is worth ten thousand words." The author believes that neither can adequately describe this area. This writer had viewed hundreds of photographs of the giant buttes of the Badlands and had always imagined them as a beautiful spectacle rising out of the North Dakota prairie. This is not so; the spectacle of the Badlands lies below the level of the prairie where the land has been crumpled, twisted, gouged, and washed into hundreds of weird shapes by thousands of years of erosion.

This area has impressed different people who gave the Badlands various names: Ernest Thompson Seton called them "A Wonderland Enchanted"; General Alfred Sully, "Hell With the Fires Out"; and Reverend P. M.

¹"North Dakota Proudly Presents Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park," North Dakota Outdoors, June, 1948, p. 4.

Dobberstein, "The Nations Sunken Gardens".¹ Since the hills face each other in irregular rows with deep canyons between, the Sioux Indians called it "the place where the hills look at each other."² But the name that has been most outstanding is the one applied by the early French traders and explorers. Finding difficulty in crossing the area, the voyageur referred to it as "mauvaise terres a traverser," meaning "these are bad lands to travel over"; hence, the shorter appellation "Badlands."³

The Badlands is a typical example of wind and water erosion on a magnificent scale. The meandering Little Missouri River has carved a winding canyon throughout the park area to a depth in some places of 700 feet below the level of the prairie.⁴ The elevation of the area varies from 1,850 to 2,900 feet above sea level.⁵

The most remarkable thing about the Badlands is its coloring, and of all the colors, red is the most outstanding. The red, baked clay, locally called scoria, is really a natural brick formed from burning coal mines. Since it is harder than the other rock layers, it resists erosion and forms a red cap-rock for many buttes. As many as twenty-three distinct colors can sometimes be found in a single

¹M. J. Connolly, North Dakota Badlands Intrigue a Nation of Nature Lovers (mimeographed) [1948].

²Ibid.

³"North Dakota's Badlands," North Dakota Outdoors, July, 1951, p. 5.

⁴Wyman, loc. cit.

⁵North Dakota Park Plan, January, 1939, loc. cit., p. 82.

canyon.¹ In the spring and early summer the prairie grasses turn a brilliant green. The soil is mostly yellow and blue clay, with frequent narrow streaks of soft stone and unburned coal. There are also bands of yellow sulphur and sand, blue slate, and white chalk, which add to the panorama of color. These colors, which vary with the amount of moisture and the seasons, are accented by the many greens of the grasses, bushes, and trees.

The secluded valleys and ravines contain ash, elm, cottonwood, aspen, and willow trees in the lower regions where the moisture is most abundant, with yellow pine and cedar extending the forest up the slopes into the drier areas. Adding to the beauty may be found creeping juniper, red osier, buck brush, sage brush, buffalo berry, wild plum, poison ivy, various shrubs, and a large number of native perennial flowers.

Within the limits of the park may be found such natural phenomena as a burning coal mine and the petrified forests. Nature has been fantastic in other ways too. Extremes of heat and cold that have been recorded in the park area range from 110° above zero to 49° below zero.²

Park Wildlife

The typical animal life of Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park includes most of the animals native to Western North Dakota. The

¹Victor H. Cahalane, "The Park That Made a President," Nature Magazine, February, 1953, p. 67.

²Ibid. p. 106.

National Park Service has been attempting to reproduce within the park the same wildlife conditions that existed in pioneer days. This is not entirely possible because one species, the Audubon sheep, is now extinct; and others, such as the grizzly bear, will not be reinstated for safety reasons.¹ Wildlife once native to the Badlands includes: black bear, grizzly bear, buffalo, elk, Audubon sheep, antelope, mule deer, white-tailed deer, coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions, Canadian lynx, grey wolves, badgers, beaver, kit foxes, skunks, black-footed ferrets, porcupines, rabbits, squirrels, prairie dogs, gophers, weasels, pale chipmunks, pack rats, mice, and various snakes.²

Many different species of birds may also be seen in the park. These include many different types of waterfowl, native game birds, and Western song birds. Soaring overhead may occasionally be seen a turkey vulture or a golden eagle.³

Going ahead with their plans to reproduce, as nearly as practical, the original wildlife conditions of the area, the National Park Service introduced the first phase on January 21, 1951.⁴ At that time seventy-five antelope from Yellowstone National Park were released. By February, 1953, this herd had grown to well over a hundred.⁵ The

¹"North Dakota's Badlands," North Dakota Outdoors, July, 1951, p. 7.

²Russell Reid, "Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park as a Game Sanctuary," North Dakota Outdoors, June, 1949, pp. 4-5, 12-13.

³Ibid. p. 5.

⁴"North Dakota's Badlands," North Dakota Outdoors, July, 1951, p. 7.

⁵"New Sign at T. R. Park to Welcome," North Dakotan, February, 1954, p. 7.

plan advanced on May 2, 1954, when one of the largest horse roundups in many years ended the freedom of more than two hundred mustangs that had been roaming wild in the Badlands.¹ The reason for the drive was to remove the horses so the grasslands might be restored to accommodate buffalo, bighorn sheep, and elk that were introduced at a later date.²

The wildlife restoration program has continued and presently one may view elk, which were actually introduced into the Northern Badlands as early as 1942;³ buffalo, which numbered near a hundred in 1961;⁴ and California bighorn sheep, which totaled twenty-one in the park area on January 15, 1961.⁵

Development During 1950's

Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park has had many changes and improvements since its dedication in 1949. Excellent facilities have been developed for the camper in the Squaw Creek Campground of the North Unit and the Cottonwood Campground of the South Unit. Both include well-maintained grounds, rest rooms, and running water.

After the park's founding, the park headquarters was located at Peaceful Valley Ranch, six miles northeast of Medora. New facilities were built, and on July 13, 1959, the headquarters was moved from

¹New York Times, May 3, 1954.

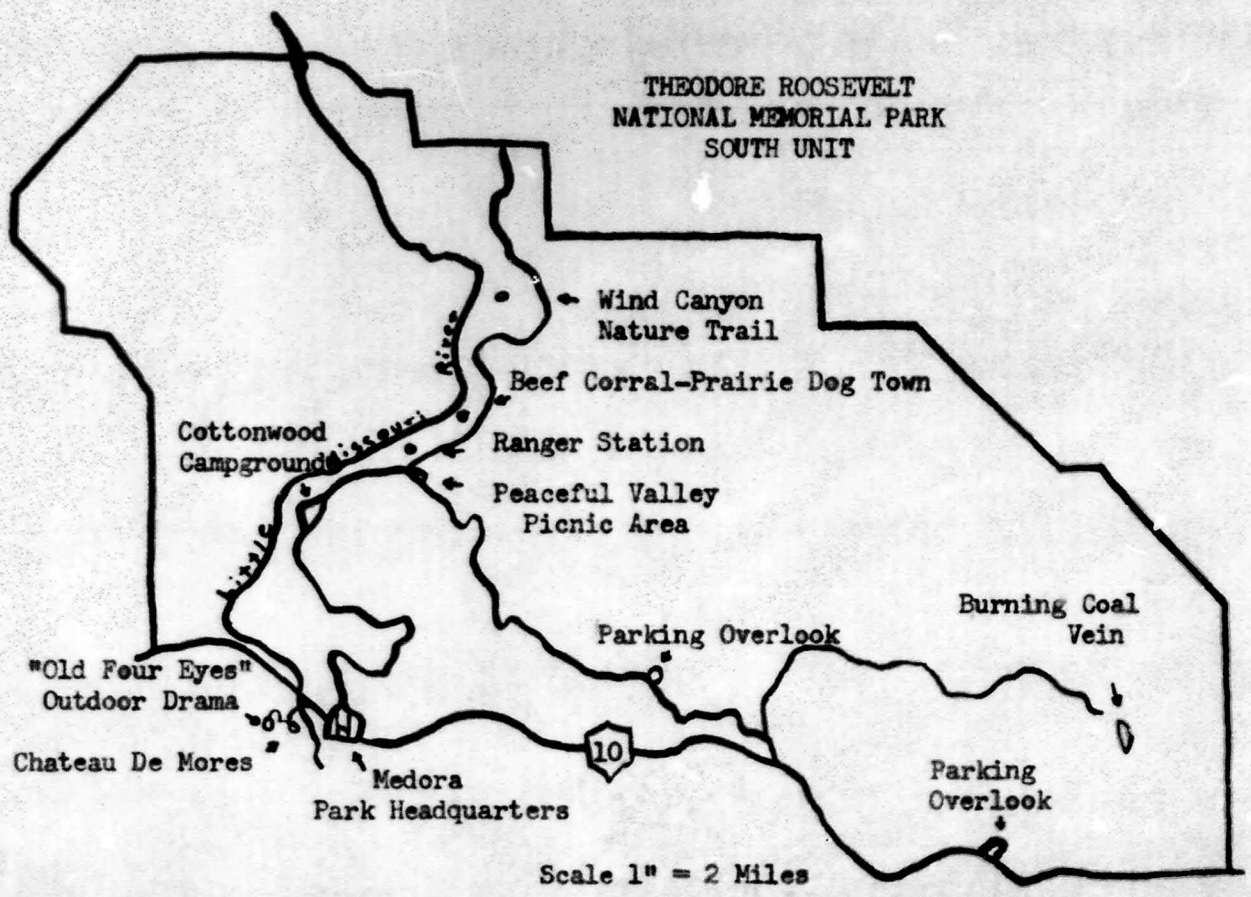
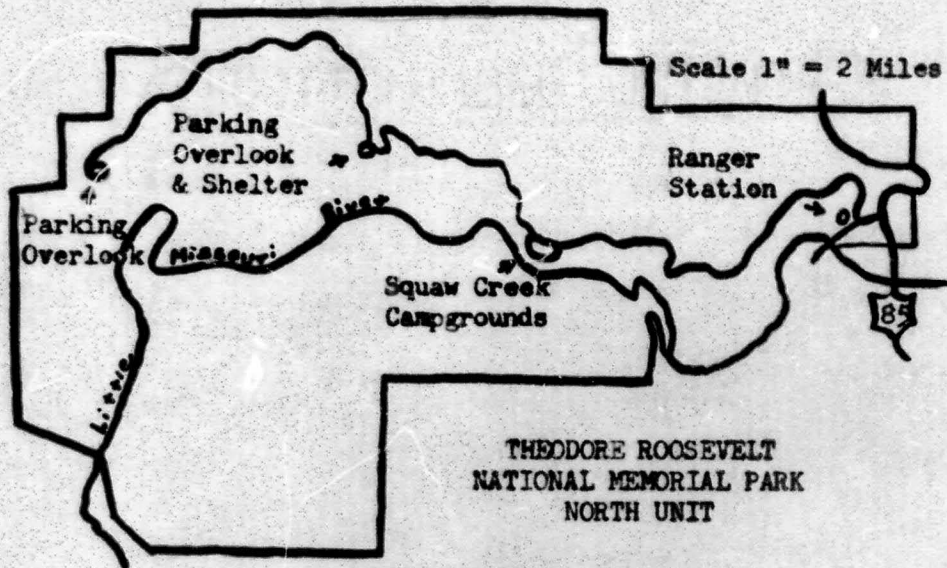
²Ibid.

³"26 Elk Released in North Dakota Badlands," North Dakotan, April, 1942, p. 3.

⁴"Roosevelt Park Buffalo," North Dakota Outdoors, June, 1961, p. 19.

⁵Bob Morgan, "Operation Bighorn," North Dakota Outdoors, March, 1962, p. 5.

FIGURE 2



Peaceful Valley to the present site at Medora.¹ The headquarters staff includes approximately fifty persons, who are headed by a park superintendent. Three men have held this position since the park's founding. Allyn F. Hanks became the first superintendent in October, 1947; he was succeeded in February, 1953, by John W. Jay, who was followed by the present superintendent, Wallace O. McCaw, in February, 1961. Other permanent members of the staff include: a chief ranger, district rangers in both units, a naturalist, a historian, and four maintenance men. Seasonal members of the staff include: six park rangers, three naturalist-historians, and approximately thirty maintenance men.² The park personnel have developed hiking and horseback trails, nature trails, and campfire programs. Park rangers present the campfire programs each night during the summer at the campfire circle at Cottonwood Campground.³

Nature started somewhat of a controversy in 1951 when lightning struck a coal vein and started it on fire.⁴ This burning coal vein, located in the eastern section of the South Unit, caused much discussion on whether or not it should be extinguished. Many felt that the burning vein should be preserved as an additional attraction, while others believed, that because of the dangers involved, it should be doused. Two meetings were called on the subject; the first in December, 1955, ended with a postponement to the following August. On August 20,

¹Interview with Lacy, Medora, August 15, 1961.

²Ibid.

³Grand Forks Herald, June 18, 1961.

⁴Interview with Lacy, Medora, August 15, 1961.

1956, a meeting was held at Medora that brought the decision.¹ Those attending the meeting, that was called by the Greater North Dakota Association, were: Howard W. Baker, Omaha, regional director of the National Park Service; Senator Milton R. Young, North Dakota; Hal S. Davies, Minot, member of Theodore Roosevelt Centennial Commission; John W. Jay, Medora, park superintendent; and Dr. Wilson M. Laird, Grand Forks, state geologist. After a thorough discussion of the problem, Baker decided to recommend to the Washington office of the National Park Service that the fire be preserved.² The National Park Service adhered to the recommendation and preserved the burning coal vein "as an example of a geological process."³

The recommendations made by the Greater North Dakota Association's Park Committee during the 1950's have definitely had their effects. At a meeting held in Watford City in September, 1954, the committee recommended the following: (1) entrance roads for both the North and South units and surfaced roads and trails therein, (2) utility systems in both units, but especially for the Squaw Creek Campground in the North Unit, (3) boundary fencing for both units, (4) headquarters buildings in both units.⁴

On March 22, 1955, Senator Milton Young introduced a bill

¹"To Decide Fate of Burning Coal Vein," North Dakotan, August, 1956, p. 5.

²"Park's Burning Coal Vein to be Preserved," North Dakotan, September, 1956, p. 3.

³"Fire to Continue," North Dakotan, October, 1956, p. 8.

⁴"GNDA Roosevelt Committee Submits Resolution," North Dakotan, October, 1954, p. 3.

(S. 1529) to revise the boundaries of Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park.¹ This bill was presented to make new alignments for U. S. Highways 10 and 85, and to add 63 acres to the South Unit to permit a new park headquarters and entrance road at Medora. In the alignment procedure 2,865 acres were cut from the North Unit, while 500 acres were added.² Senator Young labored for a year before this bill was signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower; on March 24, 1956, S. 1529 became Public Law Number 438.³

A major accomplishment during 1957 was the completion of a new hard-surfaced road in the North Unit. This event was marked on September 29, 1957, with a ceremony that was sponsored by the Watford City Association of Commerce.⁴

The year of 1958 offered the biggest reason for celebration in the Badlands area since the park dedication. This was the year of the one hundredth anniversary of Roosevelt's birth. A nineteen-member centennial commission was named in June, 1957, by Governor John E. Davis to plan and direct the observance of the birth of Theodore Roosevelt. In addition, the state legislature appropriated \$10,000 to be used by the commission.⁵ The highlight of the year was the presentation of an elaborate outdoor drama on the life of Theodore

¹U. S., Congressional Record, 84th Cong., 1st Sess., 1955, Vol. 101, Pt. 3, p. 3323.

²"Change Boundaries of Roosevelt Park," North Dakotan, April, 1956, p. 7.

³U. S., Congressional Record, 84th Cong., 2d Sess., 1956, Vol. 102, Pt. 4, p. 5490.

⁴"Dedication Set," North Dakotan, September, 1957, p. 8.

⁵"19 Named to State T. R. Centennial Commission," North Dakotan, July, 1957, p. 4.

Roosevelt in the Badlands. This drama, entitled "Old Four Eyes", was directed by Dr. Frederick Walsh of North Dakota State University in Fargo and presented in the Burning Hills Amphitheater near Medora. Financing of the \$50,000 pageant was accomplished through the sale of \$1 commemorative buttons.¹ "Old Four Eyes" proved to be such a tremendous success that it is presently in its fifth season of production.

The second largest dedication to take place in the park's brief history occurred on September 12-13, 1959,² when approximately 4,000 people attended the ceremonies for nearly \$2 million worth of construction.³ Principal features dedicated during the three separate ceremonies were a new headquarters area, visitor center, and entrance road in the South Unit at Medora; new facilities in the Squaw Creek Campground, road development, and a new entrance station in the North Unit; and a new \$900,000 bridge across the Little Missouri River near the North Unit entrance. Notables in attendance included; Conrad L. Wirth, director of the National Park Service; Fred G. Aandahl, assistant secretary of the Interior; and John E. Davis, governor of North Dakota. The new facilities are a part of Mission 66, the National Park Service's ten-year improvement and development program that began in 1956.⁴

Just eighteen days after the headquarters was moved from Peaceful

¹"Pageant to Highlight Centennial," North Dakotan, March, 1958, p. 7.

²"Seaton Invited to Park Ceremonies," North Dakotan, June, 1959, p. 3.

³"4,000 at Park Dedication," North Dakotan, September, 1959, p. 2.

⁴Ibid.

Valley to the new facilities at Medora, another building was brought in that is in sharp contrast with the modern reception center that stands just a few feet away. On July 31, 1959, Theodore Roosevelt's Maltese Cross Ranch Cabin was brought back to the Badlands.¹ This cabin, which was originally erected in 1883, was reconstructed and moved to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis, Missouri, in 1904.² After some additional travels, it was placed on the capitol grounds in Bismarck.³ Restoration was started on the cabin in September, 1960, and completed in June, 1961.⁴ Many of Roosevelt's old possessions, or items similar to those that he used while in the Badlands, have been collected and placed in the cabin.

Since moving into the Badlands area, the National Park Service has made a determined effort to restore conditions as they were in Theodore Roosevelt's time and to improve facilities so the tourist has many of the modern accommodations that he would enjoy in his own home.

¹Interview with Lacy, Medora, August 15, 1961.

²Grand Forks Herald, August 23, 1961.

³Ibid.

⁴Interview with Lacy, Medora, August 15, 1961.

CHAPTER V

ECONOMIC EFFECTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Future of Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park

The swelling interest in vacations, travel, and recreation will continue to grow in response to the present-day physical and psychological needs. It is estimated that North Dakota's system of Federal, state, county, and city parks will receive a minimum of 2,100,000 visitor days of use by 1980.¹ The Greater North Dakota Association and the National Park Service are well aware of this and are planning the future accordingly.

In 1956 the National Park Service initiated a ten-year program called Mission 66. This program is designed to meet the present and future needs of the national park system. Mission 66 has provided roads, campgrounds, trails, water and sewer systems, and visitor centers in many national parks, including Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park.

There are many tentative long-range projects planned for the future of the park. A scenic highway was proposed in 1957 by the Greater North Dakota Association Roosevelt Park subcommittee that is to extend through the Badlands from U. S. Highway 12 northward to U. S. Highway 2.

¹U. S., Department of the Interior, Recreation Today and Tomorrow: A Survey of the Recreation Resources of the Missouri River Basin, 1959, p. 115.

The proposed route is to follow the Little Missouri River quite closely, passing through Marmarth, Medora, Elkhorn Ranch, and Fort Union.¹

Plans were announced during September, 1961, to establish a twenty-mile circle route in the South Unit. The route would pass the burning coal vein, extend into a petrified forest area, and continue through the buffalo range lands.² Other projects of the future include the building of a typical Badlands ranch at Peaceful Valley, the construction of a buffalo holding pen in the South Unit, and the fencing of about two hundred acres at the Elkhorn Ranch site.³

Medora strongly figures in the plans of the park's future. In 1959 the legislature authorized a Medora Restoration Commission headed by Governor John E. Davis, chairman; Dr. Russell Reid, vice-chairman; and Donald Gackle, publicity director of the Greater North Dakota Association, secretary. The objective of the committee was to develop a plan aimed at restoring the pioneer cattle town.⁴ Knowing that adequate sewer and water facilities are an absolute necessity for proper development, the committee had Senator Young introduce Senate bill 3250 for this purpose on March 22, 1960.⁵ The cost of this project would be about \$100,000 with a \$2,300 a year repayment contract.

¹"Decide on Route for Badlands Road Survey," North Dakotan, December, 1957, p. 8.

²"Plan Circle Route in South Unit," North Dakotan, October, 1961, p. 14.

³Interview with Lacy, Medora, August 15, 1961.

⁴"Gackle Named to Medora Commission," North Dakotan, November, 1959, p. 6.

⁵U. S., Congressional Record, 86th Cong., 2d Sess., 1960, Vol. 106, Pt. 15, p. 6204.

The bill was amended to include an interest payment of about \$6,000; because of this, many people in Medora are now against the project and little has been definitely accomplished.¹

The lack of available funds is the major handicap in the future development of the park. Just how much development will be achieved and how fast it takes place will depend upon the needs and demands of the American public.

Budgets and Attendance

The creation of the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park has meant millions of dollars to the economy of North Dakota. From the fiscal year 1945 through fiscal year 1956, \$734,600 was spent on development work at the park.² The park budget reached a new high in fiscal year 1957 when \$625,000 was made available for improvements in the park.³ The following year's budget started a slow decline with about \$425,000 appropriated for 1958;⁴ the decline continued until the recommended budget for fiscal year 1963, the smallest since before 1956, is \$275,442.⁵ The reason for this is that available funds have been spent in other national park areas. The budget for fiscal year 1963 is broken down as follows:⁶

¹Interview with Lacy, Medora, August 15, 1961.

²"12 Year Record of Federal Appropriations in N. D.," North Dakotan, October, 1956, p. 6.

³"Park's Burning Coal Vein to be Preserved," North Dakotan, September, 1956, p. 3.

⁴"900,000 Needed for Roosevelt Park," North Dakotan, October, 1958, p. 7.

⁵Fred J. Fredrickson, "Caucusing," North Dakotan, May, 1962, p. 14.

⁶Ibid.

TABLE 1

BUDGET, THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK, 1963

	Estimated cost
MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION	
Management of park and other areas	\$103,149
Forestry and fire control	4,085
Soil and moisture conservation	8,913
Subtotal	\$116,147
MANAGEMENT AND REHABILITATION OF PHYSICAL FACILITIES	
Roads and trails	\$62,534
Buildings, utilities etc.	55,461
Subtotal	117,995
CONSTRUCTION	
Buffalo holding pen, South Unit	\$ 5,000
Land Acquisition	36,000
Water right, planning	300
Total budget fiscal year 1963	41,000
	\$275,442

By December, 1960, nearly \$3 million had been expended on the development of Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park.¹

The attendance at the park has grown along with the facilities. During its first season in 1948, the park accommodated 21,157 visitors;² In 1961, 236,000 tourists took advantage of the scenic beauty that the park offers.³ (See page 59 for a complete account)

Tourist Industry in North Dakota

One might ask, "what does the presence of parks mean economically to North Dakota?", or "How can the people of the state benefit to a greater extent by the tourist industry?" Everyone in North Dakota

¹"How to Build a Tourist Industry," North Dakotan, December, 1960, p. 9.

²"Tourists Learning about T. R. Memorial Park," North Dakotan, October, 1948, p. 4.

³"Roosevelt National Memorial Park," North Dakotan, May, 1962, p. 14.

TABLE 2
 LAND AREA AND ATTENDANCE
 THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK^a

Year	Federal land net acreage June, 30	Visitors
1949	58,341.26	81,965 (Oct. 1, to Sept. 30)
1950	58,341.26	71,000 (Year ending Sept. 30)
1951	59,420.56	81,680 (Year ending Sept. 30)
1952	62,160.93	127,238 (Year ending Sept. 30)
1953	65,568.50	120,804 (Year ending Dec. 31)
1954	65,649.00	133,570 (Year ending Dec. 31)
1955	68,510.00	125,112 (Year ending Dec. 31)
1956	Net acreage Dec. 31 68,466.00	154,694 (Year ending Dec. 31)
1957	68,680.00	128,975 (Year ending Dec. 31)
1958	69,000.00 (Rounded to thousands)	163,000 (Year ending Dec. 31)
1959	69,000.00	182,000 (Year ending Dec. 31)
1960	69,000.00	223,000 (Year ending Dec. 31)
1961	69,000.00	236,000 (Year ending Dec. 31)

^aStatistical Abstract of the United States, 1950-1962.

should be aware of these questions, and all should be searching for the answers.

The Greater North Dakota Association is the state organization that is most concerned with the tourist industry. This organization, along with various smaller groups throughout the state, is the main promoter of the tourist business. The Greater North Dakota Association has concentrated its promotional efforts on picturing North Dakota as a pleasant place to visit and an excellent avenue to travel to some vacation area in the lake country or the Pacific Northwest. They have not promoted North Dakota as a vacation state.¹ The greatest concern of the association is to get travelers to come through North Dakota and to spend their money while doing so. They do not believe that North Dakota is ready at present to be a vacation state. First, a state needs the through traffic and the commercial expansion of motels, restaurants, and other accommodations. Then, the final step is the building of dude ranches, resorts, and other facilities to keep the tourist in the state as a vacationer.²

Is the tourist industry of enough importance to be concerned with? It was estimated that in 1947 the travel business in the United States was a \$10 billion industry.³ This exceeds the value of all metals, coal, and petroleum products produced in the United States during 1944.

¹"Writers Enjoy N. D. Tour," North Dakotan, September, 1960, p. 5.

²Fargo Forum, August 7, 1960.

³Leroy Pease, "The Tourist Business is Big Business," North Dakotan, February, 1947, p. 6.

Estimates of tourism for 1960 had exactly doubled, rising to \$20 billion.¹ If North Dakota, along with the forty-nine other states, were to receive an equal share of this, it would amount to \$400 million. On a population basis, North Dakota's share would be \$72 million. In actuality, the tourist business means an estimated \$24 million to the state each year.² Compare this with other North Dakota industries and one finds that it is one of the major business operations in the state. The major industries in the state during 1959 were: agriculture, \$539 million; mining (principally crude oil), \$60 million; and manufacturing, \$57 million.³

Through tourist spending, the neighboring states of South Dakota, Montana, and Minnesota are enriched by many millions of dollars more than North Dakota each year; however, each state spends many thousands of dollars more than North Dakota on tourist promotion. It is estimated that the tourist industry is worth \$300 million to Minnesota each year, \$106 million to South Dakota, and \$95 million to Montana. In direct relation to this, Minnesota spends \$147,000 on tourist promotion every year; South Dakota, \$237,000; Montana, \$85,000; and North Dakota, a mere \$7,500.⁴ Certainly North Dakota can not effectively compete to get travelers to pass through the state with such a budget.

The United States Department of Commerce estimates that if a community can attract six tourist families a day during the year, it is

¹"How to Build a Tourist Industry," North Dakotan, December, 1960, p. 8.

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Ibid. pp. 10-11.

economically comparable to acquiring a new industry with an annual payroll of \$100,000.¹ The North Dakota economy is in need of a financial boost and the tourist industry, if expanded, will certainly contribute immensely to the state's economic condition. The per capita income in North Dakota during 1960 was only 78 per cent of the national average, while only ten Southern states ranked below North Dakota.² The state's economic problems could be solved if new industries and more tourists are enticed into North Dakota.

The basic steps, as advocated by the Greater North Dakota Association, in attracting tourists are: (1) advertise North Dakota's scenic attractions and why people should travel through the state, (2) avoid any misrepresentation or exaggeration in advertising, (3) give the full value in goods and services, (4) provide adequate housing facilities, (5) emphasize the necessity of courtesy and friendliness, (6) stress cleanliness of accommodations, (7) encourage the building and maintenance of good roads.³

The North Dakota State Highway Department is making a determined effort to make traveling in the state a pleasant experience. They have established travel information centers at the state's weighing stations where they provide maps, camping directories, and various pamphlets on the state's vacation opportunities. In 1959 the Highway

¹Ibid. p. 8.

²W. E. Koenker, "Structure and Trends in the North Dakota Economy," North Dakota Teacher, October, 1961, p. 16.

³Leroy Pease, "The Tourist Business is Big Business," North Dakotan, February, 1947, p. 6.

Department began a program of development of roadside table sites and rest areas. In the first year, twenty-two of these areas were completed and by 1965 there will be forty-seven safety rest sites in North Dakota.¹

In reference to the economic future of North Dakota, this writer sees two great accomplishments of the past fifteen years. The first is the creation and development of Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, and the second is the building of the fabulous Interstate Highway 94. When this four-lane thoroughfare is completed, it will transverse the entire state, forming an enticing avenue of approach to the park, the Pacific Northwest, or the Great lakes. Only the statisticians of the future will be able to determine the economic effect of these two great assets.

Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park has done much for the state in the past and will certainly prove itself in the years to come. The Badlands area is definitely North Dakota's major tourist attraction, and, as better roads are developed and more facilities are built, the area will grow with the times to become an asset to North Dakota that few people have thus far dreamed possible.

¹"Highway Department to Erect 27 Rest Areas," North Dakotan, December, 1959, p. 5.

TABLE 3

NORTH DAKOTA STATE PARKS AND HISTORIC SITES^a
September 22, 1960

Name	County	Features	Acres	Section	Township	Range
STATE PARKS						
Fort Lincoln	Morton	Natural, Historical and Archeological	740.00	24	138	81
Garrison Reservoir	Mercer	Natural	661.00	25	147	85
International Peace Garden	Rolette	Natural, formal gardens	887.00	36	164	73
Lake Metigoshe	Bottineau	Natural	727.70	35	164	75
Totten Trail	McLean	Natural	116.00	21	148	83
Turtle River	Grand Forks	Natural	486.19	36	152	54
RECREATIONAL PARKS						
Beaver Lake	Logan	Natural	93.40	21	148	83
Doyle Memorial	McIntosh	Natural	21.20	32	132	70
Fred Smith	Stutsman	Natural	2.00	9	139	63
Smoky Lake	McHenry	Natural	276.00	14	154	75
Streeter Memorial	Kidder	Natural	62.90	34	138	70
Strong Memorial	Ransom	Natural	1.92	29	154	54
HISTORIC SITES						
Birch Creek	Barnes	Camp Johnson, Sibley Expedition	1.00	18	137	58
Brenner Crossing	Eddy	Military Trail	.25	1	149	64
Buffalo Creek	Cass	Sibley Camp, August 15, 1863	.25	22	140	55
Burman	Kidder	Sibley Camp, July 24-25, 1863	.01	24	141	71
Butte St. Paul	Bottineau	Memorial to Father Belcourt (Natural)	50.00	13	162	74
Camp Arnold	Barnes	Sibley Camp, August 14-15, 1863	.10	32	141	56
Camp Atcheson	Griggs	Sibley Camp, July 18-20, 1863	.40	28	147	60

^aState Historical Society, Bismarek, N. Dak.

TABLE 3--Continued

NORTH DAKOTA STATE PARKS AND HISTORIC SITES
September 22, 1960

Name	County	Features	Acres	Section	Township	Range
Camp Corning	Barnes	Sibley Camp, July 16-17, 1863	.30	8	143	58
Camp Grant	Stutsman	Sibley Camp, July 23-24, 1863	1.00	24	143	69
Camp Hancock	Burleigh	Site of Camp Hancock, 1872	.92	Main St.	opposite First, Bismarck	
Camp Kimball	Foster	Sibley Camp, July 22-23, 1863	.13	16	145	67
Camp Sheardown	Barnes	Sibley Camp, July 14-15, 1863	.03	2	139	58
Camp Weiser	Barnes	Sibley Camp, July 13-14, 1863	.03	33	137	57
Camp Whitney	Kidder	Sibley Camp, July 25-26, 1863--Dr. Weiser grave	4.00	31	141	70
Cannonball Stage Station	Grant	Black Hills Trail Stage Station	2.50	29	132	86
Crow Flies High	Mountrail	Butte overlooking the Missouri River	253.04	14	152	93
Chaska	Burleigh	Sibley Camp, August 2-3, 1863--Chaska grave	.05	34	140	75
David Thompson	McHenry	Memorial to David Thompson	.68	31	154	78
DeMores	Billings	Historic House Museum--Memorial Park	1.26	27	140	102
Danish Mill	Ward	Danish windmill			Lot 4, Block 11, Tolley's first addition, Kenmare	
Fort Abercrombie	Richland	Site of Fort Abercrombie	21.95	4	134	48
Fort Buford	Williams	Site of Fort Buford	36.53	16	152	104
Fort Clark	Mercer	Site of Fort Clark Trading Post--Fort Clark Indian Village	46.93	36	144	84
Fort Dilts	Bowman	Site of Fort Dilts	8.25	2	132	105
Fort Mandan	McLean	Fort Mandan Memorial Park	30.47	11-12	144	84
Fort Ransom	Ransom	Site of Fort Ransom	6.42	11	135	58
Fort Rice	Morton	Site of Fort Rice	7.00	14	135	79
Fort Seward	Stutsman	Site of Fort Seward	3.56	26	140	64
Fort Totten	Benson	Site of Fort Totten	1.81	16	152	65
Fort Union	Williams	Site of Fort Union Fur Trading Post	10.46	7	152	104

-65-

TABLE 3—Continued

NORTH DAKOTA STATE PARKS AND HISTORIC SITES
September 22, 1960

Name	County	Features	Acres	Section	Township	Range
Gringas Trading Post	Pembina	Site of early trading post	.76	16-17-20-	163	56
Hudson	Dickey	Townsite of Hudson	1.50	6 21	130	59
Killdeer Battlefield	Dunn	Memorial for Killdeer Battlefield	1.00	33	146	96
Lake Jessie	Griggs	Camp site of Fremont and Nocolett, 1839	.29	22	147	60
Maple Creek	Cass	Maple Creek Crossing on Pembina Trail	.36	36	138	53
Medicine Butte	Grant	Ceremonial Stone	11.88	31	133	88
McPhails Butte	Kidder	Sibley's Battle of Big Mound, July 24, 1863	.33	4	140	71
Oak Lawn	Pembina	Site of Oaklawn Church	.55	19	161	56
Palmers Spring	Benson	Site of attack on gov't mail wagon, 1868	2.83	14	151	71
Pembina	Pembina	Site of Fur Trading Posts	3.50	Block B in Pembina		
Roosevelt's Elkhorn Ranch	Billings	Part of Roosevelt's Elkhorn Ranch	254.19	4	143	102
Saint Claude	Rolette	Site of St. Claude Chapel	40.00	3	163	70
Sitting Bull	Sioux	Original grave site of Sitting Bull	5.00	12	130	80
Steamboat Warehouse	Burleigh	Site of Bismarck Steamboat Warehouse	3.21	31	139	80
Sully Corral	Stark	Site of Sully's Heart River Corral, 1864	4.62	10	137	91
Wadeson	Barnes	Site of Pioneer Log Cabin	1.00	24	137	58
Walhalla	Pembina	Site of Kittson Trading Post	5.88	29	163	56
Whitestone Hill	Dickey	Site of Battle of Whitestone Hill, 1863	66.00	7-8, 17-18	131	65
Writing Rock	Divide	Site of Writing Rock	10.00	12	161	102
ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES						
Crowley Flint Quarry	Mercer	Indian Flint Quarry	2.35	1	142	90
Double Ditch Indian Village	Burleigh	Mandan Indian Earth Lodge Village Site	37.45	21-22	140	80
Huff Indian Village	Morton	Earth Lodge Village Site	14.00	5-8	136	79
Menoken Indian Village	Burleigh	Earth Lodge Village Site	13.70	22	139	78
Molander Indian Village	Oliver	Earth Lodge Village Site	11.65	17	142	81

TABLE 4
 NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM^a
 November, 1960

Type of Area	Number	Federal Land (acres)	Lands within boundaries not Federally owned.	Total lands within boundaries
National Parks	29	13,205,071.01	250,307.45	13,455,378.46
National Historical Parks	7	31,841.66	5,359.87	37,201.53
National Monuments	83	8,984,449.45	145,087.79	9,129,537.24
National Military Parks	12	26,324.71	2,383.57	28,708.28
National Memorial Park	1	68,708.36	1,665.94	70,374.30
National Battlefield Parks	3	5,318.07	2,170.03	7,488.10
National Battlefield Sites	5	188.63	547.35	735.98
National Historic Sites	12	1,491.40	2.12	1,493.52
National Memorials	13	4,447.96	152.00	4,599.96
National Cemeteries	10	215.10	5.00	220.10
National Seashore Recreational Areas	1	24,705.23	3,794.77	28,500.00
National Parkways	3	91,429.72	21,458.44	112,888.16
National Capital Parks ^b	1	39,503.53	1,444.00	40,947.53
Total, National Park System	180	22,483,694.83	434,378.33	22,918,073.16

^aInformation Please Almanac, 1961, p. 357.

^bIncludes Catocin Mountain Park, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, Prince William Forest Park, Baltimore-Washington Parkway, Suitland Parkway among the 780 units administered by National Capital Parks.

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