

## **YELLOWSTONE MUSEUM, LIBRARY, AND ARCHIVES TO RESTRICT HOURS IN PREPARATION FOR MOVE SEPTEMBER 16, 2003**

In preparation for the move, in summer 2004, to the new Heritage and Research Center (HRC), now under construction on park land in Gardiner, Yellowstone's research library, archives, museum collections, and photo archives will be gradually phasing down access to both the public and park staff. The Heritage Center is a 32,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility designed to meet NPS and National Archives standards for storage of some 300,000 objects in Yellowstone's collection. The collection also includes nearly 5 million archival records—those unpublished records created or received by the Army, NPS staff, or various park concessioners, and special collections that range from individual files created by employees to privately generated manuscripts on Yellowstone topics. The research library includes 20,000 rare books and additional volumes for circulation, periodicals, theses and dissertations, microfilm, videos, oral history tapes and transcripts, maps, drawings, and other separates. The HRC will feature rotating displays in the lobby, will be well suited to accommodate tours of the collection, and will provide improved access and working space for visitors and researchers.

Cultural resource staff need the better part of the next year to complete outstanding cataloguing projects, inventory the collections, and carefully pack and move the vast array of items in the museum, ranging from tiny, delicate artifacts and collectibles to historic hotel signs and large pieces of furniture. We regret the inconvenience this project will cause people desiring to use the collections; however, we think users will agree that the end result will be worth the temporary loss of access.

The herbarium collection will remain open this winter and through most of the summer until its planned move in August 2004. Access to rest of the museum collection, **including the photo archives**, will close in October 2003. Museum staff have scanned and digitized some 3,000 historic photographs in the collection, and are working with the Public Affairs Office and others to make these images available via CD and the park's computer network or website. If you anticipate projects in the next year that require historic photographs from the park's collection, please contact the museum staff at 344-2267 to set up an appointment in September. During the closure, such requests will be referred to other repositories with significant collections of Yellowstone imagery.

The library and archives is currently open Tuesday-Thursday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm (closed 12:00 pm-1:00 pm) and Mondays and Fridays by appointment only. These hours will remain in effect until December 18, 2003 when the library and archives will close in order to inventory and pack their collections for the move to the HRC. The library will be phasing out circulation starting December 1, after which no book or interlibrary loans will be initiated. All library materials must be returned by Monday, January 5, 2004. During the closure, those needing to perform archival research may wish to contact other repositories, including the Montana Historical Society, Montana State University Library Special Collections, and the National Archives and Records Administration.

The Yellowstone Research Library is a member of the Wyoming Libraries Network (WYLD). Park staff should have free borrowing privileges at other WYLD libraries, such as the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, which has a large number of Yellowstone materials, including rare books, in its collection; for more information go to [wyldweb.state.wy.us](http://wyldweb.state.wy.us). Other facilities with Yellowstone-related materials include Montana State University, the University of Wyoming, and the Montana State Historical Society in Helena. More information on using these facilities during Yellowstone's museum and library closure will be forthcoming.

For the next year, the park will not be actively seeking to acquire items for the collection; however, the curator's office will consider making purchases and accepting donations on a case-by-cases. Anyone wishing to transfer or donate items to the museum or archives is encouraged to do so before December 18; for assistance please contact archives specialist Harold Housley at 344-2264, or the museum staff at 344-2267.

Moving plans call for the library, archive, and museum objects to be moved beginning June 1, 2004—assuming the building is completed on schedule—with tentative completion by early autumn. There will be a number of excellent **volunteer opportunities** available to help us with “Moving the Memories” stored in the park collection. If you wish to offer your time and talents to help catalog, inventory, and/or pack the seldom seen items in the collection, or if you have questions about the Heritage Center or the museum closure, please contact Maurine Hinckley-Cole, Branch of Cultural Resources, 344-2223 or [maurine\\_cole@nps.gov](mailto:maurine_cole@nps.gov). The cultural resource staff appreciates your cooperation as we all look forward to a new and exciting future for the preservation and use of the natural and cultural resource objects in the Yellowstone collection.

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## MUSEUM/LIBRARY/ARCHIVES SCHEDULE 2003-2004

September 2003	<b>Historic Photos/Museum Open by Appointment:</b> (344-2267) <b>Research Library/Archives Open:</b> Tues-Wed-Thurs 8:30am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-5:00pm Monday & Friday by appointment only
October 1, 2003	<b>Historic Photo/Museum Collection (Except Herbarium) Closes</b>
December 1, 2003	<b>Last Day to Check-out Books/Interlibrary Loans</b>
December 18, 2003	<b>Research Library and Archives Close</b>
January 5, 2004	<b>ALL books/loans due back to Research Library</b>
June 1-Aug. 18, 2004	<b>Library/Archives/Museum Collections Relocate to HRC</b>



**Heritage and Research Center** Yellowstone National Park

