



Yellowstone National Park Archives
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Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190-0168
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior

VERA AND HENRY GRATER PAPERS
1919-1921

CATALOG NUMBER: MSC 100

VOLUME: 0.1 LINEAR FEET

HISTORY

Vera Coyner and Henry Grater worked as concessions employees, probably for the Yellowstone Park Camps Company and Yellowstone Park Transportation Company, respectively, in the Lake Camp, in Yellowstone National Park from 1919 to 1921. Vera was a "tent girl," probably a "pillow pusher" or maid while Henry was a "gear jammer" or bus driver. The two met in the park and married in Livingston, Montana, on September 22, 1921-a union which would last 57 years. The couple moved to Denver, Colorado, where Henry worked as a fireman for the railroad and an auto mechanic. The couple had a daughter, Shirley. Henry passed away in 1998 in Morrison, Colorado, at the age of 98.

DESCRIPTION

The collection documents the experience of Shirley (Coyner) and Henry Grater while working as concessions employees, probably for the Yellowstone Park Camps Company and Yellowstone Park Transportation Company, respectively, in Yellowstone National Park from 1919-1921. The collection includes photographs of the concessions employees in group images, on horseback, and touring areas of the park. There are also numerous images of the park's iconic White tour buses, including several with Henry serving as "gear jammer" or bus driver. Also of interest is an image of Buffalo Jones's residence at Mammoth Hot Springs. Many of the images are labeled on the verso, including several with names identified. There is also one letter confirming Henry's return for the 1920 season. The collection is of particular note for its early documentation of the White buses and their drivers.

PROVENANCE

Gift of daughter Shirley Grater, 2002.

AVAILABILITY

This is an unprocessed collection. Material is available for access. Please contact us well advance of any planned research visit so we may prepare the material for access. Please contact the Heritage & Research Center (yell_heritage_center@nps.gov) for more information.