



April 5, 2024

Angela Richman, Superintendent  
Theodore Roosevelt National Park  
P.O. Box 7  
Medora, ND 58645

**RE: H4217 Livestock Plan, Theodore Roosevelt National Park**

Dear Superintendent Richman,

Thank you for the continued opportunity for consultation regarding the upcoming decision concerning the management of Theodore Roosevelt National Park's (TRNP) horse herd. The TRNP is one of the State Historical Society of North Dakota's oldest and strongest partners. Evidence of this relationship and its importance to the people of North Dakota and our shared history date back to the park's enabling legislation where the Society is mentioned as an approving partner.

Regarding the upcoming decision on managing the feral horse herd, as discussed in previous conversations, the SHSND understands the difficulty of placing the horses within the typical historic property framework. Horses do not fit neatly within traditional property types (building, structure, object, site, and district) as defined in the National Register of Historic Places. However, the feral horse is important to the Native American and Euro-American history and cultural development of the American West. The TRNP has considered the demonstration herd part of its historic preservation responsibilities since the 1978 Feral Horse Reduction Environmental Assessment. Additionally, the National Park Service has policies to consider biological resources as part of cultural landscapes. Therefore, the SHSND reiterates its requests that the TRNP consider the impacts of the plan on biotic cultural resources in accordance with section 5.3.5.2.5 of the National Park Service's document Management Policies 2006, in relation to the horses' impact on cultural landscapes.

Since its inauguration as Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, the park has honored Theodore Roosevelt's ranching and conservation legacies while preserving the historical and natural history of the region. The park's history is inherently intertwined with the natural environment, cultural landscape, and the legacy and history of conservation and ranching in the area. Park conservation cannot be separated from the natural environment or the history of that environment. In his dedication speech for the park on June 4th, 1949, Secretary of the Interior J.A. Krug celebrated then

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SHSND director Russell Reid for the Society's cooperation, and then highlighted Roosevelt's background of an interwoven natural environment and ranching activities:

Mingling with the pioneers and building a new settlement on the range gave him an insight into the real functioning of democracy not to be found in books or in lecture halls. Here he stepped down from the isolated peaks of philosophical abstraction. Here he found democracy in all the glory and vigor of its youth -- on the roundup, in the hunt, and in his associations with the stockmen. Here he found a wilderness laboratory where he could observe nature in her original design. Here, also, he saw an example of the extravagant waste that for many decades had accompanied the exploitation of our material resources.

Furthermore, during that same dedication ceremony, Newton Drury, Director of the National Park Service stated:

One aspect of this conservation movement has, been the preservation of important scenic, scientific, and historical assets under the administration of the National Park Service. By Act of Congress this Federal Service is enjoined to conserve the scenery and natural and historic objects and wildlife within the areas it administers, and to provide for their enjoyment in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for future generations.

Festivities on that day included a pageant honoring all aspects of Roosevelt's life in the region and early interpretation reflected congressional and state intent in dedicating the park to honor the history, nature, and legacy of Theodore Roosevelt's multifaceted life (see attachments).

Mirroring the interwoven relationship between the natural environment and the local ranching community, R.A. "Ike" Ellison, Coordinator, Natural Resources Council noted the close relationship of cooperation between TRNP and local and regional communities in a 1976 letter to the park superintendent:

I was impressed with the amount of cooperation that the Park has established with the private, state and local entities surrounding the units of the Park. You and your staff are to be complimented for the support that you give to the local cultures and communities through your cooperative efforts.

Given the longstanding cooperation between the State and the Park we would like to better understand the TRNP reasoning for reversing its nearly 50-year policy of maintaining the demonstration herd as part of its historic preservation efforts. Within the federal responsibilities for

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106 are the identification of historic properties and consultation with stakeholders including the State of North Dakota. These historic efforts by the park are listed below.

### **Identification of Historic Properties**

The first Environmental Assessment discussing the feral horse management, written the same year as the federal legislation changing the name from Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park to Theodore Roosevelt National Park, enabled the preservation of the demonstration herd under the heading Historic Preservation, presumably to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. As recently as 2014, the TRNP Foundation Document discussed the importance of the feral horses to the cultural landscape of the park but did not mention specific landscapes. More recently, the NPS produced a cultural landscape for the Peaceful Valley Ranch, which turned from open range cattle ranching to raising thoroughbred horses. Within the document the park discussed feral horses as part of the park's wildlife rather than as livestock. The authors made no consideration for or against the importance of the herd as a biotic cultural resource. In retrospect and considering the nearly 50-year policy treating the horses under historic preservation, this was an oversight, not an exclusion.

### **Consultation**

The State of North Dakota, through its elected officials, has been in discussions with the National Park Service talking about the importance of the feral horses to the citizens of North Dakota for over 50 years. As early as 1965, the entire North Dakota congressional delegation wrote letters to the park superintendent in support of keeping the horses (McLaughlin 1989). In 1974, Governor Link worked with the NPS to transfer ownership of the horses to the park, ensuring long-term management for the benefit of North Dakotans in perpetuity (see attached letter; Harmon 1986). Additionally, the State of North Dakota passed two pieces of legislation discussing the importance of the TRNP horses to the history of North Dakota. First, in 1993, when the state made the Nakota horse its State Honorary Equine, citing its history as a fundamental characteristic. More recently, in 2023 the legislature passed Senate Concurring Resolution (SCR 4014) imploring the NPS to keep the herd in TRNP, once again citing its historical importance.

The importance of the horses and TRNP to North Dakotans has been noted throughout the decades of cooperation between the park and the state. Given the history of collaboration between the park and the State of North Dakota, we need to work as long-term partners in the management of the horses now and in the future. The nature and history of the park, including the horses, needs to be honored just as we honor the legacy and history of conservation and ranching.

As an advocate for the historical resources for North Dakota and a consultation partner under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the State Historical Society requests that the NPS

April 5, 2024

continue decades of cooperation with North Dakota's elected officials to honor the commitments made to Governor Link in 1974 and consider the impacts of the horses on the cultural landscapes of TRNP as a biotic cultural resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William D. Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William D. Peterson, PhD

State Historic Preservation Officer

(North Dakota)

Attachments:(5)

- 1: Photo of Horses at Peaceful Valley Ranch
- 2: July 2, 1974, Letter from Superintendent Lancaster to Governor Link with response
- 3: Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park Dedication Program June 4, 1949
- 4: Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park Brochure
- 5: July 20, 1976, Letter from Natural Resources Coordinator Ellison to Superintendent Lancaster



# 1: Photo of Horses at Peaceful Valley Ranch (1910)



2: July 2, 1974, Letter from Superintendent  
Lancaster to Governor Link with response



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park  
Medora, North Dakota 58645

IN REPLY REFER TO:

N1427

July 2, 1974



Hon. Arthur Link  
Governor of North Dakota  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501

Dear Governor Link:

We are pleased to inform you that ownership of the wild horses within Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park has finally been resolved. All branded stock, have at this time, been removed by their owners and the issuance of a public notice has not brought forth further claims of ownership.

As we indicated to you some years ago, the animals will now be managed in a manner similiar to other wildlife within the park. We will disturb them as little as possible, leaving nature to take its course. Periodic reductions in herd size will in time be necessary and the introduction of new stallions to prevent inbreeding will be undertaken from time to time.

We wish to thank you for your interest in the horses over the years and hope these animals continue to serve as an attraction and as an incentive for people to visit the North Dakota badlands.

Sincerely yours,

  
John O. Lancaster  
Superintendent

July 3, 1974

Mr. John O. Lancaster, Superintendent  
Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park  
Medora, North Dakota 58645

Dear Mr. Lancaster:

Thank you for your letter of July 2, 1974, wherein you informed me that the ownership of the wild horses within Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park has been resolved.

Good news!

Best of luck to you in the management of the wild horses from now on. I am certain these horses will continue to serve as an attraction and an incentive for people to visit North Dakota and the North Dakota Badlands.

Sincerely yours,

ARTHUR A. LINK  
Governor

AAL:mk

### 3: Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park Dedication June 4, 1949

# DEDICATION

JUNE 4, 1949

*Theodore Roosevelt*

## *National Memorial Park*

Sponsored by the Greater North Dakota Association  
Fargo, North Dakota

— PROGRAM —

Starting at 11:00 a. m.—Dedication site 5 miles east of Medora on U. S. No. 10.  
North Dakota Hymn—Orland Heskin, Bismarck.  
Invocation—Rev Felix Andrews, Gladstone, State Chaplain, Disabled American Veterans.  
Welcome—R. J. Hughes, Wahpeton, President Greater North Dakota Association  
Historical Background—W. L. Gardner, New England, Dedication Chairman.  
Introduction of Guests—Governor Fred G. Aandahl, Master of Ceremonies.  
Greetings from Canada—Honorable L. F. McIntosh, Minister of Cooperation and Cooperative Development and Municipal Affairs, Province of Saskatchewan.  
Prairie States Park—E. E. Krebsbach, Sidney, Montana, representing John W. Bonner, Governor of Montana.  
Roosevelt and the Indian—Antelope, son of the famous Sioux chief, Running Antelope, translation by Judge Francis Zahn, interpreter, Standing Rock Reservation.  
Roosevelt and the Rancher—T. F. Roberts, Medora.  
Roosevelt and the Military—Captain W. C. Holt, U. S. Navy, Minneapolis.  
Roosevelt and the Rough Riders—Sergeant Royal A. Prentice, Tucumcari, New Mexico.  
Message—Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association.  
Introduction—U. S. Senator Milton R. Young by W. L. Gardner.  
Remarks—Senator Young.  
Presentation Address—Congressman Lemke.  
Acceptance and Introduction of Speaker—Director Newton B. Drury, National Park Service.  
Dedication Address—Secretary Julius A. Krug, Department of the Interior.  
Benediction—Rev. E. I. Hageman, St. John's Lutheran Church, Dickinson.  
Star Spangled Banner—Williston Junior Band.  
At 10:30 a. m. the United States Air Force will pay tribute to Theodore Roosevelt by a flight of B-29's from the Rapid City, South Dakota, Base of the 28th Bombardment Wing, Colonel A. T. Wilson, Jr., Commanding.  
Music—Mandan High School Band—10:00 to 11:00 a. m.  
Williston Junior Band—12:30 to 1:15 p. m.  
Dickinson High School Band—1:15 to 2:00 p. m.  
In charge of parking—Williston Riding Club.



DEDICATION

Sponsored by the Greater North Dakota Association:—

- R. J. HUGHES, Wahpeton, President.
F. A. IRISH, Fargo, Treasurer.
LEROY PEASE, Fargo, Executive Secretary.
M. J. CONNOLLY, Fargo, Assistant Secretary.

DEDICATION COMMITTEE:—

W. L. GARDNER, New England, Chairman

EX-officio members:

- GOVERNOR FRED G. AANDAHL
GENERAL HEBER L. EDWARDS, Adjutant General.
SUPERINTENDENT RUSSELL REID, State Historical Society.
SUPERINTENDENT ALYN F. HANKS and HISTORIAN RAY H. MATTISON, Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park.
EINAR DAHL, Watford City and ORVILLE BURDA, Dickinson, members with W. L. Gardner of Executive Board.
JAMES B. CONNOLLY, Dickinson, Secretary.

- A. U. ANDERSON, Crosby.
L. M. BARNHART, Medora.
ARLEY R. BUELLA, Williston.
A. M. CHRISTENSEN, Minot.
R. L. DUSHINSKE, Devils Lake.
F. E. FITZSEMONDS, Bismarck.
J. R. KENNEDY, Fargo.
N. JAY LEONARD, Grand Forks.
JOHN PAULSON, Fargo.
JOHN PLATH, Bismarck.
M. J. RASCHKO, Dickinson.
FRANK RAY, JR., Dickinson.
JOHN ROUZIE, Bowman.
HOWARD STONE, New Rockford.
HUGH THOMPSON, Glendive.
S. W. THOMPSON, Devils Lake.
EARLE F. TUCKER, Bismarck.
F. P. WHITNEY, Dickinson.

Park Feeding Concession—Eighth District, American Legion.

Before or after the pageant tour, the following entertainment is being offered at Medora:

- CHATEAU DE MORES—State Historical Society, open house.
ART EXHIBIT AND ROOSEVELT MUSEUM — Bismarck Branch National League of American Penwomen; Quemin Roosevelt Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution; Mrs. H. J. Wienbergen, Dickinson, State DAR Regent, Coordinator.—Soil Conservation Service Building.
PUPPET SHOW—"Teddy Roosevelt in the Badlands," by Blanche and Roland Harding at the City Hall at 1:00 p. m., 4:00 p. m. and 7:00 p. m.
AIR EXCURSIONS—Sax Aviation Company, Buddy Ranch Field.
RODEO—Badlands Post, American Legion at 4:00 p. m.
HORSEBACK RIDES—Buddy Ranch.
SPECIAL ART EXHIBIT—Rough Riders Hotel.
STREET CONCERT—Dickinson City Band.
DANCE—City Hall at 9:00 p. m.

PAGEANT

The Badlands and Teddy Roosevelt

Written and Directed by (ELWYN A. NELLIS

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A VISIT TO THE ENCHANTED PAST—REALISTIC GLIMPSES INTO THE THRILLING ERAS OF A ROMANTIC AREA — A GLANCE AT THE PEOPLE WHO MADE NATIONAL HISTORY, UNFOLDED IN UNIQUE PAGE- ANTRY AMID THE NATURAL SETTING OF THE NORTH DAKOTA BADLANDS.

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SCENE I—THE INDIANS Sioux village before the coming of the white man. Indians from Standing Rock Reservation. Indian Dances — Mandan Indians, El Zagal Shrine.

SCENE II—LA VERENDRYE First white man to explore what is now North Dakota. Boy Scouts—Glen Ullin.

SCENE III—TRAPPERS A sordid page from history, trappers' annual rendezvous. Community Groups—Sidney, Montana.

SCENE IV—GENERAL A. H. SULLY Punitive expedition against the Indians—a result of the 1862 Minnesota massacre—led Sully's troops across the Badlands. Bismarck Junior Chamber of Commerce.

SCENE V—GENERAL GEORGE A. CUSTER Custer's cavalry in camp en route to the "last stand" in the Little Big Horn. Custer — George Armstrong Custer III, grand nephew of the famous leader, student at State College of Michigan. Sod Busters' Saddle Club—Hettinger County, North Dakota.

SCENE VI—MALTESE CROSS RANCH CABIN Maltese Cross or Chimney Butte Ranch cabin where Roosevelt began his western cattle operations. (Original cabin is now on grounds of State Historical Society, Bismarck). Theodore Roosevelt—Lyle Delaney, Dickinson.

SCENE VII—THE RANCHERS A round-up camp. Music—Watford City Cowboy Band. Western justice, a cattle rustler—Watford City Townspeople. Bismarck Horse Club.

SCENE VIII—COMING OF THE RAILROAD Northern Pacific Railway survey crew. Dickinson State Teachers College Students.

SCENE IX—STAGE COACH Coach established by Marquis de Moree for Medora-Deadwood run. Beach Junior Chamber of Commerce.

SCENE X—THE HOMESTEADER Ranchers resent intrusion into their domain of "nesters." Belfield Community Group

SCENE XI—PEACE—AND THE BIG STICK "Speak softly and carry a big stick."—Theodore Roosevelt at the Minnesota State Fair, September 2, 1901. Kitty Page of Fargo—"Miss North Dakota." Service Personnel—Bismarck Recruiting Stations. Music—Watford City High School Band.



- TRIBUTE -  
The Badlands and Little Missouri

Dedication To  
The Citizens of the United States

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It is a privilege to welcome you to the dedication of Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park. On this occasion we observe formally the distinction which Congress has given to this North Dakota area by adding it to the outstanding family of national parks, monuments, and historic sites which comprise the National Park System. We hope that these ceremonies will further your understanding of the National Park Service and particularly its obligations in relation to this memorial park.

This section of the Badlands of the Little Missouri now has been set aside to commemorate a great American whose personal experience here helped him to understand the problems of the West in relation to those of the nation as a whole. This park, therefore, is a fitting memorial to Theodore Roosevelt's bold leadership in the movement for the conservation of our natural resources.

One aspect of this conservation movement has been the preservation of important scenic, scientific, and historical assets under the administration of the National Park Service. By Act of Congress this Federal Service is enjoined to conserve the scenery and natural and historic objects and wildlife within the areas it administers, and to provide for their enjoyment in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for future generations.

Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, like all the units of the National Park Service, now belongs to the citizens of the whole United States, but it is particularly to you, as neighbors and friends, that the National Park Service must look for assistance in the solution of the administrative and other problems that it is expected will be encountered here.

It gives me great pleasure to extend our sincere appreciation to the State Dedication Committee, sponsored by the Greater North Dakota Association, for their generous contribution in arranging and helping to carry out this ceremony.

NEWTON B. DRURY, Director  
National Park Service

Quick Print, Dickinson, N. D.

## 4: Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park Brochure

# THEODORE ROOSEVELT

## NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK

### NORTH DAKOTA



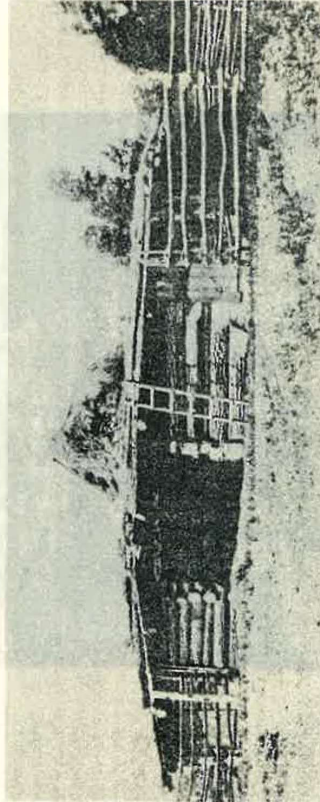


# THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK NORTH DAKOTA



UNITED STATES  
*Department of the Interior*  
J. A. Krug, Secretary

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Newton B. Drury, Director



STABLES AT ROOSEVELT'S ELKHORN RANCH

Theodore Roosevelt's enduring contributions to the conservation of our country's natural resources for public benefit are commemorated by this park. The experiences he shared with pioneers on the Dakota frontier enabled him to understand the problems of the West and won him outstanding popularity with its citizens. There, also, he gained firsthand knowledge of the exhaustibility of natural resources and the need for measures to reduce wanton waste occasioned by indiscriminate exploitation of the perishable assets of our public lands for immediate private or sectional gain.

Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park was established by Act of Congress, April 25, 1947. Thus, about 27,756 acres\* of Federally owned land in the badlands of the Little Missouri in North Dakota were set aside for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the whole nation. The memorial park will give visitors an opportunity to examine closely historic spots, geology, wildlife, and flora which are a part of this setting that has been particularly distinguished because of its historical association with Theodore Roosevelt, the twenty-sixth president of our nation.

\* Subsequent legislation has increased area to approximately 58,000 acres.

## HISTORY

No other president of the United States has been so closely associated with the Dakotas as was Theodore Roosevelt when he shared the pioneer life of the Trans-Mississippi West. His activity here began in September 1883, when he came to the Little Missouri region to hunt buffalo. Guided by Joe Ferris, Roosevelt displayed much physical energy in persisting in the difficult hunt until he shot a bison. He also arranged to enter into the cattle business. The contract whereby he became owner of the Matiese Cross brand was dated St. Paul, September 27, 1883. By it, Sylvanne Ferris and A. W. Merrifield were to run cattle for him on their Chimney Butte Ranch, about 7 miles south of Medora.

Personal tragedy was partly responsible for the extension of Roosevelt's ranching operations. Both his mother and wife suddenly passed away in February 1884, when he was a youth of 25, serving his third term in the New York Assembly. Thereafter he abandoned his political pursuits temporarily. Ranching in the desolate, wild beauty of the badlands afforded him the opportunity to realize his boyhood dreams of living the free life of pioneer hunters, sleeping under the stars, observing the wild animals in their native haunts, and dealing with pioneers and sharing their experiences in the opening of a new settlement. On returning to the badlands in June 1884 and finding that his herds had well withstood the winter, Roosevelt sought out a location for a ranch of his own. The land was not yet surveyed and so, like most of his fellow ranchers, he had little opportunity to make legal record of his property, and no records have been found to show that he ever acquired a title to the area. This was a site some 35 miles north of Medora. Here, in a clump of cottonwoods on the bank of the Little Missouri, he developed his home ranch. It was located on an alluvial plain looking out over the Little Missouri River on the east and hemmed in on the other sides by a range of bluffs typical of the badlands. The ranch was called the Elkhorn because of a pair of locked antlers found nearby.

Here in the fall and winter of 1884-1885 was constructed a cabin of hewn logs, made from the cottonwoods in the grove

where it was situated. During 1885 other buildings were erected, including stables and corrals. His ranch buildings were possibly typical of those of other home ranches, but his cabin probably afforded more comforts than did most homes on the range. A huge fireplace, private rooms, small bookshelves, and rocking chair offered the young statesman, turned rancher, opportunities for writing and reading, a pleasure which he did not neglect even when on the hunt, the roundup, or enforcing law. Much of his Life of Thomas Hart Benton and some other articles were written while at the Elkhorn. More important for the sake of his literary achievements, however, were the experiences and observations which he later utilized when writing The Winning of the West.

Theodore Roosevelt also was interested in the actual operations of ranching. He participated not only in the supervision of his own ranch but in the hard work of the roundup. He thus gained firsthand knowledge of the work and play of the cowboys as well as the ranch owners. He boasted no great ability as a rider or a roper or even as a hunter, but he displayed his ability at leadership in successfully organizing a local stockmen's association. His fellow ranchers showed their confidence in him by electing him president of the Little Missouri River Stock Association and by having him represent them at meetings of the Montana Stockgrowers' Association, with which they were affiliated.

When Theodore Roosevelt first came to the badlands, the region was largely beyond the pale of the law, that is, except for "gun-law." But he helped demonstrate the practicability, even then, of using the regular courts. At much personal effort, he overtook three thieves who stole his boat and brought them to justice before the regular courts and collected fees for his service as "Deputy Sheriff." As orator on a 4th of July program at the new town of Dickinson in 1886, he boldly told the pioneer settlers about their duties and obligations as citizens as well as of their privileges under our republic.

Roosevelt lost considerable sums through his Dakota ranching venture, but he appears never to have regretted this, and most writers feel that the experience thus gained rewarded him for the loss. His



knowledge of people of the West, as a result of sharing their life, helped him understand their problems and won him popularity among them. The famous military organization, the "Rough Riders," was an outgrowth of Roosevelt's experience in the badlands. The fame resulting from its exploits during the Spanish-American War was important in his rise to the governorship of New York, the vice-presidency, and later the presidency of the United States.

In the West he also gained knowledge of the exhaustibility of natural resources and the importance of their conservation. During his presidency, he made important contributions to the inauguration of conservation programs to protect from selfish and wasteful exploitation natural resources which should be conserved in the interest of the general welfare. In the book, Roosevelt in the Badlands, Hermann Hagedorn has given a full and interesting account of this chapter of the future President's life. He has pointed out Roosevelt's own appreciation for the intangible returns from his Dakota experiences. It was an idyllic life he led and shared with hunters, ranchers, cowboys, and pioneers, whose virtues he adored and whose faults he forgave. Here, as he said, "the romance of my life began."

The lure of profits attributed to the open range cattle industry attracted several notable characters. Of all Roosevelt's contemporaries there, the best known and most colorful was the Marquis de Mores. Financial means at his disposal enabled him to launch several industrial ventures. His slaughter-house at Medora and his scheme for direct marketing of meats to the city table failed for a number of reasons. In Medora, which he founded early in 1883, are several structures beside the smokestack of his packing plant which date back to the Marquis' promotion of the region. Most interesting is his country home or "chateau" which he maintained for his family. It is now a state historic site, where visitors can see the furnishings used by the Frenchman. Here Roosevelt paid occasional social calls and enjoyed discussions about horsemanship with the Marquis. The fact that they had misunderstandings is a matter of record, but the differences appear to have been exaggerated. The fact that either was dishonorable is contradicted by the same sources.

## GEOLOGY

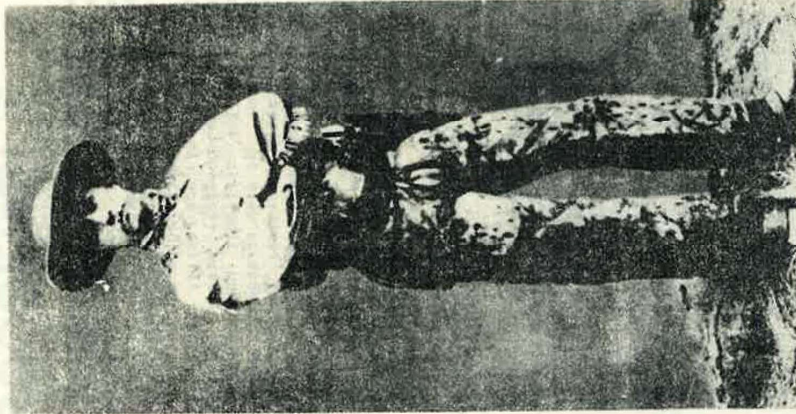
Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park is an area of great scenic appeal. The flatness of the plains to the east is broken by the conical hills, flat-topped buttes, and table lands along the Little Missouri River. The sands, shales, and clays are gray, blue, buff, and yellow. Interspersed with these pastel shades are black coal beds and thin red and brown bands of iron-stained sand and clay. The red baked shales add brilliance to the scene. Processes of erosion have caused these shades to mingle and blend with one color predominating at one place and a different color at another place close by.

The origin of the surface rocks, known to geologists as the Fort Union formation, goes back many millions of years to the dawn of the Cenozoic era. Streams orig-

inating in the newly uplifted Rocky Mountains flowed eastward and deposited their load of sediments in broad lagoons, lakes, and deltas. The rock thus produced is found over a large part of western North Dakota and eastern Montana. Climatic conditions were such that a luxuriant vegetation flourished.

The accumulation of forest debris in the lagoons and swamps often attained considerable thickness, and when later covered by sediments, was converted into coal. The type of coal found in the park is the soft variety known as lignite.

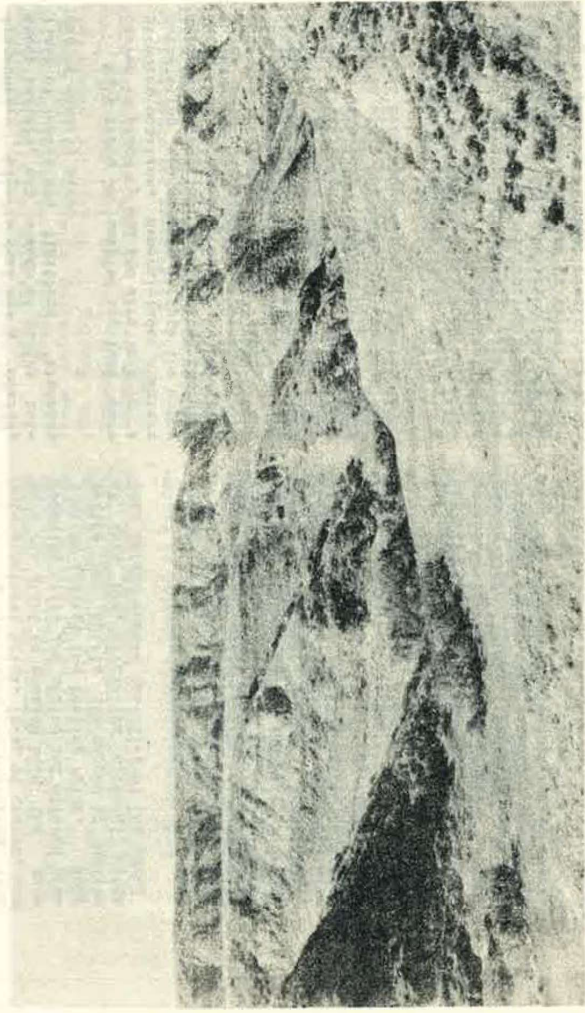
There are several beds of coal varying in thickness from about an inch to over seven feet. There is also considerable variation in purity and texture. Some beds appear to be of fair quality, but most of them are thin and interlaid with bands



THEODORE ROOSEVELT

This photograph, made about 1883, when Roosevelt first visited the badlands, is one of several which show the young statesman posing in unusual attire of the hunter and cowboy which he fancied. On that frontier the buckskin tunic had not yet been entirely discarded and newcomers who desired them went some distance to a ranch where those expertly made by a Mrs. Maddox were obtainable.

TYPICAL BADLANDS SCENE  
Near Park Headquarters at Peaceful Valley Ranch



Grant Photo



## WILDLIFE

The area encompassed by Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park tells the progress of wild game from abundance to scarcity or even elimination of some species. Here, the rich grasslands, wooded gulches, and wind-swept ridges once furnished abundant food for thousands of bison, mountain sheep, elk, mule and white-tail deer, grizzly bear, wolf, and antelope. Within the past 75 years, the bear, buffalo, mountain sheep, and elk have passed from the scene. Today, deer are the only large mammals found in the park.

Smaller animals are found in abundance. Among the more common are porcupines, chipmunks, prairie-dogs, coyotes, badgers, beaver, wildcats, cottontails and jack-rabbits. Bullsnakes, blue racers and rattlesnakes are found in the area.

The park is rich in bird life. Hawks, eagles, owls, woodpeckers, flickers, sparrows, meadow larks, swallows, buntings, wrens, orioles, and other common species are frequently observed.

Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park is a part of the National Park System and is administered by the National Park Service. It is under the immediate supervision of a superintendent. Communications should be addressed to Medora, North Dakota.

Park Headquarters is located at Peaceful Valley Ranch 6 miles from Medora, N.D. over a surfaced road which joins U. S. Highway 10, 6 miles east of the town. Medora is on the main line of the Northern Pacific Railroad. This is the only railroad with direct connections to Medora. The nearest transcontinental air fields are located at Bismarck, N. D., and Miles City, Mont.

The most popular means of transportation is by automobile. U. S. Highway 10 is suggested for east-west travelers. U. S. Highway 85, the nearest north-south highway, intersects Route 10, 18 miles east of Medora. Secondary roads may be impassable after prolonged rains. Visitors should inquire locally concerning road conditions at such times.

Nearly all of the park is accessible to horseback or hiking parties. Visitors will find this a pleasant way to enjoy the area.

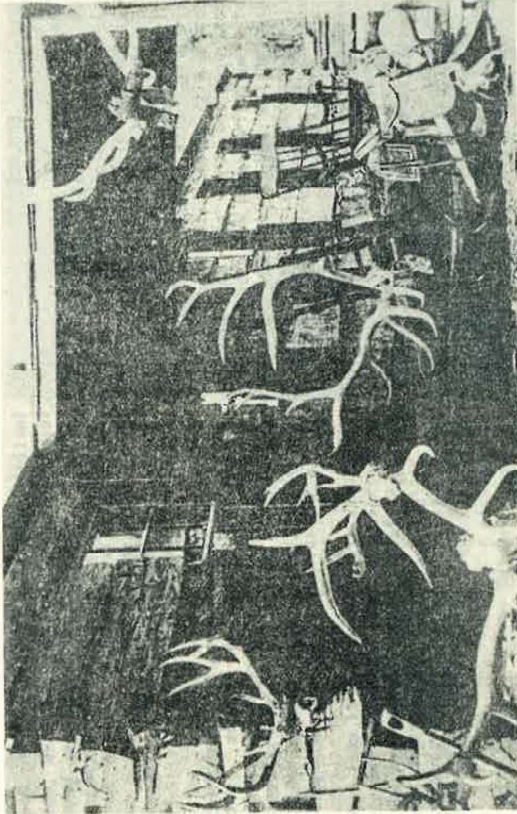
## PUBLIC SERVICES TO VISITORS

There are no overnight accommodations in the park. Visitors must arrange for lodging and meals in nearby cities and villages.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

The basic rules and regulations governing National Park Service areas apply to Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park. These rules and regulations are in force for the primary purpose of preserving the area in as near a natural condition as possible. In order that future generations may enjoy it as much as those of our own time, visitors are requested to assist the administration by observing the following regulations:

- (1) Be careful with fire. Build fires only in designated places. Do not throw burning tobacco from moving vehicles or horseback. Be sure all fires are extinguished before leaving them.
- (2) The area is a wildlife sanctuary. Visitors are requested to refrain from molesting wildlife in any manner. The feeding of animals is prohibited. Remember, they can take care of themselves better if not pampered by human beings.
- (3) Wildflowers and other types of vegetation are protected. If you strip the area of flowers, visitors who follow you will not receive the enjoyment to which they are entitled.
- (4) In order to perpetuate the natural condition of the park it is necessary that the collection of rocks, minerals, artifacts, or other specimens of natural objects be closely supervised. Therefore, written permission from the official in charge is required before collections can be made.
- (5) Help keep the area clean. Do not throw papers, rubbish, or garbage about. Place it in containers specified for that purpose.
- (6) When not superseded by special Federal regulations, the laws of the State of North Dakota apply and are enforced.



PIAZZA OF THE ELKHORN RANCH

of sand and clay. When exposed to the air, the coal slakes and breaks into small fragments. Lignite coal has a coarse, woody texture, and in much of it the outlines of leaves and flattened branches can be readily seen.

Many trees in isolated sections were buried in place by mud and were left in a standing position. Mineral-laden waters percolating and seeping through the woody structure converted it into stone and produced what is commonly known as petrified wood. Later, erosional processes carried away the covering of clays, sands, and shales, and exposed the trunks of the trees, some erect and in place, but converted to solid rock. Some of the trees were veritable forest giants, exceeding 10 feet in diameter. Numbers of these still exist in place but most, of course, fell and have been broken into fragments.

Much of the area is overlaid by a hard, reddish, brick-like rock known locally as "scoria." It is abundant in the park and surrounding country. The origin of the scoria is an interesting segment of earth history. It is believed the exposed coal beds became ignited by either lightning or prairie fires, or possibly by spon-

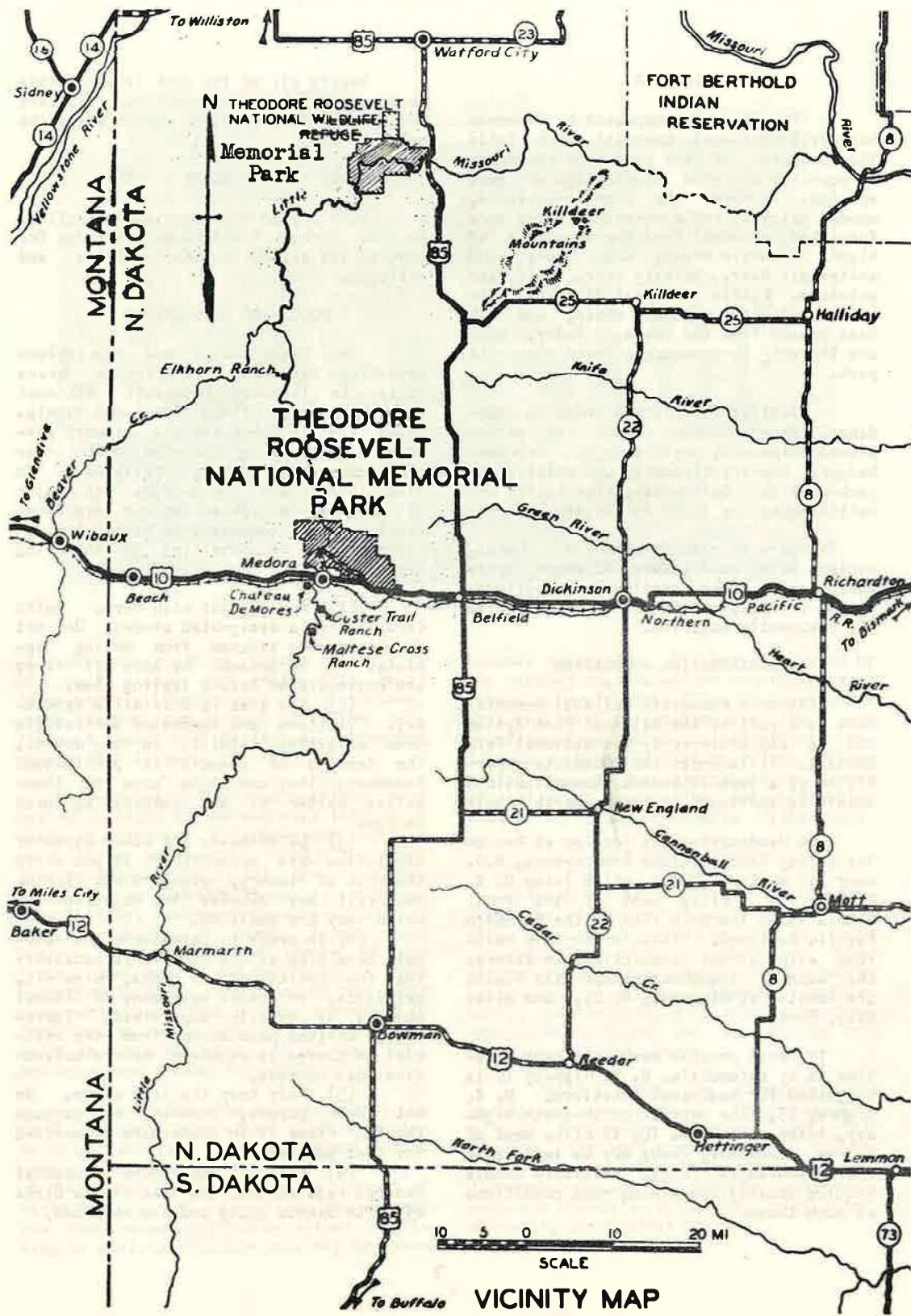
taneous combustion. The heat generated by the burning coal baked the overlying clay into a natural brick. This, of course, was more resistant to erosion than the surrounding clays and shales and offered protection against the beating rains. Many buttes and spires are capped by masses of this red, brick-like material which adds to the scenic qualities of the park.

## TREES AND FLOWERS

There are many groves of cottonwoods along moist river bottoms. There are three species of juniper as well as cedar and ash. Sage-brush is abundant. Other shrubs are aromatic sumac, chokecherry, buck-brush, wild plum, dogwood, buffalo-berry, rabbit-brush, wild rose, juneberry, and currant. Yucca and pear cactus are found in numerous places.

Wild flowers are abundant in the spring and early summer. Some varieties persist throughout the summer and fall months. The more common flowers are the pasque flower, gumbo lily, wild sweet pea, larkspur, arnica, cow parsnip, sunflower, mountain bluebell, goldenrod, wild aster, hairbell, and prairie phlox.





**THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK**

**VICINITY MAP**

5: July 20, 1976, Letter from Natural  
Resources Coordinator Ellison to  
Superintendent Lancaster



1-12-15

July 20, 1976

Mr. John O. Lancaster, Superintendent  
Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park  
Medora, North Dakota 58649

Dear John:

I just had to take a minute to write you after reviewing your plan for the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park that was circulated under OMB A-95 agreement with State Planning.

I was impressed with the amount of cooperation that the Park has established with the private, state and local entities surrounding the units of the Park. You and your staff are to be complimented for the support that you give to the local cultures and communities through your cooperative efforts.

I realize your responsibilities lie within the Park in the preservation of the historical natural values, but I feel you have exemplified the kind of cooperative relationship with the people who live in the area, and this should be recognized.

Keep up the good work, John.

Sincerely yours,

R. A. "Ike" Ellison, Coordinator  
Natural Resources Council

RAE:pb

JUL 20 1976