National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

FINDING AID

EDWARD E. MIDGLEY PAPERS

1931-1936

Prepared by
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Yellowstone National Park Archives
P O Box 168
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190-0168

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HISTORY

According to the 1910 U.S. Census, Edward (Ed) E. Midgley was born September 2, 1911, and was deceased May 23, 1999. He was raised in a Mormon family of Provo, Utah with five brothers. Father was Edward P. (sometimes E.) Midgley. His mother was Louise Midgley, with the possible maiden name of Winchester. It is unclear from the census records, but it appears Edward and Louise moved to the United States from Newcastle, South Wales, and they were married in 1896. His brothers names are Herbert (b. 1901), Kenneth (Ken) (b. 1904), Calvin (b. 1905), Donald (Don) (b. 1907), and his twin Louis E. (Lou) (b. September 1, 1911). Ken married Ingaborg N. Williamson in 1932 and Lou married Agnes (maiden name unknown). From the donor correspondence it seems Ed had a son, but his name is not mentioned.

Lou, Ed, and Don all worked for the Yellowstone Park Camps Company (YPCC) in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Don is listed in the 1928 Yellowstone Park Camps Co. ledger as a porter working at Canyon. Lou is listed in the 1934 Yellowstone Park Lodge and Camps Co. as having worked at Gardiner (possibly Mammoth) as a porter. It can be gleaned from Ed Midgley's scrapbook that Ed worked for Old Faithful 1931-2, and Canyon 1933-6 as a bellman or "Pack Rat". Ed and Lou also helped to entertain the "Dudes". Lou (drums) and Ed (saxophone) are labeled as being in the Old Faithful orchestra in 1932. Ed is shown as part of the Canyon Lodge band in 1936. Correspondence from John Landrigan states that Don played piano at Canyon Hotel, Canyon Lodge, and Mammoth [Hotel].

It seems that Ed knew Claudia Terwilliger Halverson. According to the donor correspondence, Claudia worked at Old Faithful in 1932. In Lee Whittlesey's book A Yellowstone Album, he used two images from the museum collection credited to Halverson on pages 68 and 80 that show some of the same people as in Ed's album. At the time of publishing, the individuals' identities were unknown. With this connection, Tyra Hull (Hall), John "Smitty" Smith, Lillian Weaver, and Jean Weaver have been identified. It is certainly possible that Ed, Lou, Tyra, Smitty, Lillian, and Jean all knew each other from their summer at Old Faithful in 1932.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

EDWARD E. MIDGLEY PAPERS
1931-1936 (bulk dates: 1931-1934)

CATALOG NUMBER YELL 194588

VOLUME .25 LF

DESCRIPTION This collection of papers includes a 1930 Haynes guide, loose photographic prints, and a scrapbook.

The Haynes guide was used as a type of yearbook. Ed Midgley had his friends and coworkers sign the pages of the guide.

The loose prints are more than likely from the scrapbook as a couple have print corners still attached to them.

The scrapbook cover is made of soft suede leather and is embossed and painted with images of a black bear and the Lower Falls with the words "Yellowstone Park" across the front. The autograph section provides detail regarding the names and hometowns of Ed's coworkers and other employees of the YPCC. The rest of the scrapbook is made up of black paper with original black and white prints attached by photographic print corners and labeling in white pencil. Sticker labels were added at a later date and provide more detail regarding names and places.

The following lists provide a reference for dates, names, and locations documented in the scrapbook.

Old Faithful Lodge Summer 1931: Images include: buildings and tents, theater or recreation hall, costumes, style show, night skits, parades, bears, Rat's Nest (employee housing) with sign above the door of last names and state of residence (exterior and interior), Cat's Nest, employees packing luggage and gathering laundry, baggage from West Yellowstone in trucks, West Yellowstone entrance, Yellowstone River, Keppler Cascade, and Mallard Lake.

Individuals and groups labeled in the photos include: Ted Osman, Al Stewart, John Smith or Smitty, Ed Midgley, Green sisters-neighbors from SLC, Don Murtagh, Nebraska employees, and Ed with Midge.

Old Faithful Summer 1932: People documented include: Lou and Ed Midgley in bellman uniforms, a woman in nurse uniform, orchestra including Ed and Lou, Fred Gebert (Geb), Archie Meur, Bob Thornburg, Chuck Swager, L.A. "Mitch" Mitchell, Stan Rogers, Ray Cord, Ken, Ingaborg N. Williamson Midgley, Edward P. and Louise Midgley (parents), Agnes Midgley (Lou's wife), Jean and Jillian Weaver, and Tyra Hull or Hall. Other images include: 1932 list of Rats (employees), horse pack crew, laundry, bears near buildings, people petting a bear, and views of the Tortoise Shell Pool, geyser basin, Giant Geyser and interpretive sign, Riverside, Old Faithful, Sawmill, and Giantess Geysers.

Canyon Lodge Summer 1933: Images include: staff, group with auto on top of Mt. Washburn, employees dressed for plays in costume, clerks, Ed Midgley and Don Midgley, Al Seaburn, various people recharging fire equipment, and Canyon buildings.

Canyon Lodge Summer 1934: Images include: Louise Taylor, staff waiting for buses to sing their welcome to the tourists, waitresses and busboys, Vigilance Committee (bosses), Mt. Washburn, and Lake (Yellowstone Lake?).

Canyon Lodge Summer 1936: Pete Mapes and Merl Peek with Canyon Lodge sign, Jim Sharpe, Annie, Blanche, Ed Midgley, Canyon Lodge band members, Canyon buildings, Lower Falls, Uncle Tom's Trail, Tower Overlook, and Upper Falls.

ORGANIZATION Arranged into three folders according to material type.

PROVENANCE Donated to the Yellowstone Museum Collections in 2000.

RESTRICTIONS NO

ASSOCIATED MATERIALS "A Yellowstone Album" duplicate prints (YELL 127388 YELL-1760)

A Yellowstone Album by Lee Whittlesey p. 68
Same image as 127388 and Midgley scrapbook p. 38
Yellowstone National Park Research Library

Yellowstone : A Suite in Four Movements for Piano by Donald Midgley
Yellowstone National Park Research Library

1928 Yellowstone Park Camps Co. ledger
1934 Yellowstone Park Lodge & Camps Co. ledger
Yellowstone National Park Combined Archives

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1 of 1

File Unit Nbr	Title
1	Annotated Haynes Guide
2	Six Photographic Prints
3	Scrapbook