

"Gram" Says

After my recent trip to Yellowstone National Park last month during which time Gram's column took a temporary absence from your favorite newspaper, I hauled down the old dictionary and turned to the word vacation which read "a period of rest and recreation." We did have a wonderful time. We traveled through the Bad Lands of South Dakota where million of years ago this land was covered with a great salt sea, which receded and now can be seen how erosion has left strange and unusual shapes and colors.

Here is where those prehistoric monsters lived and died and are now being chiseled piece by piece from these hills of sedimentary rocks and studied by our archeologists.

What I saw gave me a feeling of awe as I thought of that unknown spiritual power behind all this. Leaving these barren wastes we rounded a curve, high above us was the monument, where the busts of four great American leaders, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt, are sculptured. This mountain is 6,000 feet high and at the top of this solid granite Gutzon Borglum carved the busts of four great presidents in proportion to men 450 feet tall. It is called the "Shrine of Democracy."

Just before we reached Rushmore Memorial a little way from this monument the road was like a trail and two buck deer scurried across to find shelter. The Black Hills are so called because of the dark pine and spruce which hug their slopes. Here below are gushing streams and meadowlands, where tourists can see the antelope, deer, elk and goat.

All kinds of recreation can be found thru this beautiful district. The streams are a fisherman's paradise.

Most of all I enjoyed the scenery, the snake-like roads with so many pretty wild flowers, pheasants darting into the brush, never ending beauty at each curve of the steep, winding road.

I remember Sylvan Lake, a blue green, nestled deep and hemmed in by tall masses of granite.

At Sheridan, Wyoming, we found a very cordial city which offered the tourists band concerts and moving pictures, which explained the interesting points of the country we were passing through.

Two hundred miles from here we would enter Yellowstone.

All around us now was irrigated fields of oats, wheat, sugar beets and some corn.

Now we began to climb through Big Horn Pass, 7,030 feet. What a drive! Many tunnels, Shoshone Pass, Buffalo Bill Dam and thru faces such as Laughing bog, the carved or formed in the rocks. Church, A Camel and many others. Here were the aspen and cottonwood trees.

I hope next time I may continue about Yellowstone and also that many of you people are as fortunate as I and can see this beautiful country, but don't go for a rest, for there is too much to see.

Gram S. E. B.