



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 1, 2006 06-42

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs
(307) 739-3415 or 739-3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Menor's Ferry Now in Operation at Grand Teton National Park

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that the historic Menor's ferry has been launched for the summer season, and visitors may once again ride across the Snake River between Bill Menor's store and Dornan's. The ferry represents a significant period in the transportation history of Jackson Hole, and is a central feature of the Menor/Noble historic district, located north of the Moose Visitor Center.



Truck transported across Snake River aboard Menor's Ferry.

Menor's ferry consists of a platform set upon two pontoons, which are tethered to a cable system. It operates by directing the pontoons at an angle, toward the opposite riverbank, and letting the water's current power the craft across the river channel. This type of ferry existed in ancient times and was widely used throughout the United States.

Bill Menor built the ferry in 1894, shortly after he arrived to homestead on the banks of the Snake River. Prior to ferry service, residents who lived primarily on the east bank of the river could only cross when the flow was low enough to ford, or if they traveled south to Wilson, Wyoming to cross over the nearest bridge. After the ferry began its operation, residents made regular trips across the river to gather berries and mushrooms, or to purchase wares from Menor's store.

Menor charged 25 cents for a horse and rider to cross the river and 50 cents for a team and wagon; pedestrians rode across for free. After the ferry was sold to Maud Noble in 1918, the price increased to one dollar for automobiles with local license plates, and higher fares for those from out-of-state. The original ferry became obsolete and ceased operation in 1927, when the State of Wyoming built a highway bridge across the river, just south of the Menor homestead.

The current ferry is a replica of Menor's original craft. It was constructed by the San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park and officially dedicated on August 25, 2000, as part of the park's 50th anniversary celebration. The ferry provides park visitors with an opportunity to take a free ride on this historic replica while learning firsthand about this important facet of the region's transportation history.

-NPS-

www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.