



FINDING AID

HERMA ALBERTSON BAGGLEY PAPERS

1927-1957(bulk dates: 1927-1940)

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6/25/2010

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Catalog Number: YELL 189802

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Copyright and Restrictions	ii
History	1
Scope and Content	3
Series Descriptions	5
Container List	6

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HISTORY

Herma Geneva Albertson was born on October 11, 1896, in Inwood, Iowa. She lived there until she finished the eighth grade, when her family moved to southern Idaho for two years. In 1915, Herma graduated from high school in Blackfoot, Idaho. For several years after her graduation, she taught elementary school for the Blackfoot School District.

In the fall of 1921, Herma enrolled in the University of Idaho, majoring in botany with a minor in philosophy. With a love of the outdoors, she took as many science courses as her schedule would permit. After a brief return to teaching during the 1922-23 school year, she returned to the University where she was hired as a student instructor in the botany department and was elected to membership in Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi honor societies. She also studied at the Puget Sound Biological Station in Washington State during one summer.

Upon completion of her undergraduate degree, Herma went to work at Yellowstone National Park for the summer as a naturalist. To earn her room and board, she also worked as a “pillow puncher” at the Old Faithful Lodge for the Yellowstone Park Company. She helped lay out the first nature trail at Old Faithful and was the only guide on the trail for three years. She grew the crowd of hikers, from three to three hundred. Also during this period, she served as a relief lecturer and lectured in the open air amphitheater on the banks of the Firehole River and in the Old Faithful Lodge. She kept a display of wild flowers in both the Lodge and Old Faithful Inn lobbies and supervised the gathering of wild flowers for table decorations. After the summer season was over, Albertson was offered a permanent position with the NPS and accepted.

For three years Herma lectured and guided at Old Faithful Geyser and then was transferred to Mammoth Hot Springs. Following an injury, she was assigned to work in the Mammoth Museum and Information Office. Since the Park was only open in the summer, Herma taught high school science and was offered a graduate fellowship in the botany department at the University of Idaho. Herma received her master’s degree in the spring of 1929 and that fall began teaching as a full-time instructor in the botany department at the University of Idaho. After one year, Herma resigned from the university and applied to be an Assistant Park Naturalist with the National Park Service. Herma G. Albertson became the first woman to be appointed Junior Park Naturalist in May of 1931. During her seven years as a park naturalist, Herma authored and illustrated more than twenty-two articles for NPS publications, including *Yellowstone Nature Notes*.

Because of her work in the Park, Baggeley felt a growing need for a book on the wild flowers of the park. Experienced in writing manuals during her master’s program at the University of Idaho, she felt that she could produce a useful aid for the enjoyment of researchers and visitors to the park. Dr. W. B. McDougall, a leading plant ecologist and a temporary ranger naturalist in the park began discussing the possibilities of writing a manual with her. With the encouragement of Dr. Harold C. Bryant, the assistant Director of the National Park Service, they set out to publish *The Flowers of Yellowstone National Park* which has been edited and revised many times since its first publication. It is still a guide to the flowers within the Park.

In 1952, Herma became a leader with the National Park Women's Organization, which worked with the NPS in accordance with the Mission 66 program to upgrade park facilities throughout the NPS system.

In the winter of 1931, Herma married George Baggley, who was the Chief Ranger of Yellowstone National Park. Herma and George Baggley had one daughter, Ruth Ann. Herma A. Baggley died in 1981. Her alma mater, the University of Idaho, offers the Herma Albertson Botany Scholarship on an annual basis for undergraduates majoring in biological sciences. Colorado State University, where George began his degree in forestry, offers The George F. and Herma A. Baggley Graduate Scholarship on an annual basis to professionals who desire to return to graduate school with a major in forestry, wildlife or natural resources.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

HERMA ALBERTSON BAGGLEY PAPERS 1927-1957 (bulk dates: 1927-1940)

<i>CATALOG NUMBER</i>	YELL 189802
<i>VOLUME</i>	2.50 LF
<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<p>Diaries, photographs, research, and writings of Herma Albertson Bagglely, a botanist and the first woman to be hired as a park ranger naturalist.</p> <p>The collection consists of botanical drawings, correspondence, diaries, photographs, publications, research and field notes, subject files, and writings. The diaries and photographs document Bagglely's (then Albertson's) time as a "pillow puncher" or concession employee in Yellowstone National Park during the late 1920s. There is also correspondence concerning her hiring as the Park's first female ranger naturalist. There is a considerable amount of material, including correspondence, drafts, annotated publications, research notes, subject files, and other writings concerning the publication of the book, <i>Plants of Yellowstone National Park</i>, which Bagglely co-authored with Walter B. McDougall, and which went through several editions. Additional research notes, botanical drawings, subject files, and writings study other aspects of Yellowstone's vegetation.</p>
<i>ORGANIZATION</i>	Organized into three series: Series I, Biographical Materials; Series II, Research Materials; Series III, Writings.
<i>PROVENANCE</i>	Following his wife's wishes, George F. Bagglely donated the collection to the Yellowstone National Park Archives in 1981 and 1983. The Bagglelys had previously made numerous donations of objects to the museum and George continued to make such donations through the 1990s.
<i>RESTRICTIONS</i>	YES (Copyright has not been transferred.)

*ASSOCIATED
MATERIALS*

Official records by Herma Albertson Baggley and her husband, George, may be found in the Yellowstone National Park Archives.

An oral history with George Baggley is part of the oral history collection (77-3).

Objects donated by the Baggleys as well as Herma's sister, Marjorie Albertson, are located in the museum collection.

Publications written by both Baggleys may be found in the Yellowstone Research Library.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

I. Biographical Materials, 1925-1933

This series is organized chronologically.

The series consists of the personal documents of Herma A. Bagglely including diaries, photographs, and ephemera. Many of the items are from her pre and early career with the National Park Service.

Her personal diaries, dating from 1925 through November of 1933, detail the work that Bagglely did within the park and explain her daily activities. Bagglely's handbook from the University of Idaho for the school year 1925-1926 is also present. Photos from her summers spent as a worker for the Yellowstone Park Company are also included in this series.

II. Research Materials, 1924-1974 (bulk dates: 1925-1940)

This series is organized chronologically.

This series is filled with research notes and observations. Lecture notes from her days as a botany student at the University of Idaho can be found in this series, along with field notes from her work in Yellowstone National Park. The notes are ordered by subject and are heavily annotated by Bagglely.

III. Writings, 1927-1974 (bulk dates: 1927-1950)

This series is organized chronologically.

This series contains drafts and updated editions to Bagglely's classic work *Plants of Yellowstone National Park*. Periodical and journal articles as well as papers presented at conferences and during her travels are also held in this series. There is also correspondence pertaining to her writing and publication efforts. Sketches and drawings of plants that were used as illustrations, many with notes on the verso, are also located in this series.

CONTAINER LIST

Series Nbr	Series Title
01	Biographical Materials

Box 1

File Unit Nbr	Title
001	Diaries (1925-1926, 1929-1930)
002	Diary (Oct. 1931-Nov1933)
003	Photographs
004	Photo Album (1926-1928)
005	Photo Album (1929?)
006	Autobiographical Statement

Series Nbr	Series Title
02	Research Materials

Box 2

File Unit Nbr	Title
001	Lecture Notes
002	Plant Photographs
003	Research/Field Notes
004	Research/Field Notes (flowers)
005	Research/Field Notes (botany)
006	Research/Field Notes (Conard's List. Herbarium Lists, 1954)
007	Research/Field Notes (Conard Lists)
008	Research/Field Notes (nomenclature)
009	Research/Field Notes (Common Names & Notes [human interest])
010	Research/Field Notes (Early Plants Lists)
011	Research/Field Notes (1st Key)
012	Research/Field Notes (Glossary)
013	Research/Field Notes (Grasses, folder 1 Of 2)
014	Research/Field Notes (Grasses, folder 2 Of 2)
015	Research/Field Notes (Nature Trail)
016	Research/Field Notes (Poisonous Plants)
017	Research/Field Notes (Plant lists, Conard & Later)

Series Nbr	Series Title
03	Writings

Box 3

File Unit Nbr	Title
001	Correspondence (on 3rd edition)
002	Correspondence 1927-1939
003	Correspondence 1942-1974
004	Illustrations for Publications (list)
005	Illustrations for Publications (List- 1st ed)
006	Editions (original 2nd ed Plants of Yellowstone National Park [folder 1 of 2])
007	Editions (original 2nd ed Plants of Yellowstone National Park [folder 2 of 2])
008	Editions (Plants of Yellowstone National Park, 2nd ed., revised & rewritten)

Series Nbr	Series Title
03	Writings (cont'd)

Box 4

File Unit Nbr	Title
009	Editions (2nd copy/2nd edition, Plants of Yellowstone National Park [Folder 1 of 2])
010	Editions (2nd copy/2nd edition, Plants of Yellowstone National Park [Folder 2 of 2])
011	Editions (2nd keys and how to use)
012	Lectures
013	Sketches/Note Cards/Botanical Drawings

Box 5

File Unit Nbr	Title
014	Publications
015	Publications
016	Publications
017	Publications