



FINDING AID

WILLIAM ELMER ROUNDS PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM ca. 1920

Prepared by
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Yellowstone National Park Archives
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Copyright and Restrictions	ii
History	1
Scope and Content	2
Container List	3

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HISTORY

William Elmer Rounds visited Yellowstone National Park about 1919 or 1920. Rounds was born in Idaho, on August 30, 1896, the son of William and Emma Rounds, both of Utah. The family lived in Iona, Idaho in 1900, and later moved to nearby Lincoln. William, who may have gone by his middle name of Elmer, was the eldest of at least eight. He became interested in photography and by age 17 owned a Kodak camera, which may have been used to photograph his trip to Yellowstone.

In 1920, Rounds lived in Idaho Falls and worked as a real estate salesman. He married Vera Arave on August 29, 1920, in Idaho Falls and the couple had two children: William G, born in 1921, and Bessie J., born in 1924. By 1930, the family had moved to El Segundo, California, where Rounds worked as a pumper in an oil refinery. Rounds passed away on February 14, 1974, in Glendale, California. He is buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Los Angeles.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

WILLIAM ELMER ROUNDS PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM ca. 1920

CATALOG NUMBER YELL 204163

VOLUME 0.2 LF

DESCRIPTION Photograph album of a camping trip by automobile to
Yellowstone National Park, ca. 1920, by William Elmer Rounds.

The collection consists of well labeled, black and white photographs affixed on black construction paper with photograph corners. The album covers appear to be adhesive shelf paper made to look like wood grain, probably added at a later date.

The album depicts a camping trip through Yellowstone National Park, beginning at the West Entrance, via automobile. A flyer and map for the Yellowstone Park Camping Company, dated 1919, are located on the first page of the album and describe the amenities for those, known as "sagebrushers", who wish to travel by car and camp along the way. Thermal features shown include the Old Faithful Geyser Basin, Fountain Paint Pots, the Mammoth Terraces, and Grotto and Lone Star geysers. Other landscapes depict the Firehole, Madison, and Yellowstone rivers; Kepler and Virginia cascades, Gibbon and Tower falls, and the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, both Upper and Lower falls. There are also images of Yellowstone Lake, Dot Island, and West Thumb. Manmade features include the Old Faithful Inn, Old Faithful swimming pool, Mammoth Hotel, the Park Co. camp at Lake, and the Canyon bridge. A view of a small town, possibly West Yellowstone, Montana, shows a variety of businesses including Chad's Cabins, the Pink Kone Coffee Shop, and the Grizzly Cabaret. There are also images of automobiles along the Continental and Mount Washburn roads as well as views of the camp, complete with laundry on the line. People depicted are not labeled, unfortunately, but may include Rounds' wife (or future wife), Vera.

Most of the images are grouped together in the front of the album. There are a few other groups of photos in later parts of the album, separated by blank pages. The latter sections have fewer labels, but appear to be a mix of images that include not only Yellowstone but also the Columbia River basin and the town of Fawnskin, California.

<i>ORGANIZATION</i>	The album remains in its original order.
<i>PROVENANCE</i>	Gift of Bess [Beth] Rounds Phillips, 2012.
<i>RESTRICTIONS</i>	NO

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

File Unit Nbr	Title
01	Photograph album, ca. 1920