

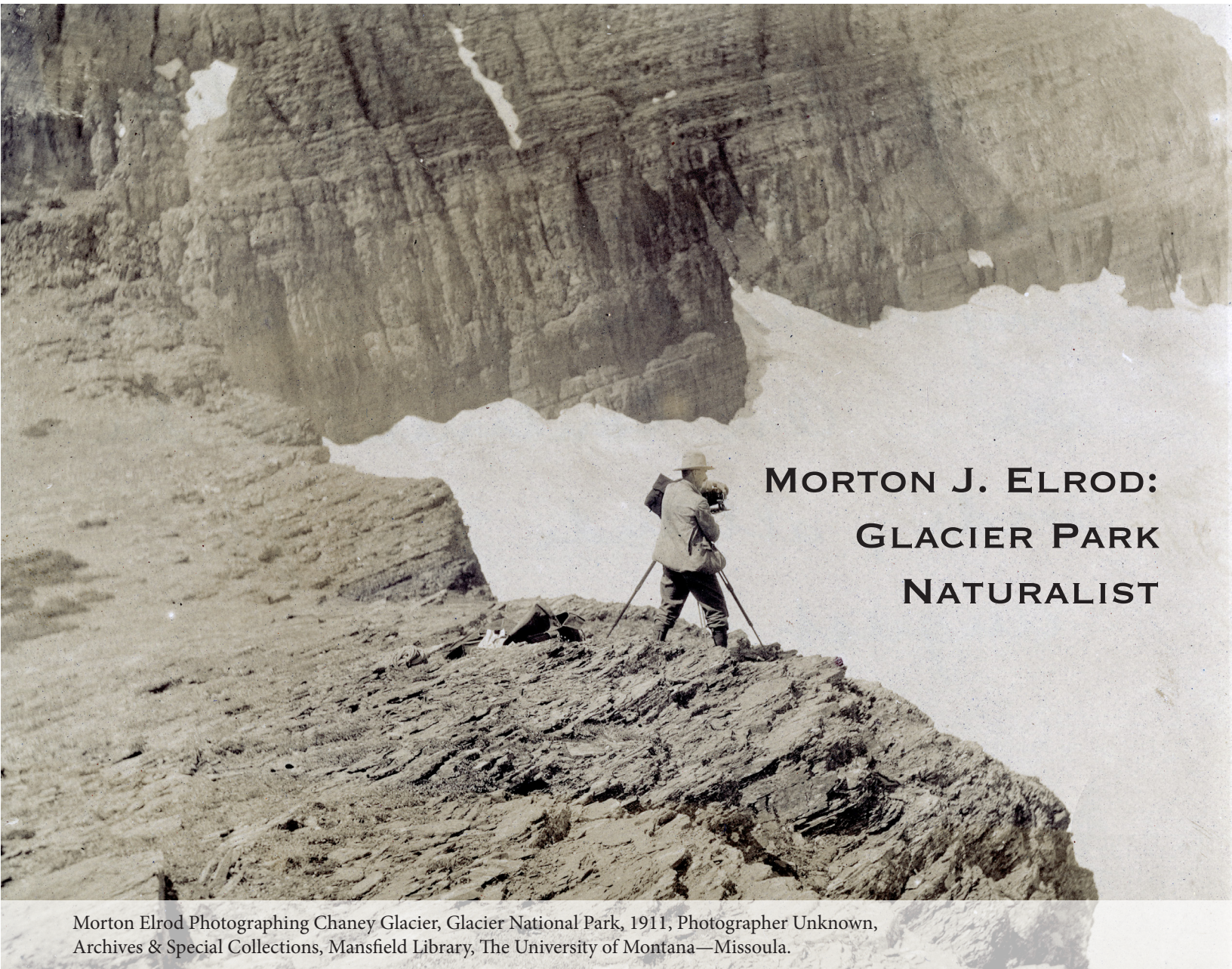
CROWN OF THE CONTINENT

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MORTON J. ELROD: GLACIER PARK NATURALIST

Morton Elrod Photographing Chaney Glacier, Glacier National Park, 1911, Photographer Unknown, Archives & Special Collections, Mansfield Library, The University of Montana—Missoula.

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MORTON J. ELROD: THE NATURAL

Editor's note: This excerpt comes from a major piece on Morton J. Elrod that George Dennison¹ is writing on one of Montana's most eminent naturalist-educators.

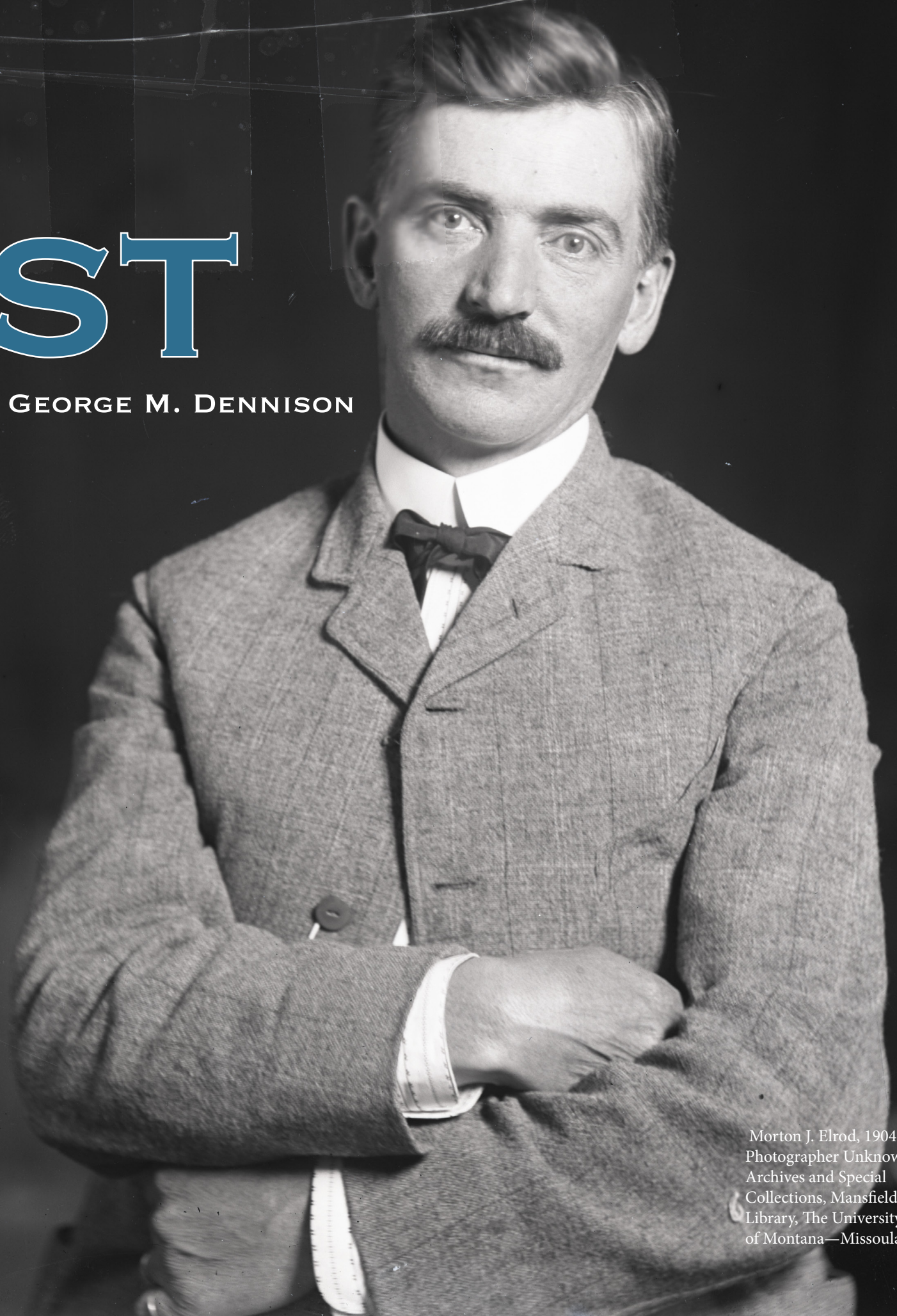
Years before he accepted the offer of a summer position in Glacier National Park, Morton J. Elrod had long since succumbed to the allure of this "Priceless Pleasure Ground For All."² "For him who seeks rest," he rhapsodized, "for him who loves nature, for him who is weary of urban life and its monotony, for him who can read sermons in stones, Glacier Park speaks God's own message." Even earlier, prior to the enactment of the statute creating the Park, he made scientific excursions into the area in 1906, 1909, and 1910, arguing for designation as a national park as the only way to preserve it.³ Some handwritten but undated notes mentioned his excursions in 1906, 1909, 1910, 1911, and 1914, the first without a guide but the remainder with the same guide who knew the Park well.⁴ In 1919, he wrote the piece on the Park that appeared in the *Encyclopedia Americana*, with a focus on Triple Divide Peak that sends the waters in three directions – Norris Creek to St. Mary Lake to Hudson Bay to the Arctic Ocean; Cut Bank Creek to the Missouri River to the Gulf of Mexico; and Nyack Creek to the Flathead River to the Clark Fork to the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean.⁵ The Park contained 250 lakes—50 quite large—and dozens of glaciers

which "are but remnants of the larger ice masses which in former ages extended far into or over the valley on the east and down the stream and river valleys on the western slopes."⁶

He constructed a set of notes concerning the "First Map of Glacier National Park," identifying the various places with and those without names. The map either did not name or identify the vast majority of places—as examples of unnamed places, Pumpelly Glacier, Lake Ellen Wilson, Oberlin Mountain, Crosby Lake and Ridge, Lincoln Mountain, Mount Henkel, Mount Altyn, Josephine Lake, Ptarmigan Lake, Helm Lake, Elizabeth Lake, Kipp Mountain, Swift Current Mountain, Sue Lake, Washboard Falls, and Snyder's instead of Lewis' (subsequently Lake McDonald Lodge); of unidentified places, trail from Red Eagle Pass to Nyack Creek, trail to Iceberg Lake, trail to Ptarmigan Lake, and trails over Piegan and Gunsight Passes—bespeaking his concern for detail.⁷ In another early fragment, he discussed place names and modes of travel in the new Park, predicting many years for people to learn of its special places because of the difficulty of getting from place to place.⁸ "Pack trains have little attraction for the average traveler, are too slow and laborious, and do not give sufficient comfort to those who know nothing of such mode of travel." For the Park to

IST

BY GEORGE M. DENNISON



Morton J. Elrod, 1904,
Photographer Unknown,
Archives and Special
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Library, The University
of Montana—Missoula

develop and serve its public purpose, it had to have “Roads and hotels,” but within strict limits to preserve its “natural beauty and interest.”⁹ He thought “physical exertion instead of gasoline explosion will [appropriately] play the prominent part” for years, holding off “dusty roads or thousands of tooting horns.”¹⁰ Over the years, he chronicled the gradual development of roads and other modes of transport. Several pieces in the *Missoulian* reported on “Glacier Park’s Transmountain Road . . . a Marvel.”¹¹ In an undated piece, probably written in 1931-1932, he mused about the various ways he had traveled to the Park—from horseback and afoot in 1906 to the first flight over the Park of Lt. Nick Mamer’s airplane, the “West Wind,” in the 1930s.¹² Stated bluntly as usual, parks “should be kept wholly free from extraneous amusement, particularly of the so-called ‘jazz’ type, which distracts their users from an appreciation of nature’s wonders, introduce[s]

an atmosphere of vulgarity, and destroy[s] the enjoyment of nature.”¹³

To attract and educate visitors, however, he proposed to stock the streams and lakes with fish, to smooth the limited number of necessary trails into roads, and to affix appropriate names to the special places for the edification of the public. In that regard, he prepared an article on several special places, subsequently accepted for publication by the Park Service, and proposed names for some of them—Dixon Mountain, Dixon Glacier, Dixon Lake, Peary Lake, Nansen Lake, Haunted Lake, and Lake Louise, among others.¹⁴ Chief Clerk Reeker, Department of Interior, deleted the names Elrod proposed, substituting topographical features to iden-



Tourists on Horseback, Red Eagle Lake, Glacier National Park, Undated, Photograph by Tomber J. Hileman, Archives and Special Collections, Mansfield Library, the University of Montana- Missoula.

tify the referenced places. As he explained, the “Board on Geographical Names does not name any geographic features after living persons,” and, more importantly, had never approved any of the names Elrod included. If, however, the Board approved them prior to publication, he planned to re-insert the names. Elrod protested the removal of the names and demanded their re-insertion; he had used the names “because I wanted to do it,” and, as the author, saw no need to request permission.¹⁵ Local people had long since accepted most of them, and he had included a few others to honor some deserving people, especially Senator Joseph M. Dixon (Montana). Moreover, he knew of several Park features named for living people. “I do not ask nor want the Board of Geographic Names to do the naming. I have my name on the paper and assume all responsibility . . . [and] do not think the names should be arbitrarily eliminated.” In any event, the Board had never followed its own policies, and he preferred to leave names to the public, since usage always prevailed. Finally, he observed, “It does seem too bad to have to kill a man or wait until he dies before he can be honored.” As it turned out, he prevailed on some of the names, e.g., Dixon Glacier, but not all. However, he continued to advocate for historical and popular names.¹⁶

To explain the exploration and development of the Park, and probably as research for a history of the Park, Elrod familiarized himself with the early visitors and their recollections and also solicited information from several old timers he knew personally. William T. Hamilton, a government scout in the Indian wars in Washington Territory, came to Idaho Territory—including what became Montana Territory—for three months in 1858 to assess “the attitude of the Tribes.”¹⁷ He passed through Hellgate Canyon, followed the Blackfoot River, then crossed Cadotte Pass to the Piegan Agency on

the plains, camped at St Mary Lake, and returned over Red Eagle Pass and down Nyack Creek. Elrod also traced Raphael W. Pumpelly’s trail through the Park in the 1880s by reference to sites known in the 1920s, and corrected Pumpelly’s scientific explanation of glacial formation.¹⁸ Pumpelly had reported seeing the glaciers but did not climb to inspect them. Based on Pumpelly’s recorded observations, Elrod concluded “that the maximum of the park glaciers must have been somewhere around 1860 to 1875, and that since they have been decreasing in size, and are decreasing at present writing.” From Duncan McDonald, son of a Scottish trader for the Hudson Bay Company and his Iroquois wife, Elrod learned of the naming of Lake McDonald—formerly Blaine Lake, subsequently if futilely named Terry Lake briefly by the Great Northern Company – for McDonald who had carved his name on a tree at the foot of the Lake in 1879.¹⁹ McDonald also visited Waterton Lake, Chief Mountain, and Kootenai Lake, climbed Mt. Campbell, and later traversed Marias Pass on a prospecting trip. As an agent for the Great Northern, Lyman B. Sperry from Oberlin College went through the Park in 1895, visited the Glacier bearing his name; actually created the trail from “Snyder’s place, now Lewis Glacier Hotel,” to various glaciers; and made other excursions into “Lake McDonald country.”²⁰ In several fragments and a major talk he prepared, Elrod also discussed George Bird Grinnell’s extensive travels through the Park beginning in 1884—“the starvation period for the Indians,” with buffalo bones strewn everywhere from the slaughter that had occurred and no game left for the Indians.²¹ Finally, he included Walter McClintock who lived for years with the Blackfeet and produced a “fairly complete material medica” describing the Tribe’s use of plants.²²

Before the completion of the Great Northern Railroad in 1894, according to Elrod, travel “through the mountains of northwestern Montana was infrequent and over few and very poor trails.”²³ Except for emergencies, only the Indians crossed the Continental Divide for “hunting,” “warring,” or spirit quests, and

they usually used Cut Bank, Dawson, or Two Medicine Passes following the Nyack Creek to the Flathead River. The difficult trail over Marias Pass “was little used . . . although . . . known to the Indians,” who rarely stayed long in the mountains; hunters intruded occasionally in search of the abundant game; and a few trappers, prospectors, and naturalists on scientific excursions came and went. The Great Northern Railroad sought to alter the traffic by constructing facilities and marking trails. A very bad road linked Belton to Lake McDonald, and a few rough trails led to other worthy destinations.

An inexpensive frame house stood where now stands the rather imposing Lake McDonald Hotel, called Glacier Hotel for years by its builder, John E. Lewis. Tourists stopped with [Milo] Apgar, at the foot of the lake, or with [unknown] Geduhu, at the head of the lake, in either case under the shade of the beautiful cedar trees of sweet smelling odor.

As Elrod explained the development of the Park, the U. S. government purchased in 1895 the eastern half to the Continental Divide from the Blackfeet Indians, whose Reservation dated from 1855, in order to prevent hostilities between the Indians and the voracious prospectors.²⁴

Prospecting for mineral continued for ten years. Thousands of dollars went into holes in the ground and into the old Cracker mill at Cracker lake. The prospects were abandoned one by one. There remains at this time, so far as this writer knows, but one miner’s tent, about



The Old Road from Belton (West Glacier) to Lake McDonald, Undated, Photograph By Morton J. Elrod

which grazes a lone horse, on a shelf high up on the side of Stark Point of Grinnell mountain. The Crackerjack is abandoned, the road to the mill has gone to ruin, the mill is but a source of wonderment and questions to tourists, and the old town of Altyn has long since been dragged

away, log by log, until but a single cabin remains. Two holes at Iceberg lake tell of abandoned hopes. The old Bullhead mine at Mt. Wilbur is fallen in. The switchbacks leading over the cliffs at Appekunny [*sic*] falls to the mines are fallen in and almost impassible. There was and is no mineral.²⁵



l, Archives & Special Collections, Mansfield Library, The University of Montana- Missoula

posed a national park rather than merely a timber reserve. Finally, in May 1910, the area consisting of 918,681 acres (1,534 square miles) became a National Park containing hundreds of lakes, mountain peaks, streams, and glaciers, with exquisite flora and fauna. He described the glaciers “as remnants of the

ice masses of much greater size – [whose] accumulation from year to year does not equal the amount melted.” He predicted that “They will all disappear in time unless the general temperature of the region greatly changes, which is very unlikely,” but he anticipated “moving ice in the park . . . centuries hence.” To protect these cherished resources, he considered it imperative to prohibit “all utilitarian and commercial enterprises” so as to “Save the Park for park purposes.” In that regard, he vigorously and publicly opposed the suggested dam at Lower St. Mary Lake in the mid-1920s, surveying the inevitable destruction in the wake of such an atrocity in the Park.²⁶

Years later, he wrote of his initial resistance to all invitations to travel north into Glacier country or to visit any of the lakes in the region—

Kintla, Kootenai, St. Mary, or McDonald. The work around Flathead Lake and in the Swan and Mission Mountains demanded his full attention and held unknown scientific opportunities. He did make an abortive attempt in 1901 while in the northern part of the Flathead Valley to visit Terry Lake (sub-

Hunters and trappers followed the prospectors, usually on a temporary basis. The Great Northern Railway vigorously advertised the attractions of the area to increase passenger traffic. In addition, George Bird Grinnell and others—including Elrod—pro-

sequently Lake McDonald), after having walked “almost the entire distance” from Polson to Bigfork because “The road is so bad.” As he wrote to Emma, his wife: “We cannot make the Terry Lake trip partly for lack of time and partly for the reason a wagon cannot go from Columbia Falls to Belton, so I am told.”²⁷ After he had visited virtually all the interesting places

around the Lake and in the Swan and Mission Mountains, he finally surrendered and made his first trip north in 1906. No longer reluctant after that experience, he made return excursions in 1909, 1910, 1911, and 1914 and many more later.²⁸ These early excursions afforded the opportunity to collect biological specimens and to explore an area “that had practically never been traveled by scientists and traversed by few people.”²⁹

The party in 1906 consisted of Elrod; Professor W. A. Harkins, University Department of Chemistry; Dr. Augustine Henry of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Kew, England, T. E. Hull of London, England; J. D. Gildart of Bigfork; Lewis Wessell of Spokane, and three women, including Elrod’s wife and daughter, who turned back after viewing Sperry Glacier. In search of a possible site for the University Biological Station he founded in 1898, the party traveled to Lake McDonald, over



The Elrod Family in Glacier National Park, Undated, Photograph by Morton J. Elrod, Archives & Special Collections, Mansfield Library, The University of Montana- Missoula

Comeau Pass to Sperry Glacier, to Coal Creek, and Mount St. Nicholas, culminating in an unsuccessful effort to climb the mountain.³⁰ Another excursion in 1909 took him over Gunsight Pass to Blackfoot Glacier, the largest glacier in the U. S. outside of Alaska, and Harrison Glacier, where he spent two days in September. As he said, the “view from the summit [of the Pass] is very fine,” and “We found the glacier [Blackfoot] a regular graveyard for insects, including all families possessed of wings or means of arial [sic] travel.”³¹ They collected all they could reach, a rich harvest for the museum. In 1910, the trip, with eleven pack and saddle horses requiring four weeks, involved the study of forests – notably a white pine tree 18 ½ feet in circumference—entomology, fungi, and lakes in the Park, going from Waterton Lake over Brown’s Pass, down the North Fork of the Flathead River, back to Lake McDonald, visited Avalanche Lake and Basin, Granite Park, the Garden Wall, Grinnell Mountain, found Swift Current Pass impassable but visited Swift Cur-

rent Mountain and Glacier, Flattop, Brown Lake, Bowman Lake, and back to Lake McDonald.³² Elrod said he walked 175 miles on this excursion, since another person in the party developed a bad foot. On the 1911 trip, the party spent a week at Brown's Pass studying the geology and flora.³³ By way of contrast revealing change, the party started in 1914 at Glacier Hotel on Lake McDonald, went to Two Medicine Lakes, Spot Mountain, Bison Mountain, Cut Bank Creek, St. Mary Ridge, Red Eagle Pass, Going-to-the-Sun Camp, Piegan Pass, Many Glaciers at Swift Current Lake, Iceberg Lake, back to St. Mary Lake, and by automobile to the Biological Station. Elrod carried along on these excursions a canvas boat used to dredge the lakes, such as Lake Louise (his name) and others. He found lack of food in the lakes for fish the fundamental problem, even if they somehow managed to stock the lakes successfully.³⁴ Because of the sterility and fragility of the lakes, fish production never flourished.

In any event, the position he accepted as Park naturalist-lecturer in 1922 involved spending time at three places—Many Glaciers, Going-to-the-Sun, and Lewis' or Glacier Lodge, the later name—the sites of hotels or chalets established by the Glacier Park Hotel Company.³⁵ Actually, Elrod's assignment at Many Glaciers Hotel placed him strategically to interact with the great flow of tourists into the Park by way of the Great Northern Railroad and the buses run by the Hotel Company. He had arranged Emma's subsistence and travel in the Park for the period of time she chose to join him. As it happened, Emma and daughter Mary visited for a week during that first summer. Elrod found the volume of traffic in the Park astonishing.³⁶ As he wrote to Emma, horse outfitters made about \$600 per day and buses about \$1,000 per day, "and the hotel business in money is staggering." That summer he made trips over Swift Current and Gunsight Passes with tourists, and had established a good friendship with the artist in residence—a painter name Graves—"down by the Chalet at the falls,"

painting "the Falls and Grinnell." He considered humanists in the Park inexplicable. In addition to the painter, who subsequently went to Belly River, "The poet, Vachel Lindsay, is at the Sun, expense G. N., and they have paid for him a full year at the Davenport [Hotel]." As he pondered these practices, "I don't quite see how they expect to get their money back from Artists and Poets."³⁷ Only scientists made sense to him.

In August 1922, the Hotel Manager and Park Superintendent asked Elrod to accompany tourists on "the deluxe trip to Belly River," expressing the desire as well "that the trails of the Belly River country be written up," another part of Elrod's duties. The Park Superintendent mentioned specifically that the Hotel Manager "is greatly pleased with your work," urging Elrod's retention "with us for many years."³⁸ Elrod wrote to Emma that the Belly River trip usually took two days, "by way of Red Gap Pass, to Chief Mountain and Gable Mountain, to Glenn's lakes, to Indian Pass, to Waterton Lake, to Flattop Mountain Trail, to Granite Park, [and back] to Many Glaciers." The trip required "tents, beds, cook, horses, a photographer . . . , a correspondent, and a 'naturalist' I suppose."³⁹ For Emma's information, he described a typical breakfast on the trail: "bacon, potatoes, cream of wheat or corn flakes, pancakes, jam, cantaloupe, oranges, coffee, tea, cocoa, and what else I do not remember." The deluxe trip had its advantages.⁴⁰

In an undated letter written at Waterton Lake on the trip, he described some of the memorable events.

This is the fifth day out. No telling when I can send this Up to now, the territory visited has been new to me, but now I know the whole country like a book. Tomorrow we are to go to Brown's pass and return, and I think the next day to Flattop for two days. The plan is two days here, but there is no need of it and an unattractive place.

He wrote during the evening in camp with only the cook's helper, as "All the people, packers, horse wranglers, cook, except cook helper, who is in bed, have gone to Waterton, Can., where there is a dance." He enthused about the trip over Red Gap and Indian Passes where they saw goats, sheep, and even a grizzly bear, an encounter he described in detail. As the party left the camp at Belly River (near the Ranger Lou Sarratt's place), they traveled past Elizabeth Lake toward Helen Lake, through country thick with underbrush.

There were nine of us on horseback lined up in the narrow trail in the brush, Sarratt ahead, I was next. I did not know the creek was just ahead, and did not see that Sarratt was about at the bank. He called me to hurry and see the grizzly bear. She had two cubs, and . . . I saw her as he spoke, when she heard his voice, she raised on her hind legs, looked around, located us, dropped on all fours, and with her head wagging from side to side came at us on a lope. Don't need to say they will not charge without provocation when they have cubs. We could see both cubs, little fellows, fortunately they were on the other side of her. S. yelled to turn the party and run, she was coming. I lost no time you may be sure.

My lead [?] ran out, and it was so dark I could not put in another. I yelled at them to get, a grizzly was coming. Some obeyed with haste, others not knowing grizzly, wanted to see her, and moved slowly or not at all. Sarratt and I both expected a bear in the bunch of horses but she stopped at the creek, and then went off through the bushes with her babies. Some of the people realized the situation, but some had no idea of a grizzly except they wanted to see her. S. and I talked it over yesterday. It was all done in a few seconds, but we both agreed we did not want another trial of her, and that she meant business.

Despite or perhaps because of the excitement, many in the party had decided not to continue, having little taste for the "Strenuous work" required, as Elrod put it.

But not every outing proved that exciting. A few weeks later, he traveled to Granite Park with a group and found the views and flowers wonderful, taking a few "good pictures of the glacier."⁴¹ He frequently urged Emma and Mary to come for a brief visit, since "The crowds will fade in a few weeks." In several letters, he mentioned sending stories to the *Missoulian* and other newspapers around the state.⁴² He had also "sent a lot of material . . . to the N.E.A. at Cleveland, animal stories, Indian stories, [and] park stories."⁴³ On another occasion, he said "I have written several newspaper stories for Mr. Eakin . . . They are short."⁴⁴ While he had not seen any of them, "Mr. Eakin says they are using them and to keep them up. I have sent about a dozen, and have some more in my head, ready to send if I can take time to write them."⁴⁵ His reputation for interesting news stories grew as his tour in the Park extended and his experiences broadened. The University President Charles H. Clapp and family also visited him and they had all walked to Grinnell Lake.⁴⁶ In late August of that year, he reported to Emma that he intended to leave the Park for the season on 1 September, having earned \$240. "What shall we do with it now?"⁴⁷

During the early years in the Park, Elrod researched and wrote *Elrod's Guide and Book of Information of Glacier Park*, an authorized but privately funded project.⁴⁸ He initially proposed a joint venture to H. A. Noble, who had become the Hotel General Manager. However, while he thought "a proper kind of guide book would find sale in Glacier Park," Noble declined to participate because of strict Company policy.⁴⁹ He encouraged Elrod to continue, however, because there "is . . . a good field for such a booklet," and "You are certainly better qualified than any one I know



Tourists on Grinnell Glacier, Undated, Photograph By Morton J Elrod, Archives and Special Collections, Mansfield Library, The University of Montana- Missoula

of to write a guide book.” Moreover, if Elrod undertook the project, he pledged “to do anything that I can to assist in making a success of the venture.” Elrod had considerable experience in publishing on other occasions and opted to pursue the project on his own. French Ferguson of the *Missoulian*, brother of Elrod’s son-in-law, did the printing in Missoula, with Elrod as the publisher.⁵⁰

The first edition in 1924 had 200 pages consisting of text, maps, and photographs—some of the first taken in the Park by “a fine photographer”—still “accurate and dependable” in the 1950s.⁵¹ Widely known across the country because of its readability and reliability, the book made Elrod famous as the authority on the Park. He revised and expanded a second edition in 1930 to include 258 pages with new text and some different photographs.⁵² Sold in the various locations around the Park, *Elrod’s Guide* became the “bible” for thousands of tourists, as he boasted.⁵³ Superintendent J. R. Eakin congratulated him when

the first edition appeared: “I think it is the most attractive park publication I have ever seen.”⁵⁴ Although the books sold “slowly” in 1924, by 1928 he reported healthy sales.⁵⁵ He compiled a sales account in 1930 for the first edition and reported 5,030 copies grossed \$3,193.46 at a total cost to him of \$2,075.66 and losses of \$175.50 – netting \$957.84.⁵⁶ Numerous orders requested from 1 to 500 copies. Apparently, he made no such report for the second edition, but the expanded and improved version unquestionably did well. As mentioned earlier, he also wrote numerous descriptions of Park trails, passes, lakes, and glaciers, many of which reappeared in his own Guide as well as various brochures issued by the Park Service, Hotel Company, and Park Saddle Horse Company, the franchised outfitter in the Park.⁵⁷ In 1925, he informed Emma that some one—probably Superintendent Eakin—had urged him to write a book about the Park, as “I have the style and can do it, and I have more knowledge than almost anyone etc.”⁵⁸ He intended to accept the challenge.

He also took advantage of his presence in the Park to conduct research on the plants, particularly the flowers, he arranged in exhibits for the tourists. In one letter, he described to Emma a trip “up Piegan Trail about 7 miles for flowers,” reporting that “I got a lot of very beautiful things. It took me all afternoon to label them.”⁵⁹ In 1925, he responded favorably to a suggestion that he produce a book on the flowers of Glacier Park, and gave considerable thought to the details as he collected specimens for display as well as inclusion in the book.⁶⁰ In July 1928, he boasted to Emma that he had completed “another chapter on the flower book.”⁶¹ A few days later he related that

I had a conversation with Mr. [W. H.] Mills [Great Northern General Advertising Agent] about the Flower Book, and he suggests they print it and give me a royalty. Asked me how much I would want. I approved the

idea, but was not ready to say royalty price, and will tell him when I see him again. I am inclined to say about 15 cents per book. I think they will sell about 1000 a year, which will average for me \$150. But they will pay royalty on the entire edition when they print it. So if they print 5000 it will be \$750, when printed. What do you think?⁶²

Unfortunately Mills died before Elrod completed the project. When he inquired about the publication two years later, the Company Superintendent of Sales informed him that, since the “details and arrangements of the flower book” with Mills “were evidently all verbal,” he had to start anew with the new General Advertising Agent, O. J. McGillis.⁶³ In response, Elrod outlined the proposed book to McGillis, explaining that he had made all the arrangements earlier with Mills for a book similar to his *Guide*, “the bible of the park for those who carry it,” for a cost of about a dollar, depending on the quality of the cover.⁶⁴ The



As the sun sank below the mountain tops, Almost-a-dog mountain stood out clear and sharp, a finger of Blackfoot Glacier glistening in the departing sunlight. From camp at Gunsight Lake.

Almost-A-Dog Mountain and Blackfoot Glacier, Glacier National Park, Undated, Photograph by Morton J. Elrod, Archives & Special Collections, Mansfield Library, The University of Montana—Missoula

older government publication, entitled "Plants of Glacier Park," now out of print, had proven far too expensive, technical, and difficult for general use. He planned to use many of the colored slides from that work, and, more importantly, to include flowers missed earlier, with pictures of the flowers and useable keys for the interested public. "There are many who want a good book as a souvenir," he opined.

In addition to the information about each species, the keys, the glossary, and index, and many illustrations, the plan calls for brief chapters, at the beginning of the book, on some phases of the park plant life that command attention, about which tourists constantly inquire. There are prepared, therefore, paragraphs or short chapters dealing with the topography of the park, the passes over which tourists generally travel, the number of species, the display, of color, the origin of the park flora, the effects of glaciers on the development of vegetation, how plants become stranded on high summits, the life zones of the park, the forests, the effects of avalanches, on vegetation, the effects of wind, and the application of common names. These things are briefly stated, and are appropriately and beautifully illustrated by photographs of my own, taken during many seasons.⁶⁵

Elrod explained that he had devoted "several seasons to secure the [200+] photographs. For the flowers many have been specifically taken, and I have permission to use . . . others . . . taken . . . in the park." Because of "my contact with tourists . . . sufficient [to know what they] . . . want," he "was . . . the logical person to prepare the . . . book." He and Mills had planned for the Company to purchase the manuscript from Elrod for publication and sale, with a sales royalty to him. He had finished the text, secured the photographs, had only to complete the glossary and index, and anticipated McGillis' authorization to

proceed. Unfortunately, McGillis wrote later in the year that the downward trend in the economy barred purchase and publication, unless conditions changed within "a few months," leaving Elrod the option to "publish it yourself, or . . . drop the matter."⁶⁶ As some solace, he indicated the Company wanted "a supply of Elrod's Guide to Glacier Park" for the 1931 season, with a sufficient number already on hand for 1930. McGillis perhaps hinted at Company willingness to purchase and sell copies of the flower book as well, if Elrod undertook the publication. However, that did not happen, and the book never appeared in final form, much to Elrod's chagrin.

Much the same occurred with the possible book on the Park, although fragments of it lie strewn throughout Elrod's collected papers.⁶⁷ He clearly initiated several pieces focused on the early pioneering visitors to the Park region for inclusion in the history.⁶⁸ In addition, he focused on the glaciers, still little known or explored. George Bird Grinnell had explored Grinnell Glacier on a "hunting trip in 1887." As mentioned, Pumpelly saw the ice but did not inspect the glaciers. In 1926, Elrod corresponded with Grinnell about Grinnell Glacier and they visited it together that year. Grinnell explained that "it was named by Col. [John H.] Beacon many years ago, . . . [as confirmed by] the following letter from M. W. Beacon, an attorney in Cleveland, dated 30 April 1917."⁶⁹ M. W. Beacon described the trip by his brother, John, and Grinnell, in October- November 1887, "up Swift Current . . . [to photograph] the glacier at the head of that stream, which in honor of him I [John] called Grinnell Glacier." Grinnell also sent photographs, requesting their return, of the Glacier taken in 1887 and 1888, and one in 1885, "almost precisely the view . . . you [Elrod] took last July." The photographs showed clearly that "in 1885 the ice extended to the top of . . . the Continental Divide," but had receded significantly. In that regard, W. H. Noffsinger (the Park Saddle Horse

Company), Professor E. V. Huilington (Harvard), and Elrod placed 12 stakes in the Glacier in September 1922 to measure its movement and erosion.⁷⁰ Noffsinger wrote later that some stakes had fallen down and proposed that they re-set them to continue the study. He also noted further erosion: “The top of the glacier seems to have melted in the meantime for six or eight inches.”

Clearly, Elrod’s fragmentary writings about early visitors, flora, glaciers, and other features bespoke his intention to do a comprehensive history of the Park, an ambition he never realized. As with the early visitors and other Park features, he dealt in loving details with many of the glaciers, commenting about the changes he observed.⁷¹

As “remnants of former greatness . . . left high on the mountains,” the earlier “continuous ice” had resulted when “Glaciers from different areas joined” on the plain. Moreover, he expected the dramatic changes of the previous centuries to continue. In 1931, he described Clements or Museum Glacier—originally “Two Oceans Glacier,” because its water went to the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico—as “not large, not nearly so large as it was twenty-five years ago, and . . . rapidly diminishing in size.”⁷² President Charles H. Clapp, a geologist, used Clements Glacier to illustrate “the natural process of glacial activity.” In 1925, Park Superintendent C. J. Kraebel commended the photographs Elrod had taken and included in his annual report, “showing the great recession of the Blackfeet [*sic*] Glacier . . . a revelation to me.”⁷³ He urged Elrod to take more photographs and prepare a publication about the Glacier, and Elrod promptly complied.

That same year, Elrod commented to Emma about both Blackfoot Glacier, which had once covered 15 square miles, and Harrison Glacier, the “most wonderful and the most beautiful glacier . . . almost overpowering” but difficult to access:⁷⁴

Blackfoot glacier has changed very much [since 1909]. My first exclamation was ‘Where is it?’ Where the beautiful hill of ice was around which we went [in 1909], and up which we looked was gone, and we [now] walked up over the smooth floor, the solid mountain, as easily as one would walk an inclined pavement in Helena. Even beside the glacier that remains we walked on this for a half hour before coming to the ice. It took 50 minutes to cross the ice to the cont. divide, when we looked at Harrison glacier. The beautiful thing was nearly gone, bare rocks showing where I had seen such wonderful and blue crevasses on our former journey years ago.⁷⁵

He used similar language in a newspaper account—the result of Kraebel’s request mentioned above—of the visit in 1925 to identify the site for a camp for tourists to observe Blackfoot Glacier.⁷⁶ “The first view as our heads came above the summit of the moraine rather startled the other members. ‘Good heavens. What has become of it.’ For a long time we looked,” seeing only the “smooth floor of the mountain.” The Glacier “had retreated . . . far up the rocky slope.” He added that “Beautiful Harrison did not seem half as beautiful, yet it was still wonderful.”⁷⁷ Clearly, “great blocks [of ice] have been falling for years, to melt at the foot of the cliff and be carried away to the Pacific ocean.” In fact, they watched a huge ice block fall during the visit. On that same trip, the party traveled to Mount Logan over very rocky terrain.⁷⁸

Not often is . . . [this] silent domain invaded. This mountain side was formerly covered, when the great glacier extended down the valley, moving slowly, scouring the sides of the mountain as it went, through the valley where now are the two St. Mary lakes, and far out on the plain. That the record well and plainly shows. But the trees are several hundred years old. How many times have

they died or been replaced is problematical. To make the moraine on the summit high above required a long time. No estimate has ever been given for the morainal growth.

He described a scene of “the most awesome mess of broken rubble one can hope to see,” with “water trickling everywhere, but almost no life.”

To document what he observed, Elrod took numerous photographs of the glaciers he visited. These photographs, combined with his observations at the time, provide an early perspective on the future of the remnants of the glacial age. Park Superintendent J. W. Emmert years later remarked that those photographs taken from 1922 to 1928 revealed that “most of our glaciers have lost better than 50% of their area and volume during the past 24 years.”⁷⁹ However, he also observed that, when he wrote in 1952, “our glaciers appear to have reached their low ebb point.” In fact, Grinnell Glacier advanced from ten to twenty feet during the preceding year, and rose “5 feet near the front.” Elrod undoubtedly greeted with relief the Superintendent’s prediction that “we won’t have to call this ‘Glaciated National Park’” after all. However, time and other developments ultimately proved the accuracy of the naturalist-educator’s earlier prediction for the glaciers.

As he conducted this research and did the writing, usually in fragments, he also indulged a lifelong fascination with mountain climbing as described in some of his Cosmos Club papers.⁸⁰ In 1911, he published an article about an “electric storm” in



Morton Elrod, Winold Reiss, and George Grinnell on Grinnell Glacier, 1926, Photograph by Morton J. Elrod, Archives and Special Collections, Mansfield Library, the University of Montana- Missoula

the “high mountains of . . . Montana,” describing how he had tossed away metallic camera gear and evoking the acrid odor of sulfur.⁸¹ He wrote vividly of the ascents of virtually every peak in the Mission and Swan Ranges and many in the Park. In 1906, he attempted to climb St. Nicholas Mountain in the Park, but without succeeding.⁸² He collected and described reminiscences



Morton Elrod with a Party at Granite Park, Glacier National Park, Undated, Photograph by E.P. Cole Leamington, Archives & Special Collections, Mansfield Library, The University of Montana- Missoula

and accounts of climbing in the Park, beginning with Norman Clyde's feat of conquering 36 or 37—Clyde and Elrod claimed 37—peaks in 1923, 23 more in 1924, and planning more later.⁸³ In 1930, Conrad Wellen sent to Elrod an account of ascending St. Nicholas, with the explanation that "I first heard of St. Nicholas from Mr. Aekin [*sic*, referring to Eakin, the Park Superintendent] of whom I inquired about unscaled peaks in the park. Some time after I saw cuts and your description in your Guide Book, and it was this as much as anything that inspired me to attempt the ascent."⁸⁴ Wellen's climb occurred in 1926, after the *Guide* first appeared in 1924. He approached the mountain from the juncture of Park Creek and the Middle Fork of the Flathead River and "built a cairn" at the sum-

mit. Elrod also gathered information about the achievements of Peter Hauser, an Austrian who climbed 12 peaks around Logan Pass in the late 1920s.⁸⁵

However, Elrod reserved accolades for the climbing philosophy and accomplishments of G. M. Kilbourn, a walking guide for the Park Saddle Horse Company.⁸⁶ In time available to him with the consent of his employer, Kilbourn had climbed 15 peaks, 5 of them twice, including Grinnell (2), Siyeh (2), Piegan, Wilbur (2), Altyn, Appenkuny, Going-to-the-Sun, Allen (2), Henkel, Gould, Pollock (2), Swift Current, and Triple Divide, always seeking a different route to the summit.

In conclusion, permit me to repeat that whatever information I have been able to collect, was gathered through the eyes of an incurable sightseer who simply has a weakness for every upward slope and summit, and cannot in any sense represent the impressions of a technician in the arts of Alpine mountaineering. I've never been to Switzerland; have never even owned a pair of hobnails; and hailing from the South, I've amassed a tremendous inexperience and ignorance in matters involving the wooing of high-hung snow and ice routes; hence many veteran ice-kings with their Alpine lore may find this exposition weak and valueless I shall be indeed gratified if I can kindle in others, in any degree, the sort of unquestioning enthusiasm of eye and foot which makes every distant peak an almost irresistible challenge – and which has led me personally from Long's peak [Colorado] to Mount Ranier [Washington], or from Triple Divide [Montana] to Lassen [California] and Whitney [California].

Kilbourn certainly found a kindred spirit in Elrod.⁸⁷ Even earlier, he had offered counsel to attract those not usually associated with mountaineering in a Cosmos Club paper entitled "Mountain Climbing for Girls."⁸⁸ Whether anyone took the advice remains unknown.

In other fragments, Elrod spoke of the old timers and interesting people he encountered in the Park. On one of the excursions, probably in 1914, the party met and spent some time with an "old veteran, who is a type of the hardy old man fast disappearing . . . named Arthur Miller," currently a watchman for the Park Service who lived full-time in the Park.⁸⁹ Quite sociable, he enjoyed company, willingly shared his dinner, and walked wherever he went at a brisk pace. He carried a small hatchet to cut trees and brush out of his way, but no other weapon, apparently finding the hatchet

adequate to deal with threats of all kinds. He left markers as he walked through the mountains reading "Death on the Trail." Asked the reason, he explained that he enjoyed the reactions of unwary tourists who turned back for fear of meeting dead men. He found it even more amusing when a young Englishman on his first visit to the Park took his advice to acquire three-foot snow shoes rather than hobnails for hiking in the Park. Elrod also found the life of a guide intriguing, with types as varied as Kilbourn, the avid mountain climber, and others who succumbed to the monotony, drudgery, and naiveté of the tourists. He used a story of an exchange between a female tourist and a grizzled old guide, Jack Brown, who had probably heard a question once too often to illustrate the comic but real aspects of such conversations. A woman asked Brown what guides did in the winter. He responded: "Lady, the winter is so long, the snow is so deep, and it drifts badly. It keeps the guides busy sweeping off the passes so they may be ready for the tourists in the spring."⁹⁰

Of course, Elrod's fascination with nature and the Park included the animal life as well. In one of the pieces he wrote during the 1920s entitled "Conservation," he warned of failure to protect the increasingly challenged flora and fauna of Montana.⁹¹ As he had observed on an earlier occasion, "Many of our native birds and animals are fast disappearing."⁹² He feared the onslaught of animal and bird extinction, with the buffalo gone and "Even the grizzly bear . . . passing, being confined to the remotest and most inaccessible regions, where he is followed and remorselessly hunted."⁹³ The antelope, "almost gone, . . . will likely be saved only by heroic measures" from the effects of badly polluted rivers, fences circumscribing formerly open areas and interrupting animal pathways, and rampant programs to kill off the animal and its natural predators. Calling for balance, he recommended national legislation to impose limits on state actions

affecting wildlife, citing the fate of the buffalo to show what happened without protection. In the mid-1920s, he reported optimistically that the establishment of the Park had contributed significantly to the cause of conservation.

According to the wild game census compiled by the Park Service between 1921 and 1924, the large animals in the Park had increased substantially to a count of 4,505 (total estimate of 6,384), including 51 (104) Silvertip Grizzlies, 76 (148) Black and Brown Bears, 724 (1,111) Mountain Sheep, 943 (1,600) Mountain Goats, 69 (88) Moose, 567 (706) Elk, and 2,056 (2,626) Deer.⁹⁴ Although no base line numbers existed, Superintendent C. J. Kraebel stated that “the number of game animals is increasing” at a steady pace. Elrod extrapolated from the 1924 data, using the growth rate of the National Bison Herd for a decade after its establishment as a guide, and predicted a count of 71,950 (estimate of 103,104) animals by 1936.⁹⁵ Conceding much slower growth, he thought a multiplier of five about right, with an animal population of roughly 30,000 by 1936. However, he denied the Park as any kind of sanctuary or refuge for “predatory animals, like the coyote, wolf, mountain lion, and Canada Lynx. The wolverine is rare, or probably gone, the lynx not abundant, mountain lions are in . . . complete check, and coyotes are warred upon constantly. The wolf is rarely seen.”⁹⁶ In another piece he wrote about the coyote, Elrod appeared to celebrate the record of Chance Beebe, a Park employee, who shot and killed 54 coyotes in the Park within two months.⁹⁷ The naturalist’s concern for conservation, generous to a fault to all other flora and fauna and to glaciers and mountain men, did not extend to predatory animals.

No doubt, however, the summer seasons in the Park—with a small salary, room and board, and travel expenses – provided wonderful opportunities for research and writing and to secure

additional income, such as the revenue generated by sales of the *Guide*. He surely intended to supplement his income by selling the proposed flower book and history of the Park as well. Some of this entrepreneurial effort in the Park resulted from the loss of income he had enjoyed for several years. In that regard, he wrote Emma about the receipt of \$923.23 in gross income from the *Intermountain Educator*, the Montana Education Association (MEA) paper he had edited and published for thirteen years.⁹⁸ Of the amount received, he directed \$15 to the weather service he maintained, \$3 dollars for books, and \$100 to Emma, as the secretary.⁹⁹ Later that month, he counseled her not to worry about recent reports that others wanted to take control of the paper.¹⁰⁰ “If it has to go you know it will probably enable me to live a little longer by having the work and worry off. I can pay up and have some [money] left.” Whatever happened, he intended to remain “polite and positive,” but to “say what I think. They don’t expect me to have anything to do with” the paper in the future. That prospect did not disturb him, as he anticipated finding “other money schemes, easier and less laborious.” However, his critics had erroneously “decided that . . . [the outcome] is settled.” Far from it; he had “told them at the last meeting I could kill the paper, but would not give it away, and so I will if I have to.”

Despite Elrod’s show of determination shaded by nonchalance, the controversy over the paper and its management and other concerns culminated in an ulcer attack he suffered in late 1924. His brother-in-law, John Hartshorn of Danville, Illinois, urged Elrod to go to Rochester, Minnesota, and check into the Mayo Clinic without delay.¹⁰¹ Minimize the risks, he said, offering to fund the trip and medical service, with no cost to Elrod except “your time to make the trip.” Reinforcing the message, he sent a telegram to Emma advising her to get “Mort to go;” the Mayo Clinic physicians operate “only when necessary.”¹⁰² He re-



Looking Down St. Mary Valley, photography by Rick and Suzie Graetz

peated the counsel later in the month, saying “We are glad to defray the expenses you will be at in Mort’s sickness.”¹⁰³ However, Elrod remained under the care of his local doctor and his health improved with proper diet and rest. Hartshorn heard with relief of the rapid improvement, and counseled Elrod to follow the prescribed “diet,” stay away from work, and, by all means, avoid “an operation;” an ulcer operation frequently exacerbated rather than cured the malady. As he said, “I know many cases of ulcer are cured by [proper] treatment.”¹⁰⁴

Elrod followed the advice about diet and work, and returned in late spring for the 1925 season in the Park, pledging to adhere to the prescribed regime: “I sleep plenty, enjoy my food, rarely feel tired, do not do any climbing stunts, and am not overworking,” as he reported later.¹⁰⁵ In the meantime, his brother-in-law bought a used Ca-

dillac sedan with 22,000 miles, had it completely refurbished, and sent it prepaid by rail to Butte for the Elrods, the first car they had owned.¹⁰⁶ Elrod retained control of the *Educator* but lost the MEA sponsorship when the organization opted to publish a new journal. To add to his worries, his son-in-law suffered severe injuries in an airplane accident that summer.¹⁰⁷ He expressed grave concern “about Billy and Mary. They are going to both have a hard siege, I fear, but they will pull out all right. He is mighty lucky to get off as he did. I feel sorry for Billy, for he is going to have a lot of physical pain.” More importantly, as the prognosis for Billy’s recovery improved, “I fear they will be in distress financially. Do not let them need anything,” he advised Emma. As it happened, the recovery went fine and the Cadillac arrived in Missoula without incident. However, the challenges related to the paper occupied his attention for three years.

In a letter to the MEA President, Elrod denied a rumor about the paper as “a grand money-maker” for him, alleging that each MEA member paid 75 cents per copy.¹⁰⁸ The editor of the *Montana Educator*, the replacement paper, claimed to have “saved” the MEA about \$2,900 annually with the new publication. Moreover, the MEA financial statement implied that Elrod had made a profit of about \$1,700 annually from the *Intermountain Educator*. He denied these allegations in letters to Fee in 1925 and to the Chancellor in 1928. To provide the background, he explained that he had never sought to become the editor or publisher, but University President Edwin B. Craighead “pushed [him] into it.” He

and William Ferguson, the manager who later became his son-in-law, had assumed responsibility for the journal, “not [then] in good financial condition,” at a cost of \$600 in cash and \$200 more for unpaid bills. Actually, MEA members had “paid nothing” for many years, and then only as voluntary subscribers when they began to pay. The modest annual revenue during the early years accrued from advertising and an extremely unreliable subscriber list. He and Ferguson lost money and friends when they put the journal on a sound financial basis by controlling expenses, actively selling ads, and clarifying and increasing the list of subscribers. They filled each regular issue of 48 pages and two special issues—one



University of Montana Biological Station at Yellow Bay, Flathead Lake, 1913, Photograph by Morton J. Elrod, Archives and Special Collections, Mansfield Library, The University of Montana—Missoula

annually of 56 pages covering the MEA Convention and another of 50 pages covering the Inland Empire Association meeting in Spokane—with good and reliable material, producing “a publication of merit.”

The ads initially sold for \$10 per page—too low, as he discovered—so he increased the price to \$30 over time. Subscribers and ads remained few in number until after WW I. When Ferguson went into the military service during the war, Elrod kept the journal alive. After nine years of receiving revenue sufficient only to cover the cost of printing and mailing, he “decided I was entitled to something for service.” Even when he reduced the number of pages to 32, he never realized “reasonable pay” for the work involved. During the last year, he had netted \$600 profit, but had no compensation for managing or editing the journal. When the MEA raised the cost issue with him in 1924 and proposed a subscription price of 25 cents per member, he had suggested 50 cents. However, the MEA decided to make a change, and the *Intermountain Educator* died in 1925, replaced by the *Montana Educator*. At that time, he had delivered to the MEA \$400 in cash and \$1,700 in revenue pledged for ads, which the MEA apparently ignored and thus did not receive. He disputed the editor’s report of \$2,900 in savings for the current year, putting it closer to \$300, probably still overstated since the MEA Secretary dedicated most of his time to editing and managing the paper. Surely the Secretary’s salary counted as an expense of publication. With proper accounting, the claimed savings actually became increased costs. He calculated that the probable cost had risen to \$571 per issue, compared to \$375 to \$475 with more pages during the years he had edited the paper. Venting vehement indignation, he denied that he had profited at the expense of the MEA. The dispute ended there, but Elrod had long since lost the revenue.

Because of this financial setback, Elrod increased his efforts to sell his short stories and other work.¹⁰⁹ In addition, his position as a seasonal Park naturalist continued to improve. In February 1923, even before he knew for certain about his return to the Park for the coming season, Park Superintendent J. R. Eakin and Hotel Manager H. A. Noble accepted his proposal to expand the Nature Guide Service.¹¹⁰ In May, Elrod agreed to come, since a delayed decision at the University and pilferage by vandals ended any possibility of a 1923 session at the Flathead Lake Biological Station. In preparation for the season, he discussed expanded exhibits and lectures, indicating that he wanted three temporary naturalists to assist him.¹¹¹ One of his assistants, a married man, wanted to bring his family with him if Elrod arranged a tent and furnished “necessities.” Including written descriptions of the duties of the assistants, he requested direction from Eakin about special arrangements for the family man as well as how to manage the services they provided at Lewis’s private Glacier Hotel on Lake McDonald. As he said, “The fact is, he [Lewis] himself knows nothing about the Park, and is after the money only,” with no sense at all of “the relationship of the park and the public, and his relationship to both.”

Over the next few years, he helped to develop the Educational Policy of the National Park Service outlining the duties of “Ranger Naturalists,” either as full-time or temporary, part-time positions staffing the museums, exhibits, and libraries and delivering public lectures, under the supervision of the Park Naturalist.¹¹² His talks at the Many Glacier Hotel proved increasingly popular, as he combined the talks with colored slides and movies.¹¹³ He also discussed with W. H. Mills, General Advertising Agent for the Great Northern, a proposal for a two-week educational summer session for tourists.¹¹⁴ Although nothing came of that discussion because of Elrod’s

insistence upon instruction of the highest quality in appropriate facilities, he continued to press for a systematic approach to educational services in the Park. As early as 1923, he had recommended an appropriate educational facility at Many Glaciers.¹¹⁵ Initially in agreement, Superintendent Kraebel subsequently changed his mind in favor of a major Museum building in Belton on the west side, “with the most complete collection,” open and accessible year-round.¹¹⁶ As for Many Glaciers, he thought a “substantial fire-proof museum” adequate to house specimens of birds, flowers, plants, small animals, and minerals, eliminating the large animals and the work spaces Elrod had envisioned. Based on later developments, Elrod clearly never changed his mind about the location.

Elrod’s Park Naturalist Service Reports for 1925, 1926, and 1927 set out an ambitious agenda of activities, recommendations, and suggestions.¹¹⁷ In 1926, new Superintendent Charles J. Kraebel sent for Elrod’s review the applications for temporary Ranger Naturalist positions for the coming summer, indicating that he intended to recommend the appointment of at least one and perhaps two to assist Elrod.¹¹⁸ By 1926, Elrod held the formal title of Park Naturalist at a pro-rated salary for the summer seasons, with a modest increase from his beginning salary of \$100 a month. For 1928, his salary began at \$1,560 a year, pro-rated to \$130 per month, but increased to \$1,740 a year, \$145 per month, in July, retro-active to May.¹¹⁹ In several letters, he described his work to Emma—traveling around to visit the sites of his assistants, helping them to construct effective exhibits, and interacting with visiting dignitaries.¹²⁰ The Park Superintendent had apologized that regulations prohibited the acquisition of books for a library, but had approved Elrod’s request for more appropriate photograph display brackets and enlargement of the photographs.¹²¹ As Elrod wrote to Emma on one occasion, “It is all right for me to go around. Mr. Eakin [Superintendent] and Mr. Carter [Man-



Lake McDonald in late summer, photograph by Will Klaczynski

ager] both want and expect it, and that is the only way for me to know what should be done.”¹²² He expressed great appreciation when “Mr. Carter . . . said I was quite sure to have an assistant [at Many Glaciers] next year, so I could be free to get about, and be free from so much drudgery of collecting, etc.”¹²³ In August 1928, he reported that “Eakin and [Chief Naturalist Ansel F.] Hall have given me some reports to write,” indicating further confidence in his work.¹²⁴ He rather eagerly accepted the invitation to return to the Park with the same salary for 1929.¹²⁵ As Superintendent Eakin wrote, “Was glad to note in your letter of March 25th that you will be with us again this season.”¹²⁶ He had authorized the return of Elrod’s two assistants from 1928 as well, and expected the arrival of the full-time Park Naturalist, George C. Ruhle, with details about the season’s work soon.



During these later years in the Park, in addition to fulfilling his regular duties of supervising his assistants, preparing exhibits, delivering lectures, accompanying tourists on hikes and rides, and fulfilling assigned administrative work, with characteristic energy he launched a project to establish the Glacier National Park Museum. He persuaded George Bird Grinnell to serve as Honorary President, and Elrod, himself, accepted the position as the official President of the associated Museum Society.¹²⁷ In his “General Plan and Suggestions” for the Museum and its uses – nine handwritten pages and a schematic – Elrod described a facility (60x120) featuring a great room (45X90) for public meetings and lectures; work rooms and laboratories arranged around the great room; and space for storage, a herbarium,

the collections, and a photography dark room.¹²⁸ He designed the facility to serve the general public, amateur naturalists, college students, and professionals, and envisioned daily changing floral displays. With Kraebel’s departure and Eakin’s return as Superintendent, Many Glaciers became the preferred site. He obviously believed that he had a chance of realizing his educational vision for the Park.

However, once again reality intruded rudely on his plans. In 1930, he learned the fate of the flower book and other effects of the economic depression that started in 1929.¹²⁹ Noffsinger of the Park Saddle Horse Company reported that he had done “\$9,000 less gross business [in 1929] and our statement shows a loss for the year.”¹³⁰ Looking for someone to blame, Noffsinger criticized the new fulltime Park Naturalist, George C. Ruhle: “. . . he don’t strike me as being very practical and he certainly does not boost our game like you do.” Ruhle, however, later invited Elrod to return for the 1930 season, despite the economic downturn, with the same duties and some assistance in lecturing by two visiting professors from Wisconsin and Harvard.¹³¹ At the same time, he informed Elrod of “a new agreement with the Hotel Company” that eliminated the “subsistence . . . gratis.” Henceforth, the temporary naturalists must pay 40 cents for each meal, taking their meals in the Transportation Company Mess, and reside in tents provided for “living quarters,” dramatic changes from free room and board in the Many Glaciers Hotel of the recent past. In partial compensation for the extra costs, the appointment came with a slight salary increase to \$155 per month. Elrod declined, with the need to complete and extend the work undertaken for the Fish and Game Commission at the Biological Station in 1928 pressing upon him, and undoubtedly influenced as well by the changing conditions in the Park.¹³²

During the following summer, one of the Ranger Naturalists complained to Ruhle that the Company had barred him and others from the Hotel dances, required them to take every meal *only* in the Transportation Mess, and generally viewed them as equivalent to the “gear-jammers.” The Hotel Manager stated bluntly, “In my mind, your men are about equal to a waiter, a porter or a bus driver. I propose to see that they are treated no better.”¹³³ In May 1930, Superintendent Eakin sent regrets that Elrod “will be unable to help us out next year [1930], but understand the conditions.”¹³⁴ In July, the Superintendent reported that the government had purchased the “Lake McDonald Camp property” and planned to “eliminate all private buildings at the foot of the lake” and re-forest the entire area. The Park Service had funding for a full force in 1931, including the Park Naturalist and six temporary Ranger Naturalists.¹³⁵ As he concluded, “We miss you very much in the Park.” However, conditions continued to worsen, with “rail traffic off about 20 percent,” offset somewhat by an increase in automobile traffic. He hoped for better conditions with the imminent completion of “the Roosevelt Highway [US 2] . . . within a week or two.” However, by then Elrod had long since returned to his first love. In 1930, he had resumed active and personal leadership of the work at the Biological Station that had a new if short-lived beginning in 1928.¹³⁶

Elrod unquestionably enjoyed his years as a naturalist in Glacier National Park, although he occasionally complained about the drudgery of collecting specimens, preparing exhibits, and responding to silly questions from tourists. The *Guide* he produced assisted thousands of people to enjoy all that the Park had to offer. In the “Introduction” to the book he had planned about the Park but never finished, he explained that his early excursions into the Park resulted in a great deal of scientific work and thousands of photographs. Relying on a Kodak and a heavy plate camera, he had produced colored slides to accompany the lectures he delivered in “dozens of Montana cities, towns and villages and several places outside the state” as well.¹³⁷ As he said, many of those slides and descriptions he had used in the lectures “have been prepared in book form and are here presented. In this manner I hope I will have a much wider circle of readers than by the lecture method.” He offered two suggestions to future readers who chose to visit special places difficult to access, such as Glacier National Park. First, “find out about the place in advance.” Search out and make use of all available information. “The second suggestion . . . may not be so readily accepted.” Have an “object in view” or “work to be done along the way.” He thought mental focus and planned work made the challenge, toil, and drudgery of reaching the destination not only bearable but enjoyable, a lesson that applied to all of life: “For such work the best thing is to ride a hobby.” Without question, this Montana naturalist in Glacier Park followed his own advice to the letter, to the great enjoyment and benefit of thousands.

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ENDNOTES

1 George M. Dennison, President and Professor of History *Emeritus*, and Senior Fellow, The O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West, The University of Montana, and Senior Advisor to the President, Colorado State University, Global Campus. This excerpt comes from a major piece on Morton J. Elrod, one of Montana's most eminent naturalist-educators.

2 Morton J. Elrod, "Montana's New National Park Is Grand, A Priceless Pleasure Ground For All," *Missoulian* (24 July 1910), p. 1, Morton J. Elrod Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 18, Folder 16, The K. Ross Toole Archives, The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, The University of Montana (hereafter cited by date, MJE Papers, #, Box, Folder), and the quotations until otherwise noted; see also "Glacier National Park (U.S.), at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glacier_National_Park_\(U.S.\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glacier_National_Park_(U.S.)); and National Park, Service, "Glacier: Through The Years in Glacier Park," at http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/glac/chap3.html.

3 Morton J. Elrod, "The Proposed Glacier National Park," handwritten with photos, (no date but probably 1910 after passage, since he drew a line through "Proposed"), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 18, Folder 15.

4 Morton J. Elrod, "Introduction," handwritten (no date but probably 1926-1930), apparently the introduction to the planned history of the Park and covering his first trips in 1906, 1909, 1910, 1911, and 1914, MJE3 Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 12; and assorted handwritten notes on the Park, (no date but probably 1914 or 1915), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 18, Folder 7.

5 Morton J. Elrod, "The Glacier National Park," *Encyclopedia Americana* (1919), also in *The Missoula Sentinel* (26 April 1919), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 11; see also Rick

and Susie Graetz, "Is Triple Divide Peak Really a Triple Divide? . . . A New Theory," copy in author's possession, questioning whether the water flowing north ever reaches the Arctic Ocean, suggesting the north Atlantic Ocean instead. Elrod certainly reported fact as he understood it.

6 Elrod, "The Glacier National Park," 1919, as cited in note 5 above.

7 Morton J. Elrod, Handwritten notes on "First Map of Glacier National Park," (undated, but probably 1912-1913), MJE Papers, #496, Series IV, Box 18, Folder 7.

8 Morton J. Elrod, "Glacier Park Spots," (no date but probably 1912 or 1913, as he mentions a controversy in 1912 with the Park Service about some names he had proposed, as see the discussion to follow), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 18, Folder 13, and the quotations that follow until otherwise noted.

9 Morton J. Elrod, "The Relationship of the People to the Glacier National Park," (no date but 1923 because of internal reference to a dated pamphlet), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 18, Folder 17; Elrod reversed the wording in the title of the Park Service pamphlet from "the Glacier Park to the People" to "the People to the Glacier" to make his point.

10 Morton J. Elrod, "Glacier Not Meant As Automobile Park," *Missoulian* (no date, but probably 1926), pp. 1, 12, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 23.

11 See Morton J. Elrod, "The Transmountain Road in Glacier Park," (undated but 1925 or 1926); "Glacier Park's Transmountain Road is a Marvel," *Missoulian* (28 February 1926), pp. 1, 2; "The Great Glacier Park Road," *Missoulian* (25 November 1928), with photographs, showing completion, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 20, Folder 7, with more accounts included; and W. G. Peters, Associate Highway Engineer, Transmountain Highway, to Morton J. Elrod, 7 August

1918, mentioning the completion and Elrod's trip to Logan Pass, and offering to share videos and a movie, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 13. On Elrod's planned trip, see Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 2 August 1928, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 3, Folder 1.

12 See Morton J. Elrod, "Elrod Compares Modes of Travel," *Missoulian* (no date, but probably 1931-1932), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 20, Folder 7; and "Local People Thrill in Mamer-Plane Trip," *Missoulian* (no date, but 1931-1932), this trip did not go over the Park because of weather conditions, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 21; on Mamer and the "West Wind," see "Nicholas Mamer," <http://earlyaviators.com/emamer.htm>.

13 See Elrod, "Relationship of the People," (no date but 1923), as cited in note 9 above; during his seasons at the Many Glaciers Hotel, he frequently complained to Emma about the loud jazz the tourists wanted for listening and dancing, as see virtually any of his letters during the 1920s in MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Boxes 2-3.

14 C. Reeker, Chief Clerk, Dept. of Interior, to Morton J. Elrod, 28 March 1912, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 2, responding to the article and affirming publication with certain conditions.

15 Morton J. Elrod to Secretary of the Interior, 21 April 1912, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 2, and the quotations to follow until otherwise noted.

16 See Morton J. Elrod, "Glacier Park Names and Their Origins," (no date but probably in the late 1920s), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 17, Folder 15; see also an exchange and commentary with L. O. Vought, 22 October 1926, 3 November 1926, and 3 February 1935, on place names in the Park, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 20, Folder 9, and Box 14, Folder 19; H. C. Hockett, Mountain View, Canada, to Morton J.

Elrod, 12 April 1925, an old timer who went to the post office once a year sending information obtained from other old timers about historical names (Altyn, Cracker Lake, Cracker Peak, Stark Point, and others), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 9; and Dr. G. C. Ruhle, Park Naturalist, Glacier National Park, to Morton J. Elrod, 13 May 1929, explaining a project to gather "material on the origin of place names of the park and vicinity" as a manual for "ranger naturalists," soliciting Elrod's assistance with attributed credit, for details about the place, the individual for whom named, ascent of mountains, etc., MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 14.

17 See a typescript fragment about old timers he had met, (late 1920s), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 12; Morton J. Elrod, "William T. Hamilton," (no date but 1926-1928), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 18, and the quotations that follow until otherwise noted; see also "32. William T. Hamilton," in "Missoula History Minutes," at <http://fortmissoulamuseum.org/minutes.php>.

18 Morton J. Elrod, "Raphael W. Pumpelly," 1926, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 18, and "Lyman B. Sperry," (no date but late 1920s), Box 15, Folder 18, and the following quotations until otherwise noted; also see "Raphael W. Pumpelly," at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raphael_Pumpelly.

19 Morton J. Elrod, "Duncan McDonald," (no date, but probably 1926-1928), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 18, and the quotations that follow until otherwise noted; on the earlier name of "Blaine," see Morton J. Elrod, "Lake McDonald," in "The Glaciers of Glacier National Park," handwritten, (no date but probably 1926-1929), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 16, Folder 1, mentioning another McDonald Lake in the Mission Mountains; and see also "Duncan McDonald," at <http://www.scribd.com/doc/49098440/Duncan-McDonald>.

20 Morton J. Elrod, "Lyman B. Sperry," (no date but probably 1926-1928), MJE Papers, #496, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 18, and Elrod, "Sperry Glacier," in "The Glaciers of Glacier Park," (1926-1929), as cited in note 19 above, and the following quotations until otherwise noted; see also "Man in Glacier," at http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/glac2/chap4a.html.

21 See Morton J. Elrod, "George Bird Grinnell," (no date but probably 1928-1929), handwritten and typescript (57 pages), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 16, Folder 4-5; "George Bird Grinnell," at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Bird_Grinnell; Elrod's notes on Grinnell's 18 articles in *Forest and Stream*, in Box 16, Folder 6-7; and Grinnell's "The Crown of the Continent," *Century Magazine* (no date but about 1899), pp. 660-672, Box 16, Folder 9; some accounts indicate that Grinnell's initial visit occurred in 1885, as for example Richard Vaughn, "To the Ice: George Bird Grinnell's 1887 Ascent of Grinnell Glacier," at <http://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/facpub/747/>; Elrod reported the 1884 date for the observation about the "starvation period" for Indians.

22 Morton J. Elrod, "Walter McClintock," (no date but 1926-1928), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 18, and the quotations that follow until otherwise noted; see also Steven L. Grafe, "Montana: Lanterns on the Prairie – The Blackfeet Photographs of Walter McClintock," at http://indigenous-peoplesissues.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14332:montana-lanterns-on-the-priarie-the-blackfeet-photographs-of-walter-mcclintock&catid=&&Itemid=54.

23 See Elrod, "Sperry," (1926-1928), as cited in note 20 above, and the following quotations until otherwise noted; on Apgar, see "Village Inn At Apgar," Glacier Park Inc., at http://www.glacierparkinc.com/_village_inn_at_apgar.php; Geduhu unknown.

24 See Elrod, "The Relationship of the People," 1923, as cited in note 9 above; and "Glacier National Park," as cited in note 2 above.

25 See Elrod, "The Relationship of the People," 1923, as cited in note 9 above, and the quotations that follow until otherwise noted. To make his point, Elrod reversed the order of wording in a Park Service pamphlet title, "The Relationship of Glacier National Park to the People."

26 See Morton J. Elrod, "The Effects on Glacier National Park Should the Proposed Dam at Lower St. Mary Lake Be Constructed," (no date but mid-1920s), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 10; and Box 22, Folder 6, for descriptions of the photographs Elrod used to illustrate his argument.

27 Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 2 July 1901, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Folder 9. 28 Morton J. Elrod, "Introduction," handwritten (no date but probably in the 1926-1930 as part of a history of the Park he intended to write, since he mentioned other chapters, many photos, and a typescript fragment about old timers he had met), as cited in note 4 above.

29 Morton J. Elrod, numerous clippings including one from *Missoulian* (5 September 1910), pp. 1, 5, describing the trip by horseback to the Canadian boundary, visiting the Garden Wall and other places, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 21.

30 See Elrod, "Introduction," (1926-1930), as cited in note 4 above, describing these early excursions; Morton J. Elrod, "The Biological Station," in "Annual Report of the President . . . 1905-1906," pp. 45-46, #University Publications, Series II: Administration, President's Reports-bound, Box 1895-1912, The K Ross Toole Archives, The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, The University of Montana (hereafter cited as #Un. Pub., Series, Box), and Morton

J. Elrod, "The University of Montana Biological Station," 1910, MJE Papers, #486, Series V, Box 28, Folder 25; and see also Morton J. Elrod, "A Study of Timber," 1906, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 5; Morton J. Elrod, "The Garden Wall in Glacier National Park Presents a Scene of Great Beauty Unexcelled," *Missoulian* (25 June 1911), p. 3, also in typescript, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 21; and Morton J. Elrod, "Trip to Sperry Glacier," and "Sperry (Comeau) Pass," (no date but probably 1931), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 20, Folder 1.

31 Morton J. Elrod, "Blackfoot Glacier in Montana's National Park: Interesting Feature of that Pleasure Ground," *Missoulian* (16 July 1911), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 22; and Morton J. Elrod, "Blackfoot Glacier," 1911, typescript, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 4; see also Morton J. Elrod, "Gunsight Pass," 1911, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 18, Folder 8.

32 Elrod, "Introduction," as cited in note 4 above; see also Walter Lehman, Lewistown, to Morton J. Elrod, 29 December 1950, thanking Elrod for all he "done for me when we were at Bigfork or on trips in the field," especially the one in 1910, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 3, Folder 11; Morton J. Elrod, "The Biological Station," in "Annual Report of the President, 5 December 1910," pp. 53-55, #Un. Pub., Series II, Box 1995-1912; and Morton J. Elrod, "M. J. Elrod Returns From Glacier Park," *Missoulian* (5 September 1910), pp. 1, 5, MJE Papers, #496, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 21.

33 Morton J. Elrod, "A Week at Brown's Pass," 1911, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 6; and Morton J. Elrod, "Brown Pass – Bowman Lake Trail," 1911, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 18, Folder 8.

34 Morton J. Elrod, "Dredging on Lake Louise," (no date but probably 1914), and "The Lakes of Glacier National Park in Relation to Fish," (no date but probably 1914 or 1915), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 19, Folder 5, for the former, and Box 17, Folder 8, for the latter; and Morton J. Elrod, "Iceberg Lake, *The Mountaineer* (no date, but about 1914) pp. 43-51, and "no title" handwritten fragment, (no date, but probably 1914), describing his early visit to Iceberg Lake—probably in 1914—taking soundings and doing some dredging, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 17, Folder 3.

35 See Morton J. Elrod to Emma and Mary, 28 March 1922, MJE Papers, Series II, Box 2, Folder 7; and for the chalets, see H. A. Noble, General Passenger Agent, Great Northern Railway, to Morton J. Elrod, 4 June 1912, indicating "Swiss chalet style" hotels ready in 1912 at "Two Medicine Lake, Cut Bank Canyon, St. Marys Lake, The Narrows, Gunsight Lake, Sperry Glacier Basin, and Lake McDermott," describing major entries to the Park and providing hotel prices and rail prices from Minneapolis (\$35 round trip), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 2.

36 Morton J. Elrod to Emma and Mary, 20 July 1922, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 2, Folder 7, and the quotations that follow until otherwise noted. See also National Park Service, "Glacier," as cited in note 2 above.

37 Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 16 July 1924, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 2, Folder 9.

38 J. R. Eakin, Superintendent, to Morton J. Elrod, 1 August 1922, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 2, Folder 7; see also J. R. Eakin to Morton J. Elrod, 6 December 1922, for a list of trail descriptions Elrod had done, sent to various people, and pieces on the movement of Grinnell Glacier, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 6.

39 Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 2 August 1922, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 2, Folder 7.

40 Morton J. Elrod to Folks, (reference to Emma, daughter Mary, and son-in-law William Ferguson), (undated but early August 1922, as the details relate to the Belly River trip), MJE, #486, Series II, Box 3, Folder 12, and the quotations that follow until otherwise noted. Ranger Lou Sarratt, mentioned later, held a temporary appointment also, as he taught at Northwestern University; Elrod later described this encounter again, and identified Sarratt, in Morton J. Elrod, "Mammals of Glacier Park," typescript, (no date but probably 1925 or 1926 because of internal reference), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 1.

41 Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 12 August (no year but 1922 because of internal reference), MJE Papers, Series II, Box 3, Folder 12, and the quotations that follow until otherwise noted.

42 See, for example, Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 30 August 1928, mentioning 25 news stories of 750 words each, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 3, Folder 1; see also Jas. P. Brooks, Asst. Supt., to Morton J. Elrod, 26 July 1924, with a list of the articles typed for him for dissemination, including "Park Roads and Trails, The Season's Travel, Fish and Fishing, Preparing for Increased Travel, Census [sic] of Wild Game, Rocky Mountain Sheep, Wild Animal Life, Distribution of Travel, Predatory Wild Animals, Bear, Elk and Deer, The Moose, The Rocky Mountain Goat," MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 8; see also MJE, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 21, for copies of excerpts from newspapers containing many of his stories.

43 Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 26 July (no year but 1924 because of internal reference), MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 3, Folder 12; N.E.A. refers to the National Editorial Association

44 Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 2 July 1928, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 3, Folder 1.

45 Morton J. Elrod to Emma, "Friday" (no date but probably 29 June 1928 because of internal references), MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 3, Folder 1.

46 Elrod to Emma, 2 August 1922, as cited in note 39 above.

47 Morton J. Elrod to Folks, (reference to spouse Emma, daughter Mary, and son-in-law William Ferguson) 21 August 1922, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 2, Folder 7.

48 Morton J. Elrod, *Elrod's Guide and Book of Information of Glacier Park* (2nd Ed.; Missoula, Mt.: Morton J. Elrod, 1930), pp. 258, originally published in 1924, printed by the Missoulian, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 15. Elrod's papers include in this folder several copies of both editions of the *Guide*, both the standard and the deluxe version c—the former selling for \$1.00 and the latter for \$2.00 or \$2.50.

49 H. A. Noble to Morton J. Elrod, 12 November 1922, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 6, and the following quotations until otherwise noted.

50 On an earlier publication, see Morton J. Elrod, *Views of the Mission Mountains . . . Flathead Lake and Valley*, Montana (Missoula, Mt.: Morton J. Elrod, 1908), *passim.*, printed by the *Missoulian*.

51 See Elrod, *Elrod's Guide* (1924), as cited in note 48 above; Robert F. Haynes, "About Dr. Morton Elrod, Park's First Naturalist," *Hungry Horse News* (14 December 1956), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 21; and Morton J. Elrod, "Photography in the Park," typescript fragment, (undated but probably mid-1920s), describing the challenges of taking photographs in the Park, intended as a cover piece for a photographic display, Box 18, Folder 12.

52 James Ridler to Morton Elrod, 6 February 1928, discussing details for the second edition; C. P. Fordyce, Camping Editor, *Outdoor Life*, to Morton J. Elrod, 31 October 1929, requesting a copy of the second edition to secure information about “recent trail building” in the Park, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 3, Folder 1, and Series IV, Box 14, Folder 14, respectively; C. J. Kraebel to Morton J. Elrod, 19 December 1924, suggesting some new items for the “next guide,” MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 8; Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 12 July 1928, on “a cut-off trail over . . . [Ptarmigan Wall] from Lake Elizabeth to Mary, thus shortening the trip of 23 miles from Crosby Lake camp;” and Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 8 July 1928, about new trails under construction, one “high line from Granite Park to 50 mountain,” the other “up the worst part of Swift Current . . . [reducing the] switch backs,” MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 3, Folder 1.

53 Morton J. Elrod to Mr. McGillis, GN Railway, St. Paul, 24 March 1930, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 15.

54 J. R. Eakin to Morton J. Elrod, 18 July 1924, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 8.

55 Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 15 July 1924, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 2, Folder 9; and Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 10 July 1928, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 3, Folder 1.

56 See Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 15 July 1924, as cited in note 55 above; and Morton J. Elrod, “Sales Report, First Edition of Elrod’s Guide,” 25 July 1930, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 14.

57 See for example, G. W. Noffsinger, Park Saddle Horse Company, to Morton J. Elrod, 27 March 1930, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 15, reporting a Great Northern Company trail guide using Elrod’s descriptions. See also Morton J. Elrod, “Some Lakes of Glacier National Park,” typescript, (no date

but probably about 1919), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 17, Folders 4-5; and “Some Additional Lakes in Glacier National Park,” 1919, typescript and handwritten, Box 17, Folder 7; “Five Day North Circle Trip,” 1926, trail from Many Glaciers Hotel and Going-to-the-Sun Hotel over Granite Pass or Swift Current Pass, to Flattop Mountain or Garden Wall, by Grinnell Glacier, over Indian Pass, and over Red Gap Pass, in Box 15, Folder 19; “The Passes of Glacier National Park,” (no date but probably the early 1920s), Box 18, Folders 9-10; “Walks About Granite Park,” probably early 1920s, requested by the Hotel Manager, Box 16, Folder 2; “Untraveled Trails of Glacier National Park,” 1922, an account of several trips, in Box 20, Folder 5; and the sources cited in note 38 above.

58 Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 11 June 1925, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 2, Folder 10.

59 See Elrod to Emma, 15 July 1924, as cited in note 55 above; and see Elrod to Emma, 11 June 1925, as cited in note 58 above.

60 Elrod to Emma, 30 August 1928, reporting continued work on the flowers, as cited in note 42 above; see also Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 29 July 1928, Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 2 August 1928, and Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 10 July 1928, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 3, Folder 1.

61 See Elrod to Emma, 29 July 1928, as cited in note 60 above.

62 See Elrod to Emma, 2 August 1929, as cited in note 60 above.

63 James Ridler, Superintendent of Stores, Great Northern Company, to Morton J. Elrod, 10 February 1930, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 15.

64 See Elrod to McGillis, 24 March 1930, as cited in note 53 above, and the quotations that follow until otherwise noted.

65 Many of the short paragraphs or chapters suggested exist in handwritten or typed form strewn throughout the Elrod papers, as see the citations above and below; for example, see specifically Morton J. Elrod, "Effects of Wind," "Plant Injuries from Snow," and "Avalanches," (no dates but all from the mid to late 1920s), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 13.

66 O. J. McGillis, General Advertising Agent, G.N., to Morton J. Elrod, 14 July 1930, and 8 August 1930, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 15, and the quotations that follow until otherwise noted, with the latter confirming the outcome, as conditions did not change.

67 Several citations of probable chapters or sections appear above and below.

68 See a typescript fragment about the old-timers he had met, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 12, and the references cited in notes 17-22 and the related discussion above.

69 George Bird Grinnell to Morton J. Elrod, 1 September 1926, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 2, Folder 11, for the earlier quotation and all quotations that follow until otherwise noted; and Morton J. Elrod, "Grinnell Glacier," (no date but probably 1928-1929), typescript, in Series IV, Box 16, Folder 10-12, describing the changes in the Glacier over the years, and identifying photographs showing those changes.

70 Morton J. Elrod, "To Determine the Rate of Movement of Grinnell Glacier," (no date but 1922, as see the following citations), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 16, Folders 10- 12, including notes on the Glacier from various visits; "Elrod Describes Grinnell Gla-

cier," *Missoulian* (13 May 1923), pp. 1, 8, in Box 17, Folder 2; and W. N. Noffsinger, Park Saddle Horse Company, to Morton J. Elrod, 16 October 1922, in Box 14, Folder 6, on the stakes.

71 Elrod, "The Glaciers of Glacier National Park," (1926-1929) as cited in note 19 above, and the following quotations until otherwise noted; see also Morton J. Elrod, "Trip to Sperry Glacier," newsprint but no source indicated, (probably 1928-1931), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 20, Folder 1.

72 Morton J. Elrod, "Museum (Clements) Glacier," typescript and handwritten, (no date but probably 1931, as it mentions that date), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 17, Folder 14; and Elrod, "Two Oceans Glacier," in "The Glaciers of Glacier Park, (1926-1929), as cited in note 19 above.

73 C. J. Kraebel to Morton J. Elrod, 4 September 1925, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 9.

74 For the quotation about Harrison Glacier, see Elrod, "Harrison Glacier," in "The Glaciers of Glacier National Park, (1926-1929), as cited in note 19 above.

75 Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 5 September 1925, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 2, Folder 10; and Elrod, "Blackfoot Glacier," 1911, on the earlier visit, as cited in note 31 above.

76 Morton J. Elrod, "Blackfoot Ice Mass, Glacier Park, Receding," *Missoulian* (21 March 1926), pp. 1, 12, MJE Papers, #496, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 21, and the quotations that follow until otherwise noted.

77 For the quotation about Harrison Glacier, see Elrod, "Harrison Glacier," in "The Glaciers of Glacier Park," (1926-1929), as cited in note 19 above.

78 See Elrod, "Blackfoot Ice Mass, Glacier Park, Receding," 1926, as cited in note 76 above.

79 J.W. Emmert to Morton J. Elrod, 15 April 1952, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 3, Folder 11.

80 Morton J. Elrod, "The Matterhorn," handwritten, 24 May 1909, Cosmos Club Paper, describing his fascination of more than 20 years, and "Modern Mountaineering," handwritten, (no date but probably the 1910s), Cosmos Club Paper, MJE Papers, #486, Series, VIII, Box 37, Folders 8 and 10, respectively. Cosmos Club, a rather exclusive group, brought together members from the University and the Missoula community in regular meetings to hear a paper presented by one of the members.

81 Morton J. Elrod, "An Electric Storm in Montana," handwritten, typescript, and *Youth's Companion* (2 November 1911), also appeared in *The Kaimin* (1911), MJE Papers, #486, Series III, Box 7, Folder 4.

82 Morton J. Elrod, "Attempt on St. Nicholas," handwritten and typescript, (no date but probably 1906), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 19, Folders 9 and 10, respectively.

83 Morton J. Elrod, "Norman Clyde," handwritten on Clyde in 1928; Norman Clyde to Morton J. Elrod, 18 August 1924, the basis for Elrod's piece; and "Conquering Glacier Park Peaks," *Missoulian* (3 February 1929), including coverage of Leopold Seetholder, a Swiss guide, and Clyde, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 8, Box 14, Folder 8, and Box 18, Folder 11, respectively; on Clyde, see "Norman Clyde," at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norman_Clyde, reporting 36 peaks in 1923 and more in 1924 and 1937; and also Morton J. Elrod, "Mountain Climbing in Glacier," *Missoulian* (27 January 1929), and "Mountain Climbing in Glacier Park," typescript (1929), Box 14, Folder 22, and Box 17, Folder 11, respectively.

84 Conrad Wellen to Morton J. Elrod, 2 July 1930, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 14; and "Mount Saint Nicholas," at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Saint_Nicholas, on Reverend Conrad Wellen of Havre, Montana, first to climb the mountain in 1926; see also Morton J. Elrod, "Paul J. Moody," handwritten, (no date but after 1928), for Moody's published description of Wellen's ascent of St Nicholas, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 5, Folder 18.

85 See Peters to Elrod, 7 August 1928, as cited in note 11 above.

86 G. M. Kilbourn to Morton J. Elrod, 28 August 1928, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 1, and the quotations that follow until otherwise noted.

87 See Elrod, "Mountain Climbing in Glacier," *Missoulian* (27 January 1928), pp. 1, 4, on Kilbourn, as cited with others in note 83 above.

88 Morton J. Elrod, "Mountain Climbing for Girls," handwritten, (no date but probably early 1910s), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 37, Folder 11.

89 Morton J. Elrod, handwritten fragment (no date but probably late 1920s), describing a trip to Kintla, Kootenai, Louise, and other lakes to do some dredging, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 12.

90 Morton J. Elrod, "Guides of Glacier Park Are Real Men, Have Arduous Tasks," *Missoulian* (24 January 1926), pp. 1, 8, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 23.

91 Morton J. Elrod, "Conservation," (no date, but after 1924, probably 1925), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 9.

92 Morton J. Elrod, "Department of Biology," (undated, but probably 1916), MJE Papers, #486, Series V, Box 23, Folder 6.

93 See Morton J. Elrod, handwritten report on the demise of the buffalo, (undated, but after 1910, as indicated by comments in the article); and Morton J. Elrod, "The Passing of the Pablo Buffalo Herd," *Shields' Magazine*, XII (#2; February 1911), pp. 35-41, MJE Papers, #486, Series III, Box 4, Folders 12 and 15.

94 Morton J. Elrod, "Glacier National Park Census of The Wild Game," (no date but probably 1924), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 2, and the following quotations until otherwise noted.

95 Morton J. Elrod, "Mammals of Glacier Park," (no date but probably 1925 or 1926 based on comments in the piece), MJE, Papers, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 1, and the quotations that follow until otherwise noted.

96 See Elrod, "Glacier Park Census," 1924, as cited in note 94 above.

97 See Morton J. Elrod, "Coyote," handwritten and typescript, (no date but probably 1925 or 1926), praising the coyote for cunning, but unsympathetic about its evident plight, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 15, Folder 1.

98 Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 16 July 1924, and 28 July 1924, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 2, Folder 9; and Morton J. Elrod to Ira B. Fee, President, Montana Education Association, 31 December 1925, in Folder 10. For background, see Morton J. Elrod to William Ferguson, 15 August 1917, and Morton J. Elrod to Chancellor E. C. Elliott, 17 August 1917, indicating concern that the Chancellor thought the paper "is not widely read" and needed "a decided change;" Elrod offered to resign and "use my time to other advantage" if the Chancellor wished to manage the paper, but he remained in charge, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 2, Folder 3.

99 Elrod to Emma, 16 July 1924, as cited in note 98 above; on the weather service, see N.T. Gisborne, Division of Forest Management, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Missoula, to W. R. Krumm, U.S. Weather Bureau, Missoula, 29 November 1944, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 3, Folder 10.

100 Elrod to Emma, 28 July 1924, as cited in note 98 above, and the quotations that follow until otherwise noted.

101 John Hartshorn, Vice President, Black Stewart Coal Company, to Morton J. Elrod, 18 December 1924, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 2, Folder 9.

102 Telegram, John to Mrs. M. J. Elrod, 10 December, 1924, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 2, Folder 9.

103 John Hartshorn to Emma, 19 December 1924, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 2 Folder 9.

104 John Hartshorn to Morton J. Elrod, 7 January 1925, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 2, Folder 10.

105 Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 11 June 1925, doing well, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 2, Folder 10; see also Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 16 July 1927 (or 1928), MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 3, Folder 1.

106 John Hartshorn to Mort and Emma, 15 June 1925, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 2, Folder 10.

107 See Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 11 June 1925, as cited in note 105 above; and other letters to Emma, 8 July 1925, another of 8 July 1925, 14 July 1915, and 16 August 1925, all in MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 2, Folder 10.

108 Elrod to Fee, 31 December 1925, as cited in note 98; see also Morton J. Elrod to Chancellor M. A. Brannon, 11 March 1928, MJE Papers, #486, Series III, Box 6, Folder 9; all quotations that follow from these two sources until otherwise noted.

109 See as examples, Elrod to McClure Newspaper Syndicate, 24 April 1926; Elrod, "List of Animal Stories," 1926; and Pace to Elrod, 19 January 1933; and other materials all in MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Boxes 1, 3, 7-8, and Series IV, Box 14.

110 J. R. Eakin to Morton J. Elrod, 27 February 1923, and H. A. Noble to Morton J. Elrod, 24 February 1923, MJE Papers, #486, Series V, Box 14, Folder 7.

111 Morton J. Elrod to J. R. Eakin, 18 May 1923, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 7, and the following quotations until otherwise noted.

112 Harriett H. Roter, Clerk, Educational Headquarters, National Park Service, to Morton J. Elrod, 26 July 1926, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 10.

113 See Morton J. Elrod to Emma, "Friday" (no date but probably 29 June 1928, as cited in note 45 above), 10 July 1928, and 30 August 1928, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 3, Folder 1.

114 See W. H. Mills to Morton J. Elrod, 3 March 1926, and Morton J. Elrod to W. H. Mills, 16 March 1926, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 10.

115 See Elrod, "The Relationship of the People," 1923, as cited in note 9 above; and Morton J. Elrod, "Educational Building in Glacier National Park Would Give Visitors Better Understanding of Wonderland, Says Elrod," *Great Falls Tribune* (2 September 1923), pp. 3,9, recommending Many Glaciers as the location of the facility in a talk to a conference of Com-

mercial Club Secretaries in the Park, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 21, with several other excerpts.

116 C. J. Kraebel to Morton J. Elrod, 19 December 1924, as cited in note 52 above, and the following quotations until otherwise noted.

117 Morton J. Elrod, "Reports," 1925, 1926, and 1927, and "Suggestions to Increase the Service," 1927, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 19, Folders 1-4, respectively.

118 Charles J. Kraebel to Morton J. Elrod, 26 April 1926, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 10.

119 G. S. Scott, Chief, Division of Appointments, to Morton J. Elrod, 31 May 1928; and J. R. Eakin to Morton J. Elrod, 15 July 1928, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 13.

120 See as examples Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 2 July 1928, 4 July 1928, 8 July 1928, 10 July 1928, 12 July 1928, 16 July 1928, and 25 July 1928, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 3, Folder 1; and R. R. Vincent, Asst. Supt., to Morton J. Elrod, 20 August 1928, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 13.

121 C. J. Kraebel to Morton J. Elrod, 7 December 1925, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 9.

122 Morton J. Elrod to Emma, "Friday," (probably 29 June 1928), as cited in note 45 above.

123 Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 21 July 1928, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 3, Folder 1.

124 Morton J. Elrod to Emma, 30 August 1928, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 3, Folder 1.

125 G. E. Scott, Chief, Division of Appointments, to Morton J. Elrod, 14 April 1929, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 14.

126 J. R. Eakin to Morton J. Elrod, 1 April 1929, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 14.

127 George Bird Grinnell to Morton J. Elrod, 3 June 1926, agreeing to serve as Honorary President of the proposed Park Museum Society; H. A. Noble to Morton J. Elrod, proposing Elrod as President of the Park Museum Society, 29 May 1926; Morton J. Elrod, "Glacier National Society, Organized in January 1926," 1926, typescript and printed versions, listing Elrod as President, Grinnell as Honorary President, and inviting "Founding Members" to join prior to January 1927, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 10; Box 10, Folder 11; and Box 17, Folder 13, respectively. See also Box 18, Folder 6, for various materials on the formation of the Society.

128 Morton J. Elrod, "General Plan and Suggestions for Use of Museum and Student Building," (no date but 1926 or 1927), MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 17, Folder 12.

129 See McGillis to Elrod, 14 July 1930 and 8 August 1930, as cited in note 53 above.

130 See Noffsinger to Elrod, 27 March 1930, as cited in note 57 above.

131 George C. Ruhle, Park Naturalist, to Morton J. Elrod, 17 February 1930, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 15, and the quotations that follow until otherwise noted.

132 See the discussion below at notes 133-136.

133 Ralph C. Teall, Ranger Naturalist, to G. C. Ruhle, Park Naturalist, 23 July 1930, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 15.

134 J. R. Eakin to Morton J. Elrod, 22 May 1930, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 15.

135 J. R. Eakin to Morton J. Elrod, 5 July 1930, MJE Papers, #486, Series IV, Box 14, Folder 15, and the following quotations.

136 Melvin A. Brennan to Morton J. Elrod, 27 March 1928, and Morton J. Elrod, "Three Memoranda Concerning the Fish Study on Flathead Lake in 1928 and 1929," (undated but 1928), MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 2, Folder 5, and Series V, Box 30, Folder 14, respectively.

137 Elrod, "Introduction," 1928-1930, as cited in note 45 above, and the following quotations.

MORTON J. ELROD

A BIOGRAPHY

BY GEORGE M. DENNISON

Born in Monongahela, Pennsylvania, on 27 April 1863, and given his father's name, John Morton Elrod—the future Montana naturalist and revered educator—moved with his family at the age of 6 to Monroe, Iowa.¹ The descendant of a long and robust line of Elrods, for reasons he never explained, he reversed the order of his given names to Morton John.² In Iowa, he attended the public schools and also taught during his senior year in high school on a certificate obtained by falsifying his age, graduated in 1882, and then taught school and matriculated at Simpson College, ultimately earning three degrees, the B.A. (1887), M.A. (1890), and M.S. (1898).³ Following graduation, he served as principal and teacher of the high school (1887-1888) in Corydon, Iowa, before accepting an entry position as assistant teacher of science (1888-1889) and earning promotions to Assistant Professor of Natural Science (1889-1890) and ultimately to Professor of Biology and Physics (1890-1897) at Illinois Wesleyan University.⁴ At the University, he established the science museum and began his personal collection of biological specimens. On 31 May 1883, he married Emma A. Hartshorn and their union produced one son, who died at birth, and a daughter, Mary, born in 1889.⁵ In the early 1890s, he made

several scientific excursions to collect biological and botanical specimens in the West—primarily the Dakotas, Colorado, Idaho, and Montana—and “returned laden with rich treasures for museums,” as he reported.⁶ Determined to migrate west, as he later explained, to avoid becoming an “itinerant professor,” he nonetheless declined a position with the Idaho Normal School but subsequently sought and secured appointment in 1896 as the first additional faculty member after the initial complement at The University of Montana in Missoula, “the prettiest town in Montana.”⁷

In 1897, Missoula and Montana offered striking contrasts to life in other parts of the country, including the mid-west.⁸ Elrod knew of the conditions because of his earlier visits, and he undoubtedly sought the position because of the opportunities presented to a naturalist. During his career in Montana, he founded the Biological Station at Yellow Bay on Flathead Lake in 1898; participated actively in the effort to create the National Bison Range in Ravalli and selected the site for the Range ultimately established by Congress in 1908; contributed significantly to the academic development of the University and helped to establish the

ELROD

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vibrant tradition of shared governance and academic freedom for the faculty; created the Bird Reserve on Bird Island, donated to the Biological Station through Elrod's influence; joined in the effort to establish Glacier National Park in 1910; served as the first ranger-naturalist for the Park for the summer seasons from 1922 through 1929; and wrote and published *Elrod's Guide* in 1924 (revised in 1930) which became the "bible" for thousands of tourists to the Park. On several occasions he warned of the rapid disappearance of the wilderness: "The wonderful primeval forests have been almost entirely removed [from the area around Flathead Lake], and grain fields, gardens and orchards substituted. Holt, the post office, has long since passed. The beautiful woods of Swan Lake have been logged, and a town now stands where a few years since our camp was undisturbed save by wild birds and beasts."⁹ For 37 years, until a stroke ended his active career as an educator and naturalist, he labored to take full advantage of the opportunities available to him and to conserve and preserve as much of the natural splendor as possible.¹⁰ During those years, he also earned the respect and admiration



Courtesy of the UM Flathead Lake Biological Station

of his peers and the appreciation of his students because of the value they derived from studying under his direction. One famous graduate, Harold C. Urey, wrote just after receiving the Nobel Prize in Chemistry that he attributed his success to Elrod's influence. "Nobel Prize winners come from small schools," he thought, because of the attention they received. "It pushes up their vanity, their self-regard and induces them to do an enormous amount of work which otherwise they might not do."¹¹ Urey found appropriate descriptors for the distinguished educator-naturalist and his disciples.

ENDNOTES

1 "Morton J. Elrod Biography," [http://bio19c.com/-bio153_morton_john_elrod_\(1863\)](http://bio19c.com/-bio153_morton_john_elrod_(1863)).

2 Mary Elrod Ferguson to J. E. Thornton, 9 March 1954, MJE Papers, #486, Series I, Box 1, Folder 5; and see various genealogies, Morton J. Elrod Papers, # 486, Series I, Box 1 Folders 2-3 (hereafter cited as date, MJE, #, Series, Box, Folder).

3 John C. Beard, "Morton J. Elrod and The University of Montana Biological Station," Section I, p. 1-2 (History 598: The Trans-Mississippi West, April 1968, The University of Montana), MJE Papers, #486, Series I, Box 1, Folder 1; and Charles C. Adams, "Memorandum on M. J. Elrod's Start as a Teacher," 20 October 1892 (stamped 30 June 1949), MJE Papers, #486, Series I, Box 1, Folder 1.

4 *The Wesleyan . . . of The Illinois Wesleyan University*, I (Bloomington, Ill.: Students, 1895), pp. 37, 45-47, MJE Papers, #486, Series I, Box 1, Folder 7.

5 "Elrod Family Records," MJE Papers, #486, Series I, Box 1, Folder 2; and Mary Elrod Ferguson, Typescript Summary of Elrod's Life, (no date, but probably 1950s), MJE Papers, #486, Series I, Box 1, Folder 1; and Morton J. Elrod to Emma and Mary, 24 August 1922, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 22, Folder 7, commenting on the loss of their son. "But we have Mary, and she is worth many whole families."

6 *The Wesleyan*, cited in note 4 above, pp. 45-47, 94-98; and Morton John Elrod, "Among the Rockies," *The Wesleyan Argus*, I(#2; 28 September 1894), pp. 5-7, (#5; 12 November 1894), pp. 5-8, (#10; 28 January 1895), pp. 5-9, and (#16; 28 April 1895), pp. 6-9, MJE Papers, #486, Series VIII, Box 37, Folder 19.

7 For "itinerant professor," see Beard, "Morton J. Elrod," Section I, p. 1, as cited in note 3 above; for the Idaho possibility, Charles to Morton J. Elrod, 17 July 1893, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 1, Folder 8, and *The Wesleyan*, pp. 45-47, cited in note 4 above; for the "prettiest town," see Morton J. Elrod, "A Camp at Mt. Lolo," *The Outdoor World* (1899), pp. 65-68, MJE Papers, #486, Series III, Box 7, Folder 9; and Morton J. Elrod, "The Ascent of Mount Lolo," *Illinois Wesleyan Magazine* (1893), pp. 322-328, #486, Series III, Box 7, Folder 10; also see excerpts from University of Montana President's Report, 30 May 1896, MJE Papers, #486, Series V, Box 34, Folder 10; and Mary Brennan Clapp, "Narrative of Montana State University: 1893-1935," (Typescript, 1958, copy in author's possession), Ch. II, pp. 29-30.

8 Clapp, "Narrative," Chapter II, has an apt description of the conditions of the time.

9 Morton J. Elrod, "Brief History of the Montana Biological Station," (undated, but 1920), MJE Papers, #486, Series V, Box 29, Folder 5.

10 Harold C. Urey to Morton J. Elrod, 21 November 1934, regret about the stroke and wishing a full recovery, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 3, Folder 8.

11 *Ibid.*; see also Harold C. Urey to Morton J. Elrod, 6 July 1917, 20 July 1917, and 30 July 1917, MJE Papers, #486, Series II, Box 2, Folder 3. On Urey, see "Harold Urey," http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harold_Urey.