

# Residents fear homes will burn in path of fires

**YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. (AP)** — Buffalo graze nonchalantly near flaming trees, but people are not reacting so coolly, and residents once worried about losing business to forest fires now fear losing their homes.

Fire has destroyed buildings around the Old Faithful geyser and has threatened tourist towns on the periphery of the country's first national park.

The Montana towns of Cooke City and Silver Gate outside the park's northeast entrance were evacuated twice last week.

Jardine, Mont., near the northern gate, was evacuated Saturday.

Firefighters saved Cooke City and Silver Gate, but only by burning thousands of acres of forest to remove fuel from the fire's path.

The so-called backfires left the once-picturesque towns flanked by black, skeletal trees.

"All we can do . . . is herd it around improvements and structures — and don't get anybody killed," said Bob Martinez, a structure protection officer in Cooke City.

The 2.2 million-acre park, dedicated in 1872, attracts more than 2 million visitors a year who marvel at geysers and hot springs, mountain scenery and wild animals.

But tourists have stayed away in droves this summer, and residents of tourism-dependent towns around the park have complained bitterly

about the Park Service's initial reluctance to respond to the fires.

"A guy gets really bitter when it keeps dragging on and on and on," said David Klatt of Cooke City, who spent three days in a motel room outside of town last week, waiting out an evacuation.

In this summer of heat and drought, Yellowstone is suffering the worst fires in at least 200 years.

Forest fires have charred more than 1 million acres in Yellowstone and in the surrounding national forests and parks in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho.

Each day, firefighters pray for rain, but at park headquarters near Mammoth Hot Springs this is the third-driest summer on record.

Only 1.6 inches of rain fell at Mammoth in June, July and August — one-third the normal rainfall.

It was also the hottest summer on record, with temperatures steaming an average of 5 degrees above normal, the weather service said.

Though other areas are hard hit, Yellowstone is the top concern of federal officials.

Of \$250 million spent so far on fighting fires, \$78 million has gone toward efforts around the park, said the Boise Interagency Fire Center, which coordinates firefighting in the West.

Since 1972, park officials have allowed lightning-sparked fires to burn.

"In the past 16 years, we had 140

fires that burned 33,000 acres," said John Varley, chief of park's research division.

"That averages about 240 acres apiece before they went out on their own."

The fires help cleanse the pine forest.

They clear deadwood, create new meadows for forage, release nutrients for new plants and free the pines' seeds from their cones.

A cool, wet spring lulled park officials into believing this summer would be no different.

But the heat and low humidity left the forest more parched than kiln-dried lumber.

By July 15, when the Park Service decided to start fighting the fires, it was too late to stop them.

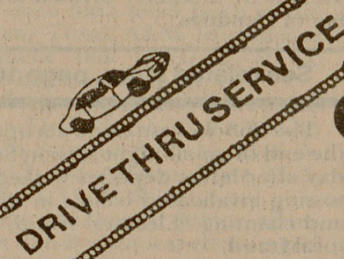
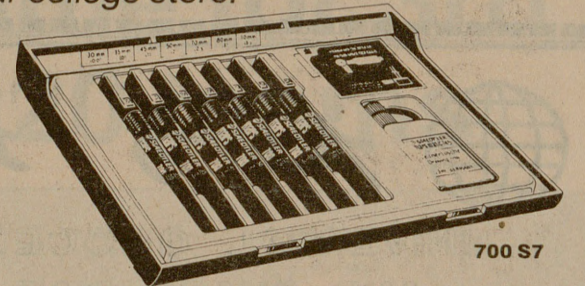
Fire crew boss John Borton was battled forest fires in the West for 18 years, but the blaze he had been fighting and sleeping near for 25 nights was something new.

"This is the edge of a fire that goes back 50 miles," he said. "It's as out of control as it was six weeks ago. This is the most extreme fire behavior that just about any of us has ever seen."

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# Pope appeals to Zimbabwe for human rights in Africa

**HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)** — Pope John Paul II appealed Sunday for reconciliation, racial harmony and human rights in southern Africa, a region teeming with tribal, racial and political problems.

John Paul's first full day on his tour of the region was crisscrossed with events, beginning with a meeting with the country's seven Roman Catholic bishops and ending in a session with diplomats.

In between, he celebrated Mass lasting over two hours before more than 200,000 people. He also met with members of the laity and spoke to 30,000 youths at a jammed sports stadium.

His comments did not have the political edge that they did Saturday, when he arrived here for 10 days of travel through five black-ruled countries that are neighbors to white-led South Africa.

On Saturday, the pope talked of powerful political, economic and ideological forces that endanger the stability of the region and who stirred up ethnic and tribal conflicts.

(Debbie look here . . .) Though he did not identify any country, he clearly linked South Africa to his comments when he said they were

"true for the grave issue of apartheid," Pretoria's system of racial segregation.

In a symbolic gesture toward the South African Catholic Church, the pope invited the former archbishop of Capetown to join his official party for the rest of his five-nation Africa tour.

And in another development aimed at creating what the Vatican called "an atmosphere of conciliation," a spokesman welcomed Monday's meeting between South African President P.W. Botha and his Mozambican counterpart, Joaquim Chissano.

Chissano's government alleges that South Africa supports an 11-year-old guerrilla insurgency in Mozambique.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro told reporters that Cardinal Owen McCann, 71, archbishop emeritus of Capetown, would travel on to Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique on the pope's plane. McCann, who is white, is considered a moderate.

Politics did not figure in John Paul's talks with diplomats. Instead, he urged the officials to use their influence to help Africa with its food

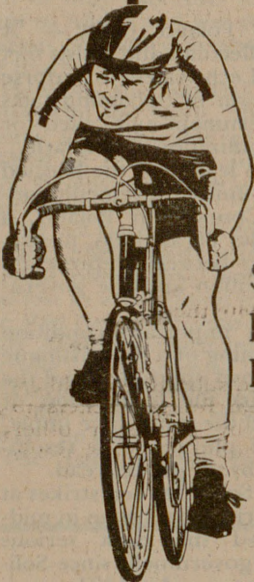
problems, refugees and development.

"The countries of Africa themselves must be in charge of their own development and historic destiny," he said. "Outside aid is urgently needed, but it will only be helpful in the long term if the essential force of growth and development is truly Africa."

The pope celebrated Mass from a scaffold altar the size of a small house at Barrowdale Park race course. Tens of thousands of people — many from neighboring South Africa, Malawi, Zambia and Tanzania — sat on the ground in the infield. Thousands more crowded the VIP stands.

Parish choirs sang traditional hymns to the accompaniment of animal skin drums and trumpets made from antelope horns.

Before the Mass began, three women carrying on their heads clay pots filled with water climbed the steps of the towering altar and knelt before the pope. Water-filled pots are traditional symbols of welcome and hospitality in southern Africa.



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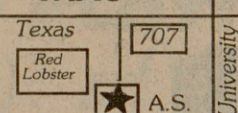
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# Anniversary of papal journey marked with evening Mass

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)** — Catholic church officials, who celebrated the one-year anniversary of the pope's visit here with an evening mass Sunday night, agree that changes following the event have been subtle.

Officials also had planned to bless a historical marker at the plaza by the Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, but the plaque's installation was postponed. The stop in San Antonio on Sept. 13-14, 1987, was the fourth for Pope John Paul II on a 10-day, nine-city tour of the United States.

The pope's 22-hour stay was highlighted by the only Sunday Mass on his tour and by speeches to Catholic Charities USA in Municipal Auditorium, an address at San Fernando Cathedral to men and women studying to become priests and nuns, and a speech in Spanish to parishioners in Plaza Guadalupe.

Sister Charlene Wedelich, who was administrative assistant to the coordinator of the Texas papal visit, said many people, whether Catholic or not, remember where they were the day the pope visited San Antonio.

"It's like when John F. Kennedy died," she said. "I

can tell you exactly what I was doing."

Church officials told the *San Antonio Light* that it is difficult to gauge what kind of effect the visit had.

"I don't think anyone in church can say they are in church because of the papal visit," said Father Greg Nevlund, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. "But I think it has increased evangelizing by not only the priests, but by the laity."

"I see a lot of good curiosity coming out of it," said Father Virgilio Elizondo, rector of San Fernando Cathedral.

He said about 300 adults recently completed a five-week course that explained Catholic customs. The first such class, offered a year ago, drew more than 500.

In terms of more visible work, Catholic leaders here say they have stepped up efforts to help immigrants and have begun to revamp programs to strengthen the family.

"We redoubled our efforts in the amnesty program," said Father David Garcia, a key figure in the papal-visit planning who now is archdiocese director of vocations.

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