



*A Postcard from an Earlier Era*

Employees at this year's Winter Conference were entertained with a slide show presented by the daughter of a former project engineer. The late Leonard DeKlotz joined the Bureau of Public Roads in 1931 and was a Project Engineer with BPR in the 1930's. He retired in 1979 after over 48 years of service, which at the time was an agency record for continuous service.

His daughter, Barbara DeKlotz Miller, recalled her early childhood years in Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks. She remembered the nearest "metropolis" to Yellowstone was Cooke City, (above) where one could buy gas and groceries, but it was 50 miles to the next nearest town.

She showed photos of the log cabin where their family lived. The cabin was often chilly, and rodents and other "creepy-crawlies" sometimes found their way inside. Food was kept in an ice box and they did the laundry in the kitchen sink, hanging the clothes on a wooden rack to dry. Barbara remembered her mother baking berry pies in a reflector oven on top of the wood stove. The berries grew near the cabin, but they had to be on the watch for bears while picking them.

Though Barbara was only two or three years old when they left the parks, the old memories of their "camping" life were enhanced throughout her childhood by frequent screenings of home movies. It was a happy time, she said, recalling that her mother truly enjoyed those years when she was the wife of a Project Engineer, a time when "life was calm and simple."