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FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

The annual pageant-drama commemorating the origin of Yellowstone National Park will be presented at Madison Junction Sunday, Aug. 25, at 6:30 p. m., according to Dr. Ralph Y. McGinnis and Prof. Bert Hansen of the Montana State University Speech Department.

The play, written and directed by Prof. Hansen, traces events that led to the establishment of the national park system. Richard A. Nelson, assistant superintendent of Yellowstone Park, is in charge of on-site arrangements for the pageant, which is open to the public without charge.

The Yellowstone Expedition, popularly known as the Washburn-Doane Expedition, set up camp on Sept. 19, 1870, at the confluence of the Firehole and Gibbon rivers in Montana, according to Hansen. At that time, a proposal to set aside the Yellowstone area as a national park was made by Cornelius Hedges, Helena attorney who later became U. S. District Attorney for Montana.

Hedges was a member of the exploratory party led by Gen. Henry D. Washburn, surveyer-general of Montana, and Lt. Gustavus C. Doane of the U. S. Army. Nathaniel P. Langford, destined to be the first superintendent of the park, and Samuel T. Hauser, a future governor of Montana, were also in the group.

Hedges' proposal was supported by all but one member of the party, who wanted to develop the area as a private enterprise for personal profit. The dissenter was overruled, and Yellowstone Park subsequently came into being as the first of many recreational areas to be reserved for the public by the federal government.

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