UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FILE NO. 0-35

Emerald Mountain
Edgemont Archeology

IMPORTANT
This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge.
All files should be returned promptly to the File Room.
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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.
PROPOSED EDGEMONT ARCHEOLOGY NATIONAL MONUMENT, SOUTH DAKOTA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Location and Area:</strong></th>
<th>Located in the Black Hills of South Dakota near Edgemont.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>History and Remarks:</strong></td>
<td>First called to our attention in a letter of October 8, 1932, from Jesse L. Muehler informing us that this area had been called to his attention by Mr. Frank A. Buker.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Accessibility:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Persons Interested:</strong></td>
<td>Mr. Frank A. Buker.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status:</strong></td>
<td>Awaiting further investigation.</td>
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Santa Fe, New Mexico.

October 8, 1932.

Mr. Roger W. Toll,
Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park,
Yellowstone Park, Wyoming.

Dear Roger:

There is a man by the name of Frank A. Buker who is connected with the schools at Edgemont, South Dakota, who is particularly anxious to have an area near Edgemont established either as a National Park or National Monument area because of the many evidences of prehistoric occupation that he has discovered there. I tried to get Doctor Strong of the Bureau of American Ethnology, who is excavating for the Laboratory near Scottsbluff, Nebraska, to go over this area with Dr. Buker before his return to Washington, but unfortunately the time was not available for this service and appraisal. It seems best to have one directly connected with the Park Service, with experience in such matters, go over the area before too much thunder is built up around it.

Buker has all sorts of wild interpretations as to the hieroglyphics, Spanish mines, Aztec and Mayan influence, and the presence of Coronado, Isopete, Fray Marcos de Niza, and all other Spanish explorers in that area, all in search of the metallic wealth supposed to be available there. It is the same old story, in some phase, of the old Spanish Diggings that will survive through the centuries. However, pressure will be brought to bear through Buker and his enthusiasm for an appraisal sooner or later, and if you could arrange to meet him and look over the area as you return from Yellowstone to Denver, I will place all previous correspondence in your hands. I cannot get away to join you, but my presence is unnecessary. If you can go, let me know fairly promptly if it is possible.

We have had a very busy summer here, with many notables among our visitors. Dana Johnson and his new wife had the time of their lives at Yellowstone, and he has been singing your praises and Albright's and those of Park Service personnel and scenic areas to all and sundry since his return to Santa Fe.

* * * *

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) Jesse L. Nusbaum,
Department Archaeologist.
Edgemont, S. Dak.
October 12 -- 1932.

Mr. Roger W. Toll,
Sup't., Yellowstone Nat'l Park,
Buffalo, Wyoming.

Dear Mr. Toll:

My esteemed friend, Dr. Nusbaum, has written me regarding a proposed visit, to be made by you if possible and convenient, to the Black Hills of South Dakota in order to view certain discoveries made by the writer; also to judge the value of these prehistoric and other records--as well as the beautiful scenery which surrounds them--so that you may determine the possibilities of having the area made into a national park in order that these valuable records may be preserved.

Dr. Nusbaum speaks very highly of your abilities in this respect, and I can assure you that we shall be delighted if you decide to make the trip.

As Dr. Nusbaum has intimated to me that, if you find you can visit this site, he will provide you with all the information he has regarding the matter, I shall not go deeply into the subject at this time. I will say, however, that we have some wonderful rock carvings, paintings, stone implements, etc. etc., which are drawing great numbers of visitors from all over the United States every year. These ancient records, together with the scenic beauty of the site, seem to make this an ideal place for a national park. However, I am willing to rest the case with you, for I feel sure that you will agree with me after viewing the area. It certainly is worthy of a great deal of consideration, as is shown by the number of staunch supporters we have for the cause.

Our desire to get immediate action on this project is due to renewed activity in the Red Canyon oil field, a part of which lies within the area we would like to set aside for a park. The reason of our haste will thus be obvious to you without further explanation.

I shall be only too pleased to supply you with further information if desired; also with photographs-- of which I have about a hundred--which picture many of the records and much of the scenery contained in the site.

Hoping that I shall hear from you -- or see you -- soon, I am,

Cordially yours,

(Sgd) Frank A. Buker
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

515 Customs House
Denver, Colorado
October 29, 1932.

The Director,
National Park Service,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Director:

Attached is a copy of a letter dated October 12 from Dr. Frank A. Bulker with reference to an area of archaeological interest near Edgemont, South Dakota. A copy of my reply is also attached. Copies are also being sent to Mr. Nusbaum and to Superintendent Freeland. For your further information there is attached a copy of a letter from Mr. Nusbaum on this subject, of which no other copies are being sent out.

It is suggested that you ask Superintendent Freeland for a preliminary report on this area.

Very truly yours,

Roger W. Toll

Inclosures
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

515 Customs House,
Denver, Colorado,
October 29, 1932.

Mr. Frank A. Baker,
Edgemont,
South Dakota.

Dear Mr. Baker:

I received your letter of October 12 with reference to an area of archaeological interest in South Dakota.

Other plans make it impossible to visit Edgemont at this time. If the inspection could be made by an archaeologist, it would be of much more value since a recommendation by a competent scientist would be necessary before any proposal could be acted upon.

My own impression is that, in order to have national interest, an archaeological area should have rather spectacular exhibits such as buildings. Practically all of the national monuments heretofore established that are of archaeological interest have either large pueblos or cliff dwelling structures. Other areas containing hieroglyphics, implements, etc., are of great scientific importance and should by all means be protected, preferably by state authority. Most of these areas are lacking in national popular interest sufficient to justify the establishment of a national reservation.

Have you been in touch with Mr. Edward D. Freeland, Superintendent of Wind Cave National Park? Since he is in your immediate locality, it would seem desirable for him to be familiar with the area that you have under consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Roger W. Toll

CC: Director
    Mr. Busboom
    Mr. Freeland
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

NOV - 4 1937

The Superintendent,
Wind Cave National Park,
Hot Springs, South Dakota.

Sir:

Attached is correspondence forwarded to this office by Superintendent Roger Toll, together with his letter of October 29. All of this relates to a proposal to investigate an area near Edgemont, South Dakota, said to contain certain archeological features.

After going over the correspondence, it is suggested you plan to take a brief trip to this area. Possibly you already knew something about the matter, and if there is some reason why you do not think it is wise for you to go, please let us know at once.

Please return the attached correspondence to the Washington Office at your earliest convenience for our records.

Sincerely yours,

(Reg) ANNO B. CAMMERER

Acting Director.

Inclosure 149087
MEG

Inclosure 149087
The Director  
National Park Service  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Director:

There is inclosed correspondence forwarded to me by your office pertaining to an area of archaeological interest near Edgemont, South Dakota. I am fairly familiar with the country and area mentioned; however, I will make a visit as soon as possible to the area and give you a detailed report with pictures as soon as convenient.

Very truly yours,

Edward D. Freeland,  
Superintendent.

Inclosure 09708
November 25, 1932.

Memorandum for Dr. Bryant

I wish to call your attention to the attached correspondence as it is a matter which should originally have been referred to the Branch of Planning. I admit in this particular case that it is apparently a small matter but in the interest of routing material to the proper branch I am sure that you are glad to have me call this to your attention.

I note the original letter of October 29 was routed by the Chief Clerk to me through Mr. Demaray and yourself. However, you sidetracked it to Mr. Chatelain and the correspondence did not reach me until we received a letter from Superintendent Freeland. Careful consideration of these matters will be appreciated.

With

Wirth

Should have gone to your first. Will try to avoid recurrence of these.
The Superintendent,
Wind Cave National Park,
Hot Springs, South Dakota.

Sir:

This will acknowledge your letter of November 14, returning
the correspondence which we sent you with our letter of November 4.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) A. E. Demaray
Senior Assistant Director.

GLW: RMS.
1/1/32

Dr. Pershing

Mrs. Seibel showed this to me yesterday morning and immediately took the matter up with Wirthwally. He agreed with me readily enough that the subject was one which I should have answered and that we could write all of the correspondence which had been prepared. The only point was that the matter should go first to your office and should there be sent.
be properly routed in such a way that an initial record could be made there. I see no objection to this and we agreed that it would be better for Holmes to write only his name on the correspondence, then let him route it. Think that if this is done - much trouble will be saved.

You did the natural thing in referring it to me. I did the natural thing in preparing the answer. The problem was altogether one of routing.
Incidentally. I may say that those who have inaugurated the system of clearance in our Secretariat Office pay little, if any, attention to routing. I think our system of assuming that those in charge of routing either true or away from me will see that it goes where thought to go.
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FILE NO. 0-55

PART 1

PROPOSED MONUMENT
EDGEMONT NATIONAL PARK

LAST DATE ON TOP

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON
BRANCH OF PLANNING AND STATE COOPERATION
REGION VI OFFICE
300 Keeline Building
Omaha, Nebraska
January 9, 1936

National Park Service
Branch of Planning & State Cooperation
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Historical Division

Subject: Proposed Edgemont Archeological National Monument

Gentlemen:

In compliance with your memorandums of May 17 and May 31, we herewith submit two copies of reports on the proposed Edgemont Archeological Monument.

Although we are making no definite recommendations as to the importance of these areas, we are submitting these reports hoping that they may be helpful if further investigations are made.

Yours very truly,

George Gibbs
Regional Officer,
REGION VI
IN THE BLACK HILLS

Sep't 29th 1939.

Mr. Thos. J. Allen, Regional Director
Archaeological Sites Div.
Omaha, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Allen,-

Acknowledging receipt of yours of the 23rd.
Your prompt attention to this matter is being fully appreciated.
Dr. Nusbaum knows of my first experience in the discovery of
Spanish records.

May I have the pleasure of presenting you a copy
of the great Manitoue worshiped by Indians. This portrait symbol-
izes every bit of life. It also gives the childhood of the author
of CREATION, Moses.

Cordially yours,

Frank A. Buker sec,
Chamber of commerce,
Edgemont, S. Dak.
IN THE BLACK HILLS

Oct. 12th 1939

Mr. Edward Hummel
National Park Service
Omaha, Nebr.

Dear Mr. Hummel,

Just received yesterday. Enclosed is a photo of a cross. A present to you. This cross explains why we wish the vicinity of Edgemont included in a National Park. It is for the purpose of preserving such historical data. It can be done in no other way.

It's practically useless to depend on strangers to tell you the immense importance to history of this particular locality. No doubt your judgment is just as good as theirs. Visit me at my shanty home yourself. Come in the near future. These discoveries are far too valuable to give publicity until some sort of protection is afforded them. I fear that most of the criticism given by strangers is due to the fact that they cannot read these glyphs. Therefore do not understand their value to history. I pledge my word of honor that I can give you an official interpretation.

Cordially and sincerely yours,

(sgd.)

Frank A. Buker
Edgemont, S. Dak.

Box 244
Memorandum for the Director:

Attention: Branch of Historical Sites, Archaeological Division.

In order to complete your files pertaining to the petroglyph area near Edgemont, South Dakota, we are enclosing copies of two letters and two pictures received from Mr. Frank A. Buker.

Regional Director

Encl.