



NPS Women Cartes de Visite Collection



Herma Albertson Baggley, c. 1929. (Yellowstone National Park Archives).

Herma Albertson Baggley

Yellowstone National Park

Ranger-Naturalist, 1929-1933

- Born October 11, 1896 in Inwood, Iowa.
- Moved to Blackfoot, Idaho in 1911, where she graduated high school in 1915 and immediately went on to teach elementary school science.
- Earned a bachelor's degree (1926) and a master's degree (1929), both in botany, from the University of Idaho.
- In 1926, began working as a chambermaid for the Yellowstone Park Camps Company at Old Faithful Inn, where she “punched pillows” in the morning and guided nature walks in the afternoon. This guiding work gave her naturalist experience and, as she had hoped, led to a job with the NPS.
- Hired as a temporary park ranger-naturalist at Yellowstone National Park on June 16, 1929.
- Worked as a botany professor for the 1929-1930 school year at the University of Idaho.
- Returned to Yellowstone as a temporary ranger-naturalist for the 1930 and 1931 summer seasons.
- Passed the naturalist civil service exam in 1931 and was hired as a full-time, permanent junior park naturalist, making her the first permanent woman naturalist at Yellowstone and in the NPS.
- Married George Baggley, Yellowstone's chief ranger, on November 26, 1931.
- Resigned "to become a full-time homemaker" on December 31, 1933.
- Published *Plants of Yellowstone National Park* in 1936, and a revised edition in 1956.
- Was one of the founders of the National Park Women organization in 1952, and spearheaded the 1953 *Report of NPS Housing Survey*.
- Died from Parkinson's disease on August 18, 1981.

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