

## 05-22-1980 Duane P. McClure – Accident – Drowned on Patrol

### Park Ranger Duane P. McClure

<https://www.odmp.org/officer/17223-park-ranger-duane-p-mcclure>



*United States Department of the Interior - National Park Service, U.S. Government*  
End of Watch Thursday, May 22, 1980



### DUANE P. MCCLURE

Park Ranger Duane McClure drowned while patrolling in his canoe, Yellowstone Lake, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming.

A search was undertaken after he failed to return to headquarters or respond to radio calls. Searchers located his capsized canoe but never located his body. He was officially declared dead on June 9th, 1981.

Ranger McClure had served with the National Park Service for 10 years. He is survived by his parents and two brothers.

### BIO

- **Age** 35
- **Tour** 10 years
- **Badge** Not available

### INCIDENT DETAILS

- **Cause** Drowned
- **Location** Wyoming

### DUANE P MCCLURE

<http://names.lawmemorial.org/officers/m/duane-p-mcclure.html>

**Officer Rank:** National Park Ranger

**Memorial Panel:** 41-E: 23

**Department:** U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service

**End of Watch:** May 22, 1980

**Cause:** DROW

**Age:** 35

**Years of Service:** 10

**Description:** Ranger McClure was patrolling on Yellowstone Lake by canoe. When he did not return to headquarters that evening or respond to radio calls, an extensive search began. Ranger McClure's canoe was located and determined that it had overturned. Ranger McClure's body was never found. Lake Yellowstone is extremely cold and survival time is very short. A Coroner's Inquest was held

06/09/1980, since the body was never located. Ranger McClure was declared deceased on 06/09/1981.

### Duane P McClure – Stories

<https://www.fold3.com/page/643564350/duane-p-mcclure/stories>

Great Falls Tribune (Great Falls, Montana) 24 May 1980, Sat • Page 3

## Park ranger missing

**YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. (AP)** — Yellowstone National Park rangers began searching Friday for a missing ranger whose canoe was found swamped on an isolated beach on Yellowstone Lake Friday morning.

Park officials identified the missing ranger as Duane P. McClure, supervisory ranger stationed in the Grant Village area, and said he is missing in the West Thumb of Yellowstone Lake.

McClure, 35, left Grant Village in a

canoe Thursday morning for a trip to the southern shore of West Thumb and hasn't been seen since, park spokeswoman Linda Miller said.

Searchers in boats and on foot combed the West Thumb area, but bad weather prevented air searches, she said.

South District rangers became concerned late Thursday afternoon when McClure did not return and could not be contacted by radio.

McClure's canoe was found swamped at 6:15 a.m. Friday on a beach approximately one mile from his destination, but no other equipment or tracks were found, she said.

McClure has been stationed in Yellowstone for more than six years. Fellow rangers say he is a good canoeist and a "very precise and cautious" person.

Miller said rangers have no clues to cause of McClure's disappearance. Weather conditions generally were good Thursday, although there was some wind on the lake, she said.

## Woman faces death charge

**HELENA (AP)** — Alvena Ameline, 20, of Helena has been charged with negligent homicide in connection with a January traffic accident that killed 16-year-old Kimberly St. Clair, also of

Great Falls Tribune (Great Falls, Montana) 28 May 1980, Wed • Page 21

## Search resumes for ranger

**YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. (AP)** — About 20 searchers resumed their attempts Tuesday to find a Yellowstone National Park ranger who has been missing since Thursday, a park spokeswoman says.

Judy Falk of the park superintendent's office said the search for ranger Duane McClure, 35, involves two National Park Service boats, two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service boats and a helicopter.

Fog and snow hampered the search on and around Yellowstone Lake over the weekend, she said, but dogs were used to search the lake

shore.

Tuesday dawned "clear and sunny," Falk said, and a full-scale effort was resumed.

McClure, a bachelor, has worked at Yellowstone Park for the past 6½ years and was living in Grant Village on the edge of the lake. He left Grant Village by canoe for a trip to the southern shore of West Thumb Thursday and hasn't been seen since.

Other rangers described McClure as a good canoeist but his canoe was found Friday, swamped about a mile from his destination.

# COURIER

## The National Park Service Newsletter

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<http://npshistory.com/newsletters/courier/courier-v3n7.pdf>

### Duane P. McClure

Duane P. McClure, a supervisory park ranger who was stationed at Grant Village in Yellowstone National Park, is missing and presumed dead.

McClure, 35, left the Grant Village area by canoe around 9 a.m., May 22, for a trip near the southern shore of the West Thumb. When he did not return by late afternoon, South District rangers became concerned.

His canoe was found swamped the next morning on a beach about 1 mile from his destination site. No equipment or tracks were found.

McClure had been stationed at Yellowstone for more than 6 years. Considered to be a good canoeist, precise and cautious, park rangers have no clues as to the circumstances surrounding his disappearance.

Searchers and rescue personnel continued their efforts to locate McClure for several days around the lakeshore without success.

Memorial services for McClure were held at Grant Village May 31.

He is survived by his parents, Rev. and Mrs. Judson McClure of Sequim, Wash., brothers, David J. and Philip L., of Harleysville, Pa., and Cedarville, Ohio, respectively.

McClure was born in Iowa and reared in South Dakota. He went to high school in Missoula, Mont., and received a BS degree in geology from the California Institute of Technology in 1962. He also did graduate work at Princeton University. Later, he spent two summers working as a geologist in Venezuela.