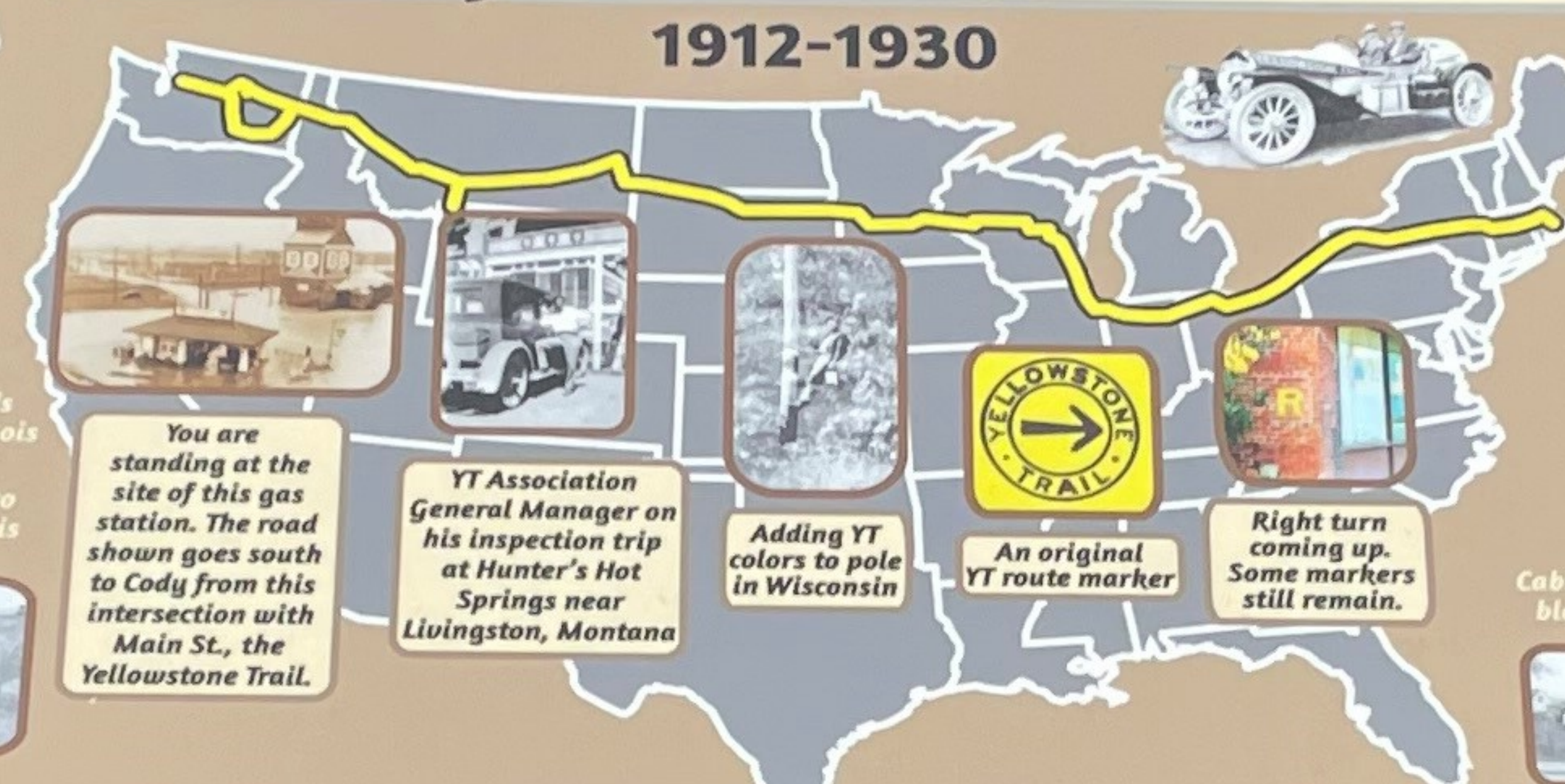



# The Yellowstone Trail

1912-1930


**The first coast-to-coast auto route across the northern tier of states**

**Motto: A Good Road from Plymouth Rock to Puget Sound**







*The reason for the Good Roads movement! This picture in Illinois*




*YT "Trail Day." Everyone out to work on the road! This picture is from North Dakota*




*You are standing at the site of this gas station. The road shown goes south to Cody from this intersection with Main St., the Yellowstone Trail.*



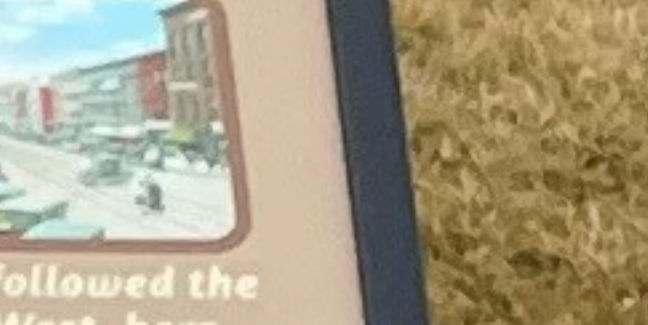
*YT Association General Manager on his inspection trip at Hunter's Hot Springs near Livingston, Montana*




*Adding YT colors to pole in Wisconsin*




*An original YT route marker*



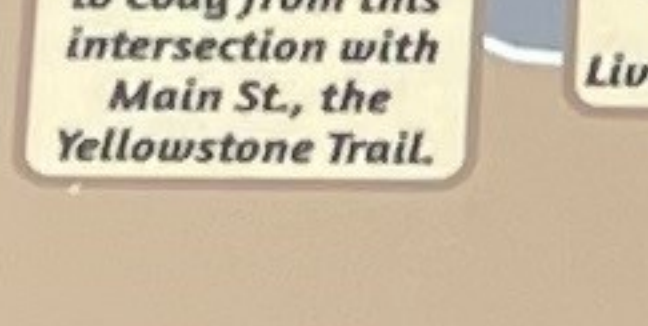
*Right turn coming up. Some markers still remain.*



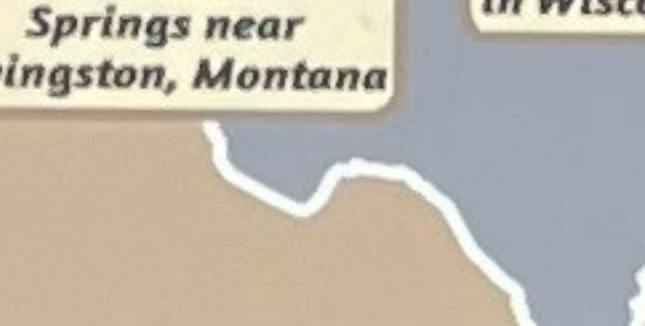
*Easterners followed the YT to the West, here through Batavia, NY*




*YT "Trail Day." Everyone out to work on the road! This picture is from North Dakota*




*You are standing at the site of this gas station. The road shown goes south to Cody from this intersection with Main St., the Yellowstone Trail.*



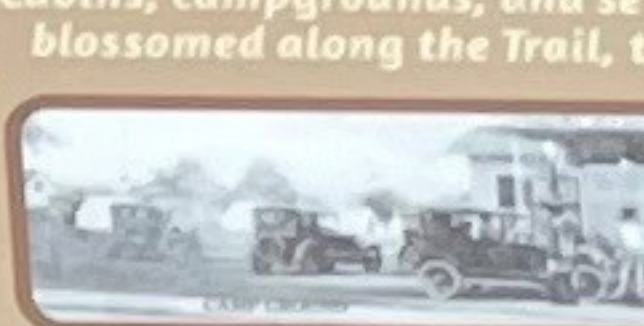
*YT Association General Manager on his inspection trip at Hunter's Hot Springs near Livingston, Montana*




*Adding YT colors to pole in Wisconsin*



*An original YT route marker*



*Right turn coming up. Some markers still remain.*



*Easterners followed the YT to the West, here through Batavia, NY*

*Cabins, campgrounds, and service stations blossomed along the Trail, these in Ohio*

Before 1912	1912	1915	Until 1930	1930	
Railroads dominated long distance transportation. Local roads were dust and mud. There was little help from government so owners of the newly arrived autos rose to the challenge.	Small town businessmen from South Dakota formed the Yellowstone Trail Association to "get out of the mud" and to pressure counties to build usable automobile roads.	They named the transcontinental auto road Yellowstone to draw tourists along it to the national park. Roads and autos were crude and travel was tough. With no maps tourists relied on guide books and yellow rocks to find their way.	The Yellowstone Trail was extended from Chicago to Seattle and, by 1917, to Boston. Yellow and black signs were posted across the country. The Association promoted the opening of Yellowstone National Park to private auto travel.	Hundreds of towns supported the famous Yellowstone Trail. The Association created free campgrounds, travel bureaus, and publications to help the traveler.	Route numbering (now an international system but created by the State of Wisconsin in 1918) reduced the need for named roads. Then the Depression spelled the end for all trail associations.

For more information see [www.yellowstonetrail.org](http://www.yellowstonetrail.org)

