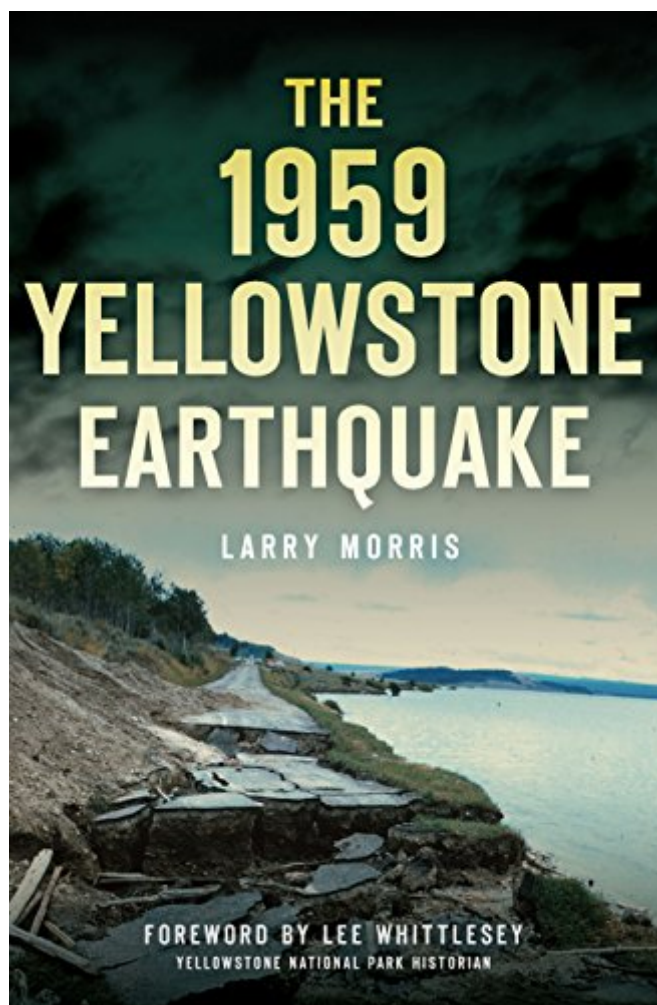


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# The 1959 Yellowstone Earthquake (Disaster)



## Synopsis

At 11:37 p.m. on August 17, 1959, a magnitude 7.5 earthquake rocked Montana's Yellowstone country. In an instant, an entire mountainside fractured and thundered down onto the sites of unsuspecting campers. The mammoth avalanche generated hurricane-force winds ahead of it that ripped clothing from backs and heaved tidal waves in both directions of the Madison River Canyon. More than two hundred vacationers trapped in the canyon feared the dam upstream would burst. As debris and flooding overwhelmed the river, injured victims frantically searched the darkness for friends and family. Acclaimed historian Larry Morris tells the gripping minute-by-minute saga of the survivors who endured the interminable night, the first responders who risked their lives and the families who waited days and weeks for word of their missing loved ones.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It brought back years of memories of staying each summer with my grandparents in West Yellowstone. We fished every year on the Madison and had been in the exact quake area the day of the earthquake.. we left late that afternoon... later feeling the shaking as we drive home to Utah not knowing until later if the destruction just behind us. My mother was frantic upon hearing of the quake

as she knew we were fishing in that area and didn't know we had driven out just before the quake hit. We returned the next summer, July 1960 and stood at memorial rock and hardly recognized the area we had so often visited. Thank you for the tribute to do many. Diane Moss

Don't do what I did--buy it on impulse because I'd visited Yellowstone National Park. First, download the sample--it will give you a good idea of what the rest of the book is like. Then read the Wikipedia article, "1959 Hebgen Lake Earthquake," to get it clear in your mind what event the book is about. Hebgen Lake, and Earthquake Lake which was formed in 1959, are actually outside of Yellowstone National Park. This reads like a collection of good local newspaper stories. It opens with a human interest story, and I expected it to move on to other things, but it didn't. The book has a sameness from beginning to end. It is a series of stories about families that were camping, heard a noise, cars overturned, damaged by trees or boulders falling on them or inundated by water, injuries, families separated and reunited... and many pictures of damaged roads. It would probably be fascinating if you'd lived anywhere nearby in 1959, or had been through it. Regrettably, as a guy from the East Coast who merely visited Yellowstone National Park as a tourist last year, I just didn't find it very interesting. It's well-written as far as it goes, and it is callous of me not to be interested in the disaster experiences of families, but... I'm not. This is not like a Simon Winchester book. There is virtually nothing in it about geology, and very little about its effect on Yellowstone National park in general. When we were visiting Yellowstone, there were many signs calling attention to things that had been changed--once-impressive geothermal features now dormant, once-dormant features now active. I didn't pay much attention to the years, nor did I do my homework before buying this book, or I'd have realized that the changes they were talking about were probably the effects of earthquakes in 1994 and 2004, not 1959.

Mostly just a review of people's names. Not very informative about the physical causes, etc. I read it because we had camped there in previous years, and had camped there earlier that summer.

Fascinating look into how our understanding of the earth and its workings has changed with knowledge gained by tragedies in the past. And a look at how people come together to help one another during a crisis has not changed.

This book gives a good factual account of the events. Provides inspiration in how those affected helped one another. Interesting to think thus all occurred before cell phones and the internet but

authorities were so thorough and thoughtful.

I never knew this tragedy had happened at Yellowstone. I found this very interesting.

Great read about a significant western event.

Wow great book so much detail. And the records. I've been to Yellowstone but didn't know about the quake till now. Must read this. Book.

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