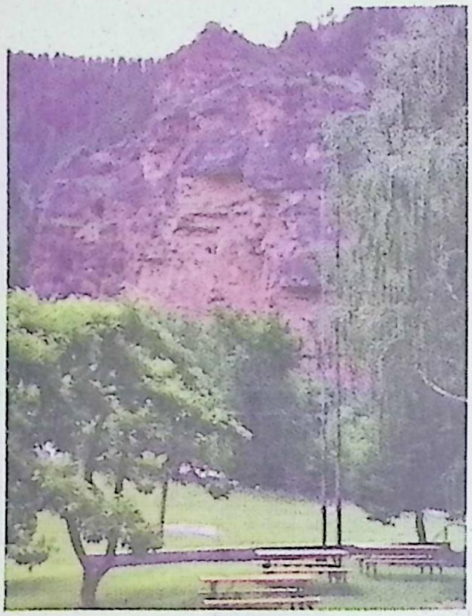
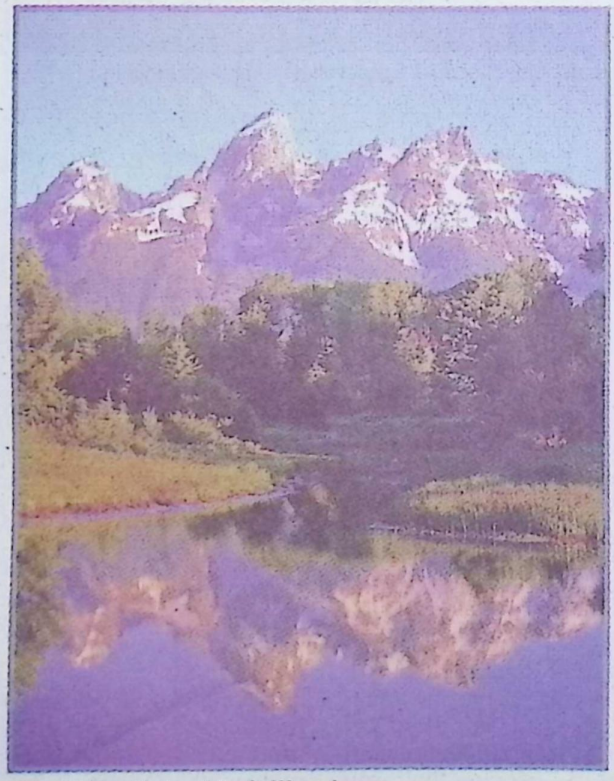
tive tribute to Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Roosevelt. They seemed to be affirming the ideals of the great nation and calling for hard, sustained work. Nearly 3 million tourists from across the USA and the world are attracted by these monumental sculptures. Carved with ingenuity at a height of 6000 feet on granite, over 14 years and at a cost of $1 million, Gutzon Borglum and his son, Lincoln Borglum, were the sculptors, who began work on it in 1927. There is a visitors' centre and an amphitheatre at the top of the Mount Rushmore. After dinner in Kent, a small township nearby, we went back to the Memorial after 9.30 PM to see the faces of the presidents being gradually and lovingly illuminated. Their profiles stood out against the dark backdrop of the mountains- a truly spectacular sight which evokes reverence for their selfless service to the nation.



A picnic stop by the roadside.

We returned the next morning for a day-view of the Memorial. Our attempts to visit the Badlands National Park 50 miles east of Rapid City next, failed, as we got lost. When we asked a Texan driver where he was going, he calmly said that he was merely driving there "to find out what was going on." No doubt he was equally lost! We saw in the same area a ghost town, once inhabited by a Red Indian community. The boarded - up houses and shops had signs indicating that they were once a grocery store, a tailoring shop or a furniture and hardware store. The land around was barren, devoid of trees and looked empty and abandoned.



Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming.

We then began our nearly 500-miles road journey to the Yellowstone National Park, the largest of the U.S national parks and recognized as a World Heritage Site. We drove through the scenic route and and halted for the night at a small town, Buffalo in Wyoming at an altitude of 4500 feet and a population of 6000. Next day we left for Cody, which was at the eastern gate for entrance into the Park. As we passed the gate, we saw the big Yellowstone Lake- covering 132 square miles at an elevation of 7700 feet. It is the world's highest lake and the largest freshwater lake in North America. Because of its size, altitude and surrounding high mountains and the forests, the lake creates its own weather. Clouds gather on it, there are occasional storms and rain and then it quickly goes away. The scenic beauty of the drive to Cody and then inside the park was indescribable.

We drove about eighty miles from Cody around the unending lake side road until we reached the Grant Village. Everywhere you go in the park the structures are all made of wood and in a distinct local style. The Lake View Café where we had our breakfast and the restaurant where we went for dinner appeared to float like a giant glass boat with a wonderful view of the lake and the mountain range. Our rooms were beside the lake hidden from it by a row of pine trees. On the edges of the lakes and on the sides of the road, were wild flowers- yellow Heartleaf Arnica, violet coloured Lupine and orange coloured flowers blooming in profusion.

At the Park, we visited the Old Faithful Geyser, the Mammoth Hot Springs, the Mud Volcano and