

Jackson Afton 1975-1979

(Anonymous)

In September 1975, the Star Valley area was disassociated from the Kemmerer parish and became a mission of the Jackson church. Father Taylor was responsible for repairing the stained glass windows in the Church. Mass in Afton, which was actually a mission of Kemmerer, was infrequent and many of the people had been going to church in Montpelier, Idaho. Father Taylor started having Mass in the Veteran's Hall.

In August 1976 Fr Bartek was transferred to the Jackson parish, and he took over administration of the whole Jackson Hole area, including the Afton area, which had been attached to the Kemmerer parish a few years earlier. He continued Father Taylor's interest in the mission at Afton, and in October 1975, at his request, Bishop Newell changed the boundaries of the parish and gave the mission "officially" to the parish of Jackson.

During Father Bartek's time the building of the Church at the mission in Afton was completed and dedicated in November 1978, by Father Bartek. The reason it was dedicated by Father Bartek was that on the day of dedication, there was a blizzard and the Bishop as well as many priests could not make it.

In 1979 Archbishop Jean Jadot the Apostolic Delegate to the United States was vacationing in Wyoming. He had said Mass on Sunday in Yellowstone Park for the visitors there, then came south to Teton Park where he toured Jenny Lake, then on to Jackson for the night. The ladies of the parish had a beautiful dinner for him, Bishop Hart, Bishop Newell and 15 priests who came to meet the Archbishop. The next day Archbishop Jadot was the main celebrant of a concelebrated Mass with the other bishops and priests in our parish Church. He then went south to see the mission Church in Afton -- the mission set in the heart of Mormon country. This was July, 1979.

