

South Rim Drive

P **¶** (4) **A** **Howard Eaton** and **Wapiti Lake** trailheads are just over the bridge. There's access both for picnicking and for hiking the backcountry trails.

(0.5) **P** **¶** **♿** (4) **A** **Uncle Tom's Trail** parking area on your left. Here you can leave your car to see the Upper Falls, take Uncle Tom's Trail partway down the canyon, or take either the South Rim Trail or the Clear Lake Trail. You may want to pick up a Yellowstone Association pamphlet about the whole Canyon area from the dispenser near the parking area.

♿ **Uncle Tom's Overlook** at the canyon rim is a wheelchair-accessible viewing area for the **Upper Falls** of the Yellowstone and **Crystal Falls** of Cascade Creek (across the canyon).

An early park tour guide and enterprising character, "Uncle Tom" Richard-



Above the Yellowstone River's Upper Falls, the water "breaks into foam-bloom," in the words of John Muir.

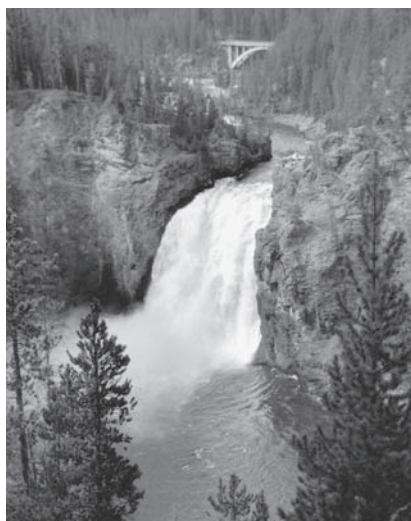
son, built the first crude trail into the canyon in 1898. After ferrying visitors across the Yellowstone above the Upper Falls, he would show them how to descend into the canyon with the help of wooden ladders and ropes.

Canyon Lodge and cabins stood at the west end of today's parking area from 1925 to 1957. The Lodge's loyal employees returned year after year and produced musical shows to entertain the guests.

Trails from Uncle Tom's Overlook

Special Caution: At least ten people met their deaths falling into the canyon in the 20th century, one in 1999. Please exercise caution, stay away from the edge, and keep small children firmly under control.

A **Uncle Tom's Trail** has 328 steps in a descent of less than one-half mile (0.8 km), so it's not for the faint of heart, but it's pleasant when you reach the bottom and find yourself delightfully close to the Lower Falls. The steps are made of metallic mesh, which may seem a little scary as you descend—but there's a railing. Allow plenty of time both for rest



Uncle Tom's Overlook has a fine view of Upper Falls and Canyon Bridge.