



10-23 (June I941)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO.

207-02.3

SUPER INTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER

1946

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## **IMPORTANT**

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge. All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room. Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

NEWTON B. DRURY,



MENCRANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone Bational Park during the month of September 1946:

Weather Conditions. Reather during the month was about normal with about an average fall of rain and snow. Total precipitation for the month at Mammoth was 1.90 inches as compared with .70 inch in 1943, 1.94 inches in 1944 and 1.92 inches in 1945. Eight days were clear, sixteen partly cloudy, and six cloudy. The maximum temporature of 79° was recorded on the 14th and a minimum of 230 was recorded on the 23rd and 28th.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers made the following trips away from the Park during September: On September 13, he went to South Gate to meet Assistant Director Tolson and Chief Landscape Architect Vint, making the return trip over the old Reclamation Road to Bechler River and in West Gate. On the light, he went to J. Y. Ranch in Jackson Hole to meet Secretary Erug, accompanying him through the Park in a Yellowstone Park Company car to Mammoth for the night. The Secretary left on September 15 via West Gate. On Sept. 22, after the close of the Absaroka Conservation Committee meeting, the Superintendent, with messrs. Tolson and Vint and Congressman D'Ewart left the Park by automobile, traveling over the Red Lodge-Cooke highway to attend a dinner-conference with officials of the Red Lodge Commercial Club regarding opening and closing dates, snow removal and maintenance of the Red Lodge-Cooke highway. He left Billings on the night of the 22nd to go to the Region Two Office in Gmaha for a committee meeting on revenues and fees, returning to the Park on Sunday, the 29th. Assistant Superintendent Johnston was Acting Superintendent.

Superintendent Regers and Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe attended a Dude Ranchers Directors' meeting at Canyon Notel on September 7.

Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe, Assistant Director Tolson, and Chief Landscape Architect Vint attended the Tri-State Yellowstone Fark Civic Association meeting in Cody on Jeptember 14, and made the return trip over the Sunlight Basin Road for a highway inspection.

On September 21 and 22 the regular fall meeting of the Absaroka Conservation Committee was held in the park. A group of interested conservationists inspected the Tower Falls-Hellroaring-Lower Lamar winter range area by horseback on the 21st and on the following day the business meeting was held at Manmoth with about 40 people in attendance. Among the more important actions taken by this committee were the recommendation of a reduction of 2,200 elk in the Northern Yellowstone

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herd during this coming winter and appointment of a special committee to determine boundaries of an administrative closure area north of the park intended to facilitate elk migration beyond the park line. A complete account of the meeting will be given in the minutes which will be available subsequently to various interested offices of this service.

The winter mail schedule was put into effect beginning September 11, with discontinuation of train service to Gardiner. Outgoing mail again leaves the Park at 10:00 a.m. and incoming mail arrives about 11:30 a.m., Monday through Seturday.

Inspections. Edward S. Zimmer, Chief, Roads Division, NPS, Chicago. out Northeast September 2. Asst. Supt. George Miller, of Rocky Mountain Np, in on leave Sept . 4, out Sept. 7. Ernest Wright and T. W. Childs, Division of Forest Pathology, Dapt. of Agriculture, Portland, in Sept. 6, to study damage to campground vegetation, out 9th. Assistant Director Tolson and Chief Landscape Architect Vint in West Sept. 13, out Northeast Sept. 22. B. W. Matteson, E. H. Cowan, H. M. Bixby, and C. E. Learned, Engineers, PRA, Denver, in South Sept. 13 for road maintenance inspections. Secretary Julius A. Krug in South September 14. out West 15th. Olaf T. Hagen, Regional Historian, Region Two, NPS, in North Sept. 14, out North 21th. Clarence Chapman, Eureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Spokane, out Sept. 17, after spending summer in the Park on blister rust control investigations. Dr. Clarence Cottam, Asst. Director, F&WS. in Hast Sept. 19. Clifford Presnall, Supervisor of Fredatory Animal Control, Fams, in Sept. 4. Frank A. Wickels, FRA, in North Sept. 19 with PRA Engineer Capes, out South 19th. Supt. John McLaughlin, Grand Teton NP, in Sept. 21. Ralph Anderson, Information Clerk and Photographor, Yesemite National Park, in Sept. 24, on leave. Charles P. Mottz, Highway Engineer, Region Two NPS, in North Sept. 12, cut to Teton 23-26, out North Sept. 28. Franklin J. Neubauer, Architect, Region Two, NPS, in Sept. 29 to assist Resident Landscape Architect Mattson. T. M. Straub and Clarence Westerberg, of the General Accounting Office, Denver, Colorado, in East Sept. 5 to audit books of Hamilton and Haynes, out 14th.

On September 26, Regional Engineer Mottz, Assistant Supt. Johnston, Landscape Architect Mattson, and Park Engineer Wohlbrandt inspected Shoshone Caverns National Monument.

On September 17 to 19, Chief Ranger Barrows and Regional Historian Hagen were at Big Hole Battlefield National Monument looking into historical interpretive operations. The area was thoroughly inspected and arrangements were made to close it for the season.

General Publicity. A press release on August travel and proposed closing dates for park concessions and the August travel figures were sent out on Sept. 3 to lists totaling 85 and 108 names respectively. Both mailing lists were circularized, as required under the Act of May 6, 1939, to ascertain if the addresses were current and if all persons still wished to receive our releases.

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General Complaints. Twelve written complaint letters were received and handled by the Superintendent's Office during September. Briefly, they were: I on discourteous treatment by concessioner's employee at West Thumb Boat House; I on confused information received while on packet tour resulting in missing Tower Falls side trip; I on high meal prices and alleged waste of materials; I on overcharge for cabin; I on indifferent and inefficient service at Mammoth Hotel; I on inconvenient method of handling visitors on packet tour; I on the generally poor service for motorists; I on high tour rate and extra charge for private room; I on unclean and unmodern cabins, food portions too large and poorly cooked; I on high cabin prices; I on general irregularities in concessions; I on cabins not medern, lack of landscaping the cabin areas, poor and crocked roads. A preliminary summary of complaints through September 22 was forwarded to the Director.

Read Maintenance. Four to five inches of snow fell on the Canyon-Norris cut-off and East Entrance roads on September 8 and 9, causing some traffic trouble. Very little snow fell on the Red Lodge Foad at this time; however, on September 22 a light snowfall caught several tourists on this road without chains and they had to be helped by the maintenance crew.

Starting September 1 we returned to the 40-hour week for road work and as a result lost about one-third of our men. A number of young men also quit to return to school. At the end of the month maintenance crews were located at Mammoth, Gallatin, Thumb, Lake, East Entrance, and one man on the Red Lodge road putting up snow stakes. A small crew at lake is replacing the hand rail on Fishing Bridge. Most of the snow fence and snow stakes have been placed.

September 3 to 8 was spent by Park Engineer Wohlbrandt, Assistant Supt. Johnston and Master Mechanic Robinson on an equipment inspection trip to Salt Lake City. Very little heavy equipment was available at that time, being mostly tied up for veterans; however, some good connections were made that may lead to something in the future. Two No. 212 Catarpillar motor graders, two push-type heavy duty snow plows, and a 20-ten trailer were definitely secured.

The week of September 16 to 21 was spent by the Park Engineer in going over park roads with PRA Engineers Fred Capes, Ed Cowan, F. M. Bixby, and Highway Engineer Mottz and making up Roads and Trails estimates for the 1947 calendar year.

New Construction. Work on the temporary house at "est Yellowstone is about 80% complete, being somewhat delayed by a shortage of labor and scarcity of materials.

Several projects under the Major Repair and Sehabilitation rogram were started during the month. Work on project 201-7, Residence (Building No. 8) was started this month. The outside of the building was painted. Work on

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project 201-11, Museum and Juarters (Bldg. No. 1), Masmoth, was started. One of the single rooms was redecorated. Work on project 201-23, School and Community Building (No. 35), Mammoth, the painting of the outside, was done. Project 201-25, Ranger Station (Bldg No. 133) work was started to repair the roof. Project 212-6, Water Line Replacement, West Yellowstone, was started. Project 212-2, Water System (spring supply) Old Faithful: the dam was repaired.

Concessioners. All park concessioners prepared for slosing or actually discontinued their operations during September as follows:

Old Feithful Lodge nurse left Sept. 1; Canyon and Lake Lodge nurses left September 3; Mammoth Hot Springs Hespital closed Sept. 8; Canyon Hotel and Old Faithful Inn nurses left Sept. 10; Dr. Tom Clemons arrived to become resident physician on Sept. 9, and Dr. Surke Scagnelli left Sept. 10; Pishing Bridge nurse left Sept. 15; so by the end of the month the nurse at Old Faithful and the resident physician at Mammoth comprised the Park medical staff.

The Yellowstone Park Company closed Old Faithful, Lake, and Canyon Lodges after breakfast on Sept. 3: Mammoth tourist cabins, West Thumb cabins, boat house, and cafeteria also closed Sept. 3. Fishing Sridge boat house closed Sept. 9, and saddle horse trips from points throughout the Park were discontinued that date; Old Faithful and Canyon Notels closed after lunch, and Mammoth Notel and Cottages closed after dinner, also Mammoth repair shop and swimming pool were closed on Sept. 10. Bus service within the Park, also bus, plane and rail service to the Park was discontinued on September 10. Canyon tourist cabins and repair shop closed on the 16th, also Canyon Cafeteria closed after breakfast on the 16th. Canyon gas station closed September 20.

On September 21 and 22, ninety valves and joints at Old Faithful tourist cabins and sixty in Fishing Bridge cabins eracked due to freezing. The Yellowstone Fark Company found it necessary to shut off water in the Old Faithful cabins beginning October 1, and water supplies will be obtainable at comfort stations only.

Mr. J. E. Haynes closed his picture shop at Thumb on Sept. 3; his Tower Falls shop on Sept. 15; Fishing Bridge shop on Sept. 18; Canyon shop Sept. 23. At the end of the menth only the Old Faithful and Mammoth shops were open.

Pryor and Trischman closed the Mammoth Coffee Shop on Sept. 15, and the Canyon filling station and store on Sept. 20. The Mammoth store and filling station will remain open all winter as usual.

Interpretive Service. A reduction in the program of interpretive services began early in September and all ranger-naturalists were terminated before the end of the month. Due to rains and stormy weather several of the campfire programs were called off.

The naturalist division presented a program of wildlife movies to the Absaroka Conservation Committee on September 21. There were 50 people present. Also, on September 30, Park Naturalist Condon gave a program for the Bozeman

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Kiwanis Club on their 25th anniversary. There were 162 people in attendance and the program was very well received.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. A program of repair and rehabilitation of museum exhibits has been set up for the fall and winter. Some funds amounting to about \$500.00 have been made available. Also some funds for salaries will be made available later.

Morris Museum was closed on September 5 Madison Museum was closed on September 9 Fishing Bridge Museum was closed on September 19 Mammoth Museum was closed on September 27 Old Faithful Museum was closed on September 27.

Photographic work accomplished by Park Naturalist Condon during the month consisted of exposing 6 rolls of 4 x 5 black and white cut film, and 4 rolls of 35 mm Kedachrome. He spent one day in the darkroom preparing prints for special uses such as photostat copies of valuable documents. About 180 kedaslides were titled, bound, catalogued and filed.

A model No. 40 multilith was received in August and set up during this month by Mr. Walter Zielan, from Spokane, who spent about four days in the Park instructing Mr. Ven Cott in the use and operation of the machine. It will be a fine addition to our equipment for putting out Yellowstone Nature Notes and other small booklets which may be planned from time to time. This duplicator, together with all necessary supplies, cost the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association a total of \$754.26.

Research and Observations. The Naturalist Division made plans to copy on microfilm the Forest Service correspondence with regard to Big Hole Battle-field National Monument.

Dragons Mouth Spring is even more active this month than it was in August. It is now throwing water across the foot path and bridge in front of it regularly.

The mud pot which broke out this spring behind the Norris Museum is practically dried up, but there is still a small amount of steam escaping from the bottom.

A report of the activities of the geysers in the Upper, Midway, and Lower Geyser Basins has been prepared by senior ranger-naturalist Marler, giving a record of 67 geysers which had been observed by him during the present season.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. The 1946 travel year, which ended Sept. 30, established a new all-time record when 814,907 visitors entered the park during the preceding twelve months. This represents an increase of 557.0 per cent over the 178,296 persons who entered in 1945, and an increase of 40 per cent over 1941, the previous record year, when 581,781 persons entered.

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A total of 85,047 persons entered during September 1946 as compared with 46,095 for September 1945 and 50,564 for 1941. This represents an increase of 84.5 per cent over 1945 and 68.2 per cent over 1941. The average daily travel for the month was 2,835.

Visitors. Lord Invershapel, British Ambassador to the United States, with party including Walter Bell, Secretary of Ambassy, Ian Anstruther, Secretary, and Archibald M. Gordon, Laborer Counsel at Embassy, in Nest Sept. 1. The party was met by Superintendent Rogers at Old Faithful on September 2 and conducted around the Park. Out West Sept. 2.

Col. Karl Lukas, Czechoslevakia Military and Air Attache, and M. H. Haushofer, Czech. Embassy, Washington, D. C., were in the Superintendent's Office on the 6th.

A special delegation of about 75 Delaware Legionnaires enroute to the Legion Convention in San Francisco arrived at Cardiner by special train on Sept. 23, and made a one-day tour of the Yellowstone by Y. P. Company buses.

Other visitors included: Irving W. Swanson, Reading Clerk, U. S. House of Representatives, in Sept. 1. Edward K. Thompson, Managing Editor, TIME Magazine, in Northeast Sept. 3. R. M. Evans, Governor of Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, in Sept. 7th, out 8th. Dr. Wallace Arugler, New York conservationist and National Park enthusiast in Sept. 7, with Mrs. Krugler and Mrs. Raggi, out Northeast Sept. 10. Governor John C. Vivian, of Colorado, in Sept. 12. Lawrence Brookwell, Photographer for Tru-Vue, Inc., Rock Island, Illinois, in Sept. 13 to get pictures for sale in Yellowstone picture shops, also libraries, schools, etc. Congressman Wesley A. D'Ewart, of Montana, in Sept. 21 for Absarcka Conservation meeting, out Sept. 22, via Red Lodge for meeting with Red Lodge Commercial Club and Service officials. Al Bradish, of Flores, Inc., and Calvin Smith, of Ford Motor Company, both of Detroit, in Sept. 24th to get moving pictures for Ford Company to use in their promotional educational work. Ansel Adams, Photographer and Concessioner, Yosemite National Park, in Sept. 27, out 28th.

Eanger Service. Travel declined slowly from recerd levels of August but continued comparatively heavy during September. Checking stations were operated from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. through September 14 but were closed four hours earlier after that date.

Transfer of rangers to winter stations was practically completed with only a few moves to be made at late dates. Only ten seasonal rangers were on duty at the close of the month.

Big game hunting seasons opened in Wyoming and Montana areas adjacent to the Park making it necessary to provide regular patrols of these large sections of the park boundaries. Two rangers were assigned to the Thorofare area to make boundary patrols and perform other fall work. Fatrol cabins were put in condition for the winter.

LAW Enforcement. Fifteen cases were presented before the U. S. Commissioner. All but one involved violations of traffic regulations. Fines assessed and collected totaled \$285.00.

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The other case was one of armed robbery committed by Donald Edwin Dein, an employee of Hamilton's Auto Camp Store at Old Faithful, who was surprised by the manager of the store while he was attempting to break into it during the night of September 14 about 10 p.m. He produced a gun and held up the four employees still in the store, but one escaped to notify the rengers. After taking the contents of one cash register, he locked the three women employees in the candy room and escaped in an automobile belonging to the store. He was apprehended near West Yellowstone and returned to Mammoth for a preliminary hearing. The Commissioner bound him over to the U.S. District Court at Cheyenne for trial.

John R. Carson, an employee of the filling station at Old Faithful, operated by Hamilton Stores, left the park with an automobile which had been left with him for overnight storage. The theft was not discovered until the next morning, and by that time Cerson had left the park with the automobile. Law enforcement agencies in adjoining states were notified and the case was turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for further handling.

Three cases of petty largeny were reported and one of the patrol cabins was entered by unknown persons who removed a small amount of Government-owned property.

Forest Fire Protection. The Mt. Holmes primary lookout was closed for the season on September 10, Mt. Sheridan on the 11th, Mt. Washburn on the 14th, and Pelican Cone on the 15th.

With the exception of the Fire Cache Supervisor and one SP-4 Fire Control Aide, all Fire Control Aides were terminated by September 18. These men are servicing and repairing used fire equipment in the Mammoth Cache.

On September 11, Park Ranger Aubrey L. Haines made a seen area study from the south spur of Druid Peak. It was found that this point compares favorably with Mount Norris as a lookout point and has the added advantages of being accessible and near the Buffalo Ranch.

Trails. On September 4, construction was started on a new trail bridge and corduroy section over the cutlet of Fish Lake in the Bechler River District. Two trail men and a Fire Control Aide completed this work on September 18.

Forest Insect and Tree Diseases. Operations on the Mt. Washburn area, blister rust control work, were discontinued at the first of September due to resignation of all supervisory personnel and all but four of the laborers at the close of August. The remaining four employees were engaged for about one week in completing some chemical treatment of stream type kibes in the Mammoth area.

Mr. Clarence Chapman scouted a number of areas in the vicinity of Mammoth and near the north boundary of the park near Cardiner and discovered white pine blister rust on Ribes bushes on Eagle Creek (outside the Park) and on several sections on unnamed streams along the east slopes of Sepulcher Mountain in the

park. Another center of infection on Ribes was also discovered on the Lava Oreck drainage about half way between Mammoth and Undine Palls.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. BEAES. The unusual record of low visitor-bear incidents of June, July, and August continued throughout deptember. Only three injuries from bears were reported and property damages totaled only six. At the close of the month, with marked decrease in travel, bears tended to frequent developed areas in greater numbers and it is anticipated that some bear damages, particularly to Government and operators' buildings, will occur during the first two weeks of October or until general winter hibernation begins.

A statistical summary of visitor-bear incidents for the current and representative seasons is given below:

Year:	INJURIES			DAMAGES				COTAL			
	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Total	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	lotal	ILCIDENTS
1937	8	33	54	20	115	6	31	36	8	81	196
1941	6	43	34	7	90	17	51	22	12	102	192
1946*	#6	0	6	3	15	1	8	4	6	19	34

\*Season's totals for 1946 are subject to additions which may occur during the month of October.

#Statistics have been corrected for June 1946 by the addition of one personal injury previously unreported.

Total park travel through September 50, 1946 814,907
Total personal injuries this year to date 15

One personal injury to 54,327 visitors.

FISH. All fish planting within the Park was completed on September 28 when the last load of 15,000 one and one-half inch rainbow fingerling was placed in 8lide Lake and the Gardiner River. The fishing season closed at sundown Sept. 30, on the Madison River.

PANCH OPERATIONS. Haying Operations, which were begun under contract with George Percival of Livingston, Montans, on August 22, continued intermittently throughout September, many delays being necessitated by showers and wet weather. At the close of the period about 100 tons of hay had been baled and stored. It is anticipated that the operation will be completed early in October and the harvest will yield some 275 or 280 tons.

Megotiations are under way for the purchase of 75 additional tons of hay from outside sources for use at Mammoth and ranger stations of the park interior.

ACCIDENTS. Fourteen motor vehicle accidents were reported during the month. Fight were Class "A", six were class "B" including two with personal injuries.

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The state of the s On September 30, an automobile accident occurred on the Canyon-Norris road involving a Government truck and a tourist car. The car involved was driven by John F. Mathews from 252 East Brown Street, Birmingham, Michigan. The Government truck was driven by Roy J. Berens, Yellowstone Fark, Nyoming. Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Matthews received no serious injuries and the damage to their car was not great.

On September 28, Michael Adams, son of Ansel Adams, Yosemite photographer, stepped in a hot pool near Lone Star Geyser and suffered burns on the left leg up to the knee. The boy was treated by the doctor stationed at Park headquarters and taken to the hospital in Divingston by his father.

Miscellaneous. Lois Christyne Fenner, 11 month old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roger E. Fenner, of Firth, Idaho, was overcome by carbon-monoxide in their car near Madison Junction on September 8. She was rushed to West Yellowstone, Montana, where she died.

The Mammoth school started on September 3 with Mrs. Alberta Stebbins teaching the lower grades and Miss Jean Morrison as principal.

Fred T. Johnston, Acting Superintendent.

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