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# UNITED STATES
# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
# NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ROGERS | |
| ✓ | JOHNSTON | |
| ✓ | JOFFE | |
| ✓ | SOULE | |
| | MACBETH | |
| | SHONEY | |
| | QUIST | |
| | SOMERVILLE | |
| ✓ | BAUER | |
| ✓ | BARROWS | |
| ✓ | ELLIOTT | |
| ✓ | EVANS | |
| ✓ | CHAPMAN | |
| ✓ | WOHLBRANDT | |
| | ROBINSON | |

FILE NO. 207-02.3

MONTHLY REPORT

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

JULY
1944

## IMPORTANT

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
*Director.*

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371

August 4, 1944.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of July 1944:

Weather Conditions. While the month of July was not unusual, from the standpoint of precipitation, the rain was spread out well, so that the park was kept sufficiently wet to hold down the fire danger and by the end of the month we were fortunate in having had no forest fires so far this season. This is an unusual record and, if present conditions continue, it may be possible to go through an entire season without a serious fire. The maximum temperature for the park was 83 degrees on July 1, 15, 28 and 29, and the minimum temperature 36 degrees on the 11th. Total precipitation for July was .94 inch. The average mean precipitation for July is 1.29. There were 4 clear days during the month, 20 partly cloudy and 7 cloudy.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers spent the entire month in the park, with the exception of trips made to Big Hole Battlefield National Monument on July 6 and 7, in company with Chief Ranger Barrows and Forester Walker, and to Billings on July 21 and 22 to attend the Yellowstone River Compact Conference.

The Fifth War Loan Drive, which officially started on June 12, was concluded on July 8, but credit was allowed for all sales made during the month. The Yellowstone, as in other drives, met its quota early and received its quota flag on July 1. By the end of the month the park was able to report 165 per cent of its Interdepartmental quota, while its quota as a unit of the State of Wyoming was exceeded by 149 per cent, despite the fact that the quota for this drive was $4,000 more than the quotas for the Third and Fourth War Loan Drives combined.

Despite the restrictions on travel, it has been surprising to note the number of people who have found it possible to visit the park. By the end of the month the travel for the entire season was 37.4 per cent ahead of last year to the same date, while for the month of July alone 27,494 persons entered the park this year, as against 19,256 last July, an increase of 44 per cent. Three thousand two hundred and two persons came in the park gates on July 2, which was the largest travel day for the past two years; 1,979 came in on July 3, and 1,768 on July 4. This large number of visitors over the July 4 holiday period exceeded all expectations and the available facilities in the park were not sufficient to take care of all those seeking food and lodging.

A C.A.A. plane, piloted by Lieut. W. I. Jones of Salt Lake City, Utah, made a forced landing inside the park near the north east gate on July 8. Neither the pilot nor the one passenger, Lee Taylor of Salt Lake City, was hurt, but the plane was badly damaged. The flight was a pleasure trip and not Government authorized.

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Authority was granted the War Relocation Authority at Heart Mountain to use the old Nez Perce C.C.C. Camp for housing groups of Japanese Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls for weekly outings during the summer. The first group of 100 Boy Scouts entered the park on July 8 at the east gate and a new group of 100 each was brought in each Saturday, July 15, 22 and 29, one group leaving as a new group arrived. The camp will be used until August 12.

The Yellowstone Park Ration Board No. 24 was reorganized during the month following a visit from M. D. Watenpaugh, State Director, on July 12. With the acceptance of the resignation of T. Paul Wilcox as Chairman of the Board, William A. Wright was appointed Acting Chairman. On July 15 the Board met and elected C. Max Bauer as Chairman, the remainder of the Board consisting of J. E. Haynes, W. Leon Evans, William A. Wright, and Wyman F. Benson. Mrs. Alberta F. Stebbins was appointed as Clerk on July 13 to succeed Mrs. Reid Wilcox.

The last approach road to be cleared of snow, the Red Lodge-Cooke Highway, was opened to travel on the evening of July 13, several drifts having been shoveled out by men from Red Lodge. The Portland Office of the Public Roads Administration had been allotted $15,000 for maintenance on this section of highway, but this did not provide for snow removal.

A new School Board was appointed by the Superintendent on July 18, consisting of Harold Brodrick, Chairman, Mrs. D. T. White, Albert E. Elliott and Philip Wohlbrandt.

The first death of the season occurred on July 27 when Carl H. Rapp, 43, of Salt Lake City, Utah, died of unknown causes while hiking out from a fishing trip at Grebe Lake. The body was removed the same night to Ashton, Idaho, and turned over to the undertaker there.

Miss Mary E. Deason entered on duty as a Clerk-Stenographer on July 1, and Victoria L. Novicki entered on duty as a Clerk on July 7 by transfer from the War Relocation Authority at Heart Mountain, Wyoming.

Inspections. Carl H. Mueller, U. S. Game Management Agent, Casper Wyoming, in July 3; A. E. Wilde, Executive Manager, Wyoming War Finance Committee, in south July 6 in connection with the Fifth War Loan Drive; M. D. Watenpaugh, State Director, O.P.A., Cheyenne, in east July 12, out east 14th; Martin Lindstrom, C.P.A. Auditor, Cheyenne, in July 12, out east 20th; W. J. Stone, State Representative, National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Casper, in July 13; David F. Wilson, Explosives Engineer, Bureau of Mines, Rock Springs, Wyoming, in south July 17; J. C. Harder and J. F. Alders, Geologists, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C., in July 18; Carl P. Russell, Chief Naturalist, National Park Service, Chicago, in east July 24, out south 27th; Superintendent E. S. Luce, Custer Battlefield National Cemetery, in north July 24, out east 25th; Mr. M. M. Ellis and Mr. B. A. Westfall, Fish and Wildlife Service, Columbia, Missouri, in July 29; Irvin Moore, Field Property Officer, Procurement Division, Denver, in July 29; Fred Capes, F.R.A. Engineer, Denver, in south July 31; R. A. Work and James C. Marr, Irrigation Engineers, Soil Conservation Service, in July 31.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. The quarterly budget for Engineering accounts was compiled and considerable time was spent on the preparation of the "Major Repair and Rehabilitation" program. An investigation of the boundary markers on the south and west boundaries was made and the matter of possibly installing a wood stove in the lookout on Mount Washburn was studied.

General Publicity. No press releases were issued during the month but pictures were sent out for possible use in illustrating park articles. The "Accommodations and Services" circular was again revised on July 27.

General Complaints. While no written complaints were received, it was not possible to give the class of service in the park which is available in normal times. The park operators are trying to do the best they can with young, inexperienced help and the restrictions of O.P.A. and other Government agencies that have made operating difficult. The large crowds over the 4th of July holiday taxed all concessioners to the utmost in trying to provide satisfactory service. It is apparent that park visitors are resolved to take what is offered and not complain and it is probably on account of this attitude that no written complaints against the Service and operations have been filed.

Maintenance. Some 24,000 gallons of RC-2 road oil for seal coating and 12,000 gallons of MC-2 for reprocessing were used.

The labor situation has become quite acute, with the possibility that it may be necessary to combine some road crews, leaving some of the sections without proper maintenance. During the month 22 laborers were lost, due mainly to the payment of higher wages outside the park, and we have been short of truck drivers since the start of the season. This shortage of personnel greatly hinders the progress of the work.

Besides the routine maintenance, three large slides were removed near the Overhanging Cliff with the use of the power shovel. Some 2,000 yards of material were removed, much of it being broken rock which was used as a base for the approach to the Yellowstone River bridge and for shoulder widening. The shovel was also used for repairing the parking areas along the lake shore at Mary Bay, these parking areas having been damaged by high water during the 1943 season. Several sunken fills were repaired on the Mammoth to Tower Falls section with the use of the shovel.

Some repairs were made to the narrow shoulders on the Mammoth to Tower Falls section and the Mammoth to Norris and Norris to Madison Junction sections.

The north two miles of the Gallatin section of road, which have become quite rough and on which much of the oil has been broken under the heavy traffic, are being reprocessed and reshaped.

Park Operators. Meals and lodgings were available throughout the month at the general stores at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge. Meals were obtainable at the general store at Mammoth and sleeping accommodations over the Coffee Shop at this location. The tourist cabins at Fishing Bridge and Old Faithful also

provided furnished and unfurnished cabins. All facilities were taxed to capacity over the 4th of July holiday period. Most of the employees are inexperienced and below the average age of those employed in normal years.

Miss Norma Burmeister was employed by the park medical officer to take over the nurse duties at Fishing Bridge and she entered on duty on July 1. A nurse was also provided at Mammoth Hot Springs.

Mr. W. W. Nichols, President of the Yellowstone Park Company, arrived in the park on July 7 to spend a few days looking over the Company's operations.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. The Mammoth Museum was kept open throughout the month to serve the public and the attendance was 70 per cent above last year. This was the only museum open with an attendant in charge, although the ranger headquarters at Old Faithful was in the museum building at that location and visitors who stopped in were afforded an opportunity of viewing the exhibits.

The Artist Point exhibit was opened for the first time this spring and many favorable comments were received on the character of the exhibit.

Research and Observations. Morning Glory Pool, which boiled over and threw out considerable debris last month, has settled down to approximately its normal flow. During the month it cleared up considerably but it is still impossible to see the sides of the pool to a greater depth than 4 feet. It is hoped that it will clear up entirely soon, so that the depths of the pool may be observed and the original color returned to this beautiful pool.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Twenty-seven thousand six hundred and ninety-four persons entered the park during July, as compared with 19,256 for the same month in 1943. The total persons entering the park for this travel year is 48,580, as compared to 35,258 for 1943, an increase of 37.7 per cent.

Seven thousand four hundred and one cars entered the park in July as compared with 5,601 for the same month in 1943. The total cars for this travel year (13,652) as compared with 10,959 for 1943 shows an increase of 24.5 per cent.

Visitors. Hon. Harris H. Ellsworth, U. S. Representative in Congress from Oregon, in east July 3, out south 4th; Anthony B. Stewart, photographer, National Geographic Magazine, in south July 16; Miss Sarah Carrigher, Saturday Evening Post writer and author, in south July 22, out south 29th; Hon. Burton K. Wheeler, U. S. Senator from Montana, in northeast July 22, out west 25th; Dr. Charles F. Tozier, Boston, Massachusetts, photographer and lecturer, in north July 31.

Ranger Service. Ranger activities for the month consisted mainly in routine matters, such as; gate duty, information service, formation and stream patrols, service of lookouts, and trail and telephone line maintenance. Two rangers spent considerable time with a presuppression crew supervising the rebuilding of the telephone line to Pelican Cone.

Police Protection. Eight law enforcement cases were held before the United States Commissioner during the month, including four traffic violations, one

petty larceny, one unauthorized campfire, and two violations of fishing laws. Fines collected amounted to $74.50 and costs collected totalled $33.50.

Wildlife Administration. Bears:

COMPARATIVE BEAR INJURIES AND DAMAGES

| | 1943 | | | 1944 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | June | July | Season to Date | June | July | Season to Date |
| Personal Injuries | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Property Damages | 4 | 16 | 20 | 1 | 13 | 14 |
| Total Incidents | 5 | 17 | 22 | 2 | 13 | 15 |
| Bears Killed | 1 | 6 | 7 | 0 | 8 | 8 |

In addition to the eight bears killed as control measures, two were badly injured by being struck by automobiles and had to be disposed of. Included in the tabulation are two grizzly bears which were shot at Fishing Bridge after they continued to frequent the utility area and all efforts to trap them failed.

Ten of the fourteen reports of property damage by bears originated at Old Faithful where four animals responsible for most of the incidents were disposed of.

Mr. O. J. Murie, Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, continued his studies of the ecology of the bears of the park and is giving special attention to possible means of discouraging the animals from frequenting the campgrounds and other areas inhabited by park visitors.

Winter Game Range. The northern and Gallatin winter game ranges have benefited from frequent rains and at the end of July an unusually large amount of forage was beginning to mature. Browse species are showing the results of light utilization last winter and favorable growing conditions during the summer. This is especially noticeable in the case of the willows which have put forth a large amount of new growth.

Fish Culture and Fish Planting. The Fish and Wildlife Service spawn taking operations at Yellowstone Lake were completed on July 10. A total of 22,594,108 blackspotted trout eggs were taken this season.

Fish planted during the month, not including those from the Yellowstone Lake Station, were as follows:

| Source | Species | Number | Size | Transported by |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Emigrant | Loch Leven | 50,000 | 2 | State of Montana |
| Emigrant | Eastern Brook | 20,000 | 2 | State of Montana |
| Emigrant | Rainbow | 7,850 | 6 | State of Montana |

Fishing conditions during July were good and visitors reported taking a total of 45,112 during the month as compared with 36,503 for July 1943. The season's catch by the end of the month totalled 68,940 as compared with 46,796 for the same period of 1943.

Forest Fire Protection. No forest fires occurred for the month of July and the fire danger continued to be comparatively low through the last of the month.

All primary fire lookouts were manned by July 15 and communication lines were up and in good condition.

Fire guards were assigned to stations at Heart Lake, Hechler River, Winter Creek, Upper Lamar, Trail Creek and Pelican Patrol Cabins. Clearing of almost all fire trails and administrative trails throughout the park was completed by the end of the month. Fire guards who were not assigned to lookouts or regular stations were placed on a presuppression crew and stationed at Lake Ranger Station under the supervision of a park ranger. This crew has been employed in rebuilding the telephone line to Pelican Cone. The work was a little more than half completed at the end of the month.

Favorable growing conditions have resulted in unusually heavy and rank growth of herbaceous vegetation in all parts of the park. Growing conditions have also been unusually favorable throughout all forested areas in the park.

Accidents. Four automobile accidents occurred during July.

Miscellaneous. A son was born to Clerk and Mrs. Dwight M. Richards, at the Park Hospital in Livingston on July 2.

Edmund B. Rogers,
Superintendent.

cc: Region Two
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