

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 207-02.3

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER 1949

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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This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge.

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NEWTON B. DRURY,

Director.



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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

VICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Summary of the December 1949 Monthly Narrative Report for
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

	<u>Page</u>
<u>WEATHER:</u> Small snowstorms; drifting. Maximum 43°, minimum -12°.	1
<u>SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:</u> Rogers in Denver; Johnston & Joffe Act. Supt. Group to Montana Wildlife Fed. meeting & to Park County Rod & Gun Club, Livingston. Oscar L. Chapman new Secretary of Interior. Mammoth mess closed.	1
Mattson to Glacier & on annual leave. Some staff meetings held. School closed for Christmas; program given.	2
<u>IN-SERVICE TRAINING:</u> Yellowstone Weekly News.	2
<u>PUBLICITY:</u> Corrected map & dummy for broadside submitted. Elk & buffalo reduction stories to AP & newspapers. Life Magazine photographers in for elk reduction pictures. 87,675 broadsides on hand.	2
<u>PLANS, MAPS AND SURVEYS:</u> Annual leave taken. Plotting topography and preparing plans.	2
<u>MAINTENANCE:</u> Painting equipment. Considerable plowing & sanding last half month. Signs repainted & built for maintenance crews. Road to Cooke open. Roads to Lake & O.F. passable few days.	2
<u>NEW CONSTRUCTION:</u> Work on South Approach Road suspended 17th. Very good progress additional bedrooms, 4 residences.	3
<u>CONCESSIONERS:</u> Haynes' visits to park. Amendment approved concessioners labor regulations continuing 1½ times pay hours worked over 48 per week.	3
<u>RELIGIOUS SERVICES AND CHAPEL USE:</u> Sunday School; evening services; "song fest" Christmas Eve.	3
<u>INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:</u> Condon spoke at Kiwanis Club meeting. Condon on annual leave from 22nd.	3
<u>MUSEUM ACTIVITIES AND EXHIBITS:</u> One Indian artifact accessioned.	3

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
FOR THE YEAR 1907

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<u>RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:</u>	Photographing of elk reduction. Moose observed near Tower Falls; unusual in winter. Prof. Quimby & Mr. Johnson of Montana State College investigated slaughtered elk. Giantess Geyser erupted. Device recording Old Faithful eruptions. Picket pin observed at O.F.	4
<u>NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION:</u>	Ekotape recorder received.	4
<u>INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:</u>	Travel increased by elk reduction. 3 trips in West by over-snow equipment. Boy Scouts in to Madison from West. Motor travel to West ended 16th. 659 vehicles with 2015 persons compared to 406 with 1197 persons last December.	4
<u>RANGER SERVICE:</u>	Hunting patrols.	4
	Game checking station and patrols Gallatin area. Building fire inspection, etc. Elk reduction. Park Ranger exams heard from.	5
<u>WILDLIFE AND FISH CULTURAL ACTIVI- TIES - ELK</u>	Hunting season. Gallatin season closed 26th. Few taken Gardiner area; no migrations.	5
	Direct control operations. Started 19th, 226 taken by end of month.	6
<u>BISON:</u>	Foraging widely. May be difficult to trap.	6
<u>COYOTES:</u>	Tagged coyotes collected. Abundant.	6
<u>FOREST FIRE PRO- TECTION:</u>	Annual Forestry Report.	6
<u>WOOD UTILIZATION:</u>	Report prepared.	6
<u>TRAILS:</u>	Few applications for employment reviewed.	6
<u>BUILDING FIRE PRO- TECTION:</u>	Mammoth fire truck equipment checked & rearranged. Fire engine crew instructed.	6
	Building fire hazard inspection. Extinguishers repaired.	7
<u>ACCIDENTS AND PUBLIC SAFETY:</u>	5 motor vehicle accidents. 3 personal injuries reported.	7
<u>PERSONNEL:</u>	Betty Jane Lauer, Seas. Clerk-Typist, terminated. Wayne Alcorn, Park Naturalist GS-7, transferred to Sequoia. Edward Schultz probational appt. Store-keeper (Gen.). Lucinda Bolt, Seas. Clerk-Steno., furloughed. Chief Clerk pos. reallocated to GS-10 promoting E.R.I. Anderson. Arnold Quist, Plumber, attending trade school. Lloyd Seasholtz, Elec. Supervisor, transferred to Yosemite.	7
<u>MISCELLANEOUS:</u>	FEU meeting. New Year's party.	8

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Figure 1. Schematic representation of the experimental design. The subjects were divided into two groups: a control group and an experimental group. The control group received a standard training program, while the experimental group received a training program with a focus on the specific skills required for the task. The results of the training program were compared between the two groups.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

January 9, 1950

Memorandum

To: The Director
From: Acting Superintendent, Yellowstone
Subject: Monthly Report for December 1949

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of December 1949.

Weather Conditions. December turned out to be a cloudy month and frequent small snowstorms occurred. Most of the snow fell in small amounts and at the end of the month there was only 5 inches on the ground at Mammoth. There was some snow recorded on 20 days of this month. Much of the deposited precipitation drifted badly in the local area, making it difficult to judge the total depth. Precipitation totaled 1.03" for the period. The maximum temperature was 43° on the 29th. The minimum temperature was -12° on the 20th. The average maximum temperature was 29.7° and the average minimum temperature was 12.97°.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers was in Denver throughout the month engaged mainly on research work in connection with his project covering the legislative history of the national parks. He was on annual leave from December 5 to the end of the month. Assistant Superintendent Johnston was Acting Superintendent during his absence and during the several days that Mr. Johnston was on annual leave Administrative Assistant Joffe served as Acting Superintendent.

Messrs. Johnston, Joffe, Kittams, Skinner, Evans and Condon conferred with federal, state and other officials in Livingston on December 3 and 4 on wildlife matters affecting the park and attended the meetings of the Montana Wildlife Federation held in Livingston on these dates. Messrs. Johnston, Skinner and Evans talked before the group on December 4. On December 15 Messrs. Johnston, Joffe, Condon, Kittams, Skinner and Evans attended the meeting of the Park County Rod and Gun Club in Livingston, at which meeting new officers for 1950 were elected. Mr. Condon showed movies of the Yellowstone and gave a talk in connection therewith.

On December 1 Honorable Oscar L. Chapman took over his duties as Secretary of Interior succeeding Julius A. Krug, resigned.

Due to the few people eating in the Government mess at Mammoth, this mess was closed as of December 17. It will be reopened in the spring when there are sufficient personnel to warrant its operation.

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Yellowstone Park, Wyo.

July 1, 1907

Mr. J. M. Smith, Superintendent, Yellowstone Park, Wyo.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th inst.

concerning the proposed change in the name of the park. I am sorry that I cannot give you a more definite answer at this time, but I am sure that you will understand the necessity of the delay. The matter is being considered by the Department and I will be glad to advise you of the result as soon as it is known.

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Resident Landscape Architect Mattson was on a trip to Glacier National Park from December 4 to 9, inclusive, in connection with matters affecting that park. He was on annual leave the remainder of the month but spent the time in the Yellowstone.

Staff meetings were held on December 9 and 13. No meetings were held on the 20th or 27th due to a number of the officials being on annual leave.

The Mammoth School closed for the Christmas and New Year holidays on December 21 and will remain closed until January 5. The school Christmas program was held in the Canteen on the evening of the 21st, with Santa distributing gifts to all the children.

In-Service Training. The only in-service training conducted was the publication of the Yellowstone Weekly News which was circulated to Service employees.

Publicity. The draft of the new map to be included in the 1950 broadside for the park was mailed the Washington Office on December 9. A new dummy for the broadside was prepared and forwarded to the Region Two Office on the 16th.

A story with regard to the elk and buffalo reduction was phoned the Associated Press on December 14. A story on the elk kill in the park was phoned the Associated Press on the 20th, another story on the elk reduction was phoned the Associated Press on the 23rd, and a story on the elk reduction in the park to refute charges of improper handling of the kill was phoned the Park County News, Livingston, and the Billings Gazette on the 28th.

Eldon Griffith from the Denver Office of Life Magazine arrived in the park December 27 with a photographer ^{Carl} Iwasaki to obtain pictures in connection with the elk kill in the park for an early release in Life Magazine. Life also expected to use a feature story of the park in an early issue with pictures obtained last winter by their photographer Ross Madden who made a trip into the Old Faithful, West Thumb and Canyon areas by snowplane from West Yellowstone.

A total of 87,675 broadsides for 1949 remained on hand at the end of the month.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. All members of the engineering staff spent from one to three weeks during the month on annual leave. What time the force was working was spent in plotting topography and preparing plans of development work for next summer.

Maintenance. The first part of the month was clear and warm and the maintenance forces concentrated on cleaning and painting some heavy equipment. The latter half of the month saw cold and very windy weather with some snow requiring continuous plowing and sanding of the

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roads. Snow depths ranged from approximately six inches at Gardiner to nearly two feet at Cooke.

A large number of signs were repainted and new ones built for use of the maintenance crews.

The road from Gardiner to Cooke was kept open throughout the month. For a few days the first part of the month it was possible to get to Old Faithful and Lake.

New Construction. Construction work on the Moran-Yellowstone Approach Road, Section D, Unit 1, under contract with Jones & Hurley of Cody, got underway on November 16 and was suspended because of adverse weather on December 17. Approximately 40% of the clearing was completed except for burning.

The only account active during the month was Account 130, Additional Bedrooms on Four Residences. Very good progress was made before bad weather set in and all outside work was completed with the exception of painting. Carpenter work was nearly complete inside one house and well along in the other three. The painters are following closely behind the carpenters. The employees occupying these residences are greatly pleased with the improvements and the heating is working out better than expected.

Concessioners. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Haynes visited Mammoth on the 8th and made another visit to Mammoth with their daughter Lida on the 30th.

The Secretary approved on December 30 an amendment to the concessioners labor regulations continuing to March 31, 1950, $1\frac{1}{4}$ times the regular pay for all hours worked in excess of 48 hours per week.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. Regular Sunday School services were held in the Chapel on December 4, 11, and 18. A fairly high percentage of the community children attended these services but the number of parents and other adults who attend is not large. Rev. E. A. Syms, Episcopalian Minister from Livingston, conducted non-sectarian church services in the Chapel on the evenings of December 11 and 25. A community "song fest" was held in the Chapel on Christmas Eve at which time Christmas hymns and carols were sung by a fairly large gathering of community and Gardiner residents.

Interpretive Services. Chief Park Naturalist Condon spoke before the meeting of the Kiwanis Club in Livingston on December 6. Mr. Condon was on annual leave from December 22.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. One Indian artifact found by a park employee was turned over to the museum, accessioned and placed in the archives.

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Research and Observation. Members of the naturalist division observed and took photographs of various phases of the elk reduction operation on December 20, 28, 29 and 30.

Although moose of all ages are not an uncommon sight along the road between Mammoth and Tower Falls in the summer, their presence in this area in the winter is regarded as unusual. A young cow moose was seen close by the road traversing the insect infested area on the 29th.

Professor Don C. Quimby of the Department of Zoology and Entomology, Montana State College, and Mr. Johnson, a graduate student of the same institution, conducted investigations relative to parasitism, measurements, total weight, viscera weight, age, sex and general condition of the slaughtered elk. They spent several days in the Lamar area the last week of the month and expect to make another trip later.

Park Ranger Hart stationed at Old Faithful for the winter reported that Giantess Geyser began erupting about 10:00 a.m. December 22 and that it apparently terminated some time during the night. He further reported that the automatic device which he installed to record the eruptions of Old Faithful Geyser had been working very satisfactorily since November 30 except for two short breaks at Christmas time occasioned by icing of the equipment and that his record is complete and shows upwards of 700 eruptions during December.

The Old Faithful winterkeeper reported seeing a "picket pin" just outside his quarters at Old Faithful on December 8.

Natural History Association. A new Webster tape recorder called Ekotape was received during the month.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Travel into the northern area of the park has been affected by the elk reduction program. Several cars enter each day in order to observe the operation in the Tower Falls-Lamar Unit areas.

At West Entrance there were three trips into the park recorded for "over-snow" equipment, carrying seven persons. In addition, a party of Boy Scouts entered for a winter camping trip to Madison Junction and return. Total number in the party was twelve. The snowstorm of December 16 ended all motor travel through the West Entrance to Mammoth.

A total of 659 vehicles entered the park during the month carrying 2015 persons, as compared with 406 vehicles carrying 1197 persons that entered the park in 1948.

Ranger Service. Hunting patrols were maintained throughout the month in the Reese Creek and Gardiner-Crevise areas although hunting activities in this area were limited. Night patrols were also continued on the road between Gardiner and Reese Creek.

Department of Transportation, Bureau of Motor Vehicle Safety
Washington, D.C. 20590
October 10, 1967

Dear Sir:
Reference is made to your letter of September 27, 1967, regarding the proposed revision of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard, No. 208, Occupant Protection in Certain Motor Vehicle Crashes.

The Department is currently reviewing the proposed revision and is conducting research and development work in this area. It is anticipated that a final decision will be made by the Department in the near future. In the meantime, the Department is continuing to monitor the progress of the research and development work being conducted by the industry and the Department.

The Department is also conducting research and development work in the area of occupant protection in certain motor vehicle crashes. This work is being conducted in cooperation with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The results of this research and development work will be used to develop new and improved occupant protection devices for motor vehicles.

The Department is also conducting research and development work in the area of occupant protection in certain motor vehicle crashes. This work is being conducted in cooperation with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Very truly yours,
John Edgar Hoover, Director

Enclosed for the Bureau are two copies of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) dated and captioned as above. The LHM contains information regarding the proposed revision of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard, No. 208, and the Department's current position on this matter.

It is requested that you advise the Bureau of any comments or suggestions you may have regarding the proposed revision of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard, No. 208. Your comments should be submitted to the Bureau as soon as possible, but not later than November 1, 1967.

A total of 100 copies of the LHM are being distributed to the Bureau and the Department. The remaining 100 copies are being retained by the Bureau for its files.

Very truly yours,
John Edgar Hoover, Director

The game-checking station at Tepee Creek was operated in cooperation with the Montana State Fish and Game Department until December 28. Since that time ranger personnel have continued to check traffic through this point which is instrumental in reducing the illegal killing of elk in this section of the park. Highway patrols in this area have also continued throughout the month.

Other activities during the fore part of the month consisted of fire inspections of Government buildings in the Mammoth area, hauling supplies to interior ranger stations, repairs to the Mammoth elk trap and occasional road patrols to Old Faithful, Lake, and West Yellowstone.

Since December 19 all available Protection Division personnel have been engaged in the work associated with the elk reduction program, in the Soda Butte, Lamar, Tower Falls area. To reduce the possibilities of the illegal killing of elk in this area highway patrols have been maintained since the start of the program.

A number of the Yellowstone rangers who took the recent examination for Park Ranger received their grades on December 20 and so far as could be determined from the permanent rangers, all passed. It is expected that all those now occupying war service or temporary appointments pending the establishment of registers will soon receive permanent appointments, which will greatly increase the morale of the protection division.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. ELK - HUNTING SEASON. The elk hunting season in the Gallatin area, which opened on October 15, closed on December 26 when it appeared that the desired hunter harvest of 700 animals would be accomplished. The game checking stations closed two days later and reported that 710 elk had been checked. The final report of the District Warden Supervisor shows that the total reduction for the season is 760 elk. The Montana Fish and Game Department found it necessary to extend the Gallatin season beyond the usual closing date this year in order to reduce the herd to the desired size and this action was very successful.

The Corwin Springs Checking Station, located on the Yellowstone River below Gardiner, Montana, reported that only 11 elk had been checked through the end of December. A few elk, taken by local hunters, were not checked but the total kill by hunters from the northern Yellowstone herd is too small to be significant. The snow cover over the entire northern winter range inside and outside the park was far below normal with 6 inches at Mammoth and 12 inches at Lamar and Tower Falls. The snow was light and loose so that elk could forage over practically all of the winter range and did not have to migrate to lower elevations to seek food. Large areas of range were entirely free of snow due to frequent high winds.

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DIRECT CONTROL OF SURPLUS ELK. Park rangers commenced shooting surplus elk in the lower Lamar River area on December 19 and took a total of 226 by the end of the month. Operations of the first week were confined to the area above the Yellowstone River bridge near Tower Falls Junction but the work was extended to the vicinity of Oxbow Creek, seven miles west of Tower Falls ranger station, the second week. The Montana Fish and Game Department crew arrived and started work on December 27 and had received 81 elk carcasses by the end of the month. Indian agencies received 130 carcasses and 14 carcasses were stockpiled and ready for delivery. One carcass was retained by the National Park Service. Due to the light snow cover and the wide distribution of the bands of elk, park rangers experienced considerable difficulty in shooting as many elk as desired each day. Bands which were disturbed tended to move considerable distances from the road and not to return.

BISON. Most of the animals in the Lamar bison herd were observed in the Lamar and Horseshoe areas early in the month but moved to other areas later. Due to light snow cover, bison are able to forage widely so that difficulty may be experienced in trapping them for the anticipated reduction operations.

COYOTES. One tagged coyote was collected on November 29 near Soda Butte and four more were collected during December. One of these was taken at Lamar and three in the vicinity of Mammoth.

The great abundance of coyotes in the northern park area has been evident during the elk reduction. Elk carcasses left on the range for more than one to two hours have been subject to damage by coyotes and it has been necessary to remove the dressed elk almost immediately. Coyotes have spoiled some meat in the stockpile at Lamar even though it was covered with canvas.

Forest Fire Protection. Considerable time was spent in preparing the Annual Forestry Report. The rough draft was finished and ready for typing by December 25.

Wood Utilization. A report of the Government woodcutting operations was prepared in order that a record of complete cost and methods of work will be on file for future reference.

Trails. With the exception of reviewing a few applications for employment on trail crews for the 1950 season, nothing was done during December on the trail maintenance program.

Building Fire Protection. All equipment on the Mammoth building fire truck was checked and rearranged on December 1. On December 2 all members of the Mammoth fire engine crew were given two hours of instruction on the operation of the fire truck and pumps, use of equipment, location of all fire hydrants and routes of travel of fire truck to all locations.

The annual building fire hazard inspection of the Mammoth area was started on December 2 and continued until the 16th. The inspections will be resumed in January.

Many carbon tetrachloride extinguishers are being found defective. So far it has been possible to either repair these extinguishers or replace them with dry chemical or CO₂ types. Since the purchase of new carbon tetrachloride extinguishers is not authorized and no substitute has as yet been recommended it may be difficult to keep extinguishers in all recommended locations.

Accidents and Public Safety. Five motor vehicle accidents, two Class A and three Class B, occurred during the month. One Class B accident resulted in the painful but not serious injury to the driver of the truck involved.

Three personal injuries were reported in December. One case involved the driver of a concessioner truck while two minor injuries involved a Service employee.

Personnel. The services of Betty Jane Lauer, Seasonal Clerk Typist, were terminated at the close of business December 2.

The transfer of Wayne B. Alcorn, Park Naturalist GS-7, to a similar position in Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks was approved December 9 and became effective at 8:00 a.m. December 27 when he departed for Sequoia-Kings Canyon.

Edward M. Schultz, employed as Seasonal Storekeeper (General) GS-3 since May 2, 1949, received a probational appointment as Seasonal Storekeeper (General) GS-3 by selection from the Civil Service register of the Thirteenth Civil Service Region, effective December 13.

Lucinda M. Bolt, Seasonal Clerk Stenographer, GS-3 was furloughed at 9:00 a.m. December 22.

The position of Chief Clerk was reallocated December 23 from GS-9 to GS-10, resulting in a promotion for the incumbent Ernest R. I. Anderson.

Arnold Quist, Plumber, started on annual leave December 26 and will be away from the park until early April attending a vocational school at Kansas City, Missouri, to increase his efficiency in his trade.

The transfer of Lloyd W. Seasholtz, Electrical Supervisor, GS-9, to the same position in Yosemite National Park was approved December 28. He expects to depart for Yosemite about January 12.

The Council of the City of New York, in its resolution of June 1, 1914, adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the City of New York, in its resolution of June 1, 1914, adopted the following resolution:

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Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union, No. 465 was held in the Canteen December 5. The Union sponsored a New Year's party in the Canteen New Year's Eve which proved a very successful affair.

Fred T. Johnston
Acting Superintendent

cc: Region Two, in quintuple
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YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

ELK REDUCTION 1949 - 1950

Employee of Montana State Fish and Game Department dragging elk to highway, Horseshoe Area, December 20, 1949.



YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

ELK REDUCTION 1949 - 1950

Employees of Montana State Fish & Game Department loading "hog dressed" elk into State truck. Soda Butte area, December 30, 1949.

P.S.: Dog in foreground belongs to truck driver.



YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

ELK REDUCTION 1949 - 1950

NPS and Indian Service employees loading "hog dressed" elk from stockpile at Tower Falls for delivery to Indian Agency at Browning, Montana, December 30, 1949.



YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

ELK REDUCTION 1949 - 1950

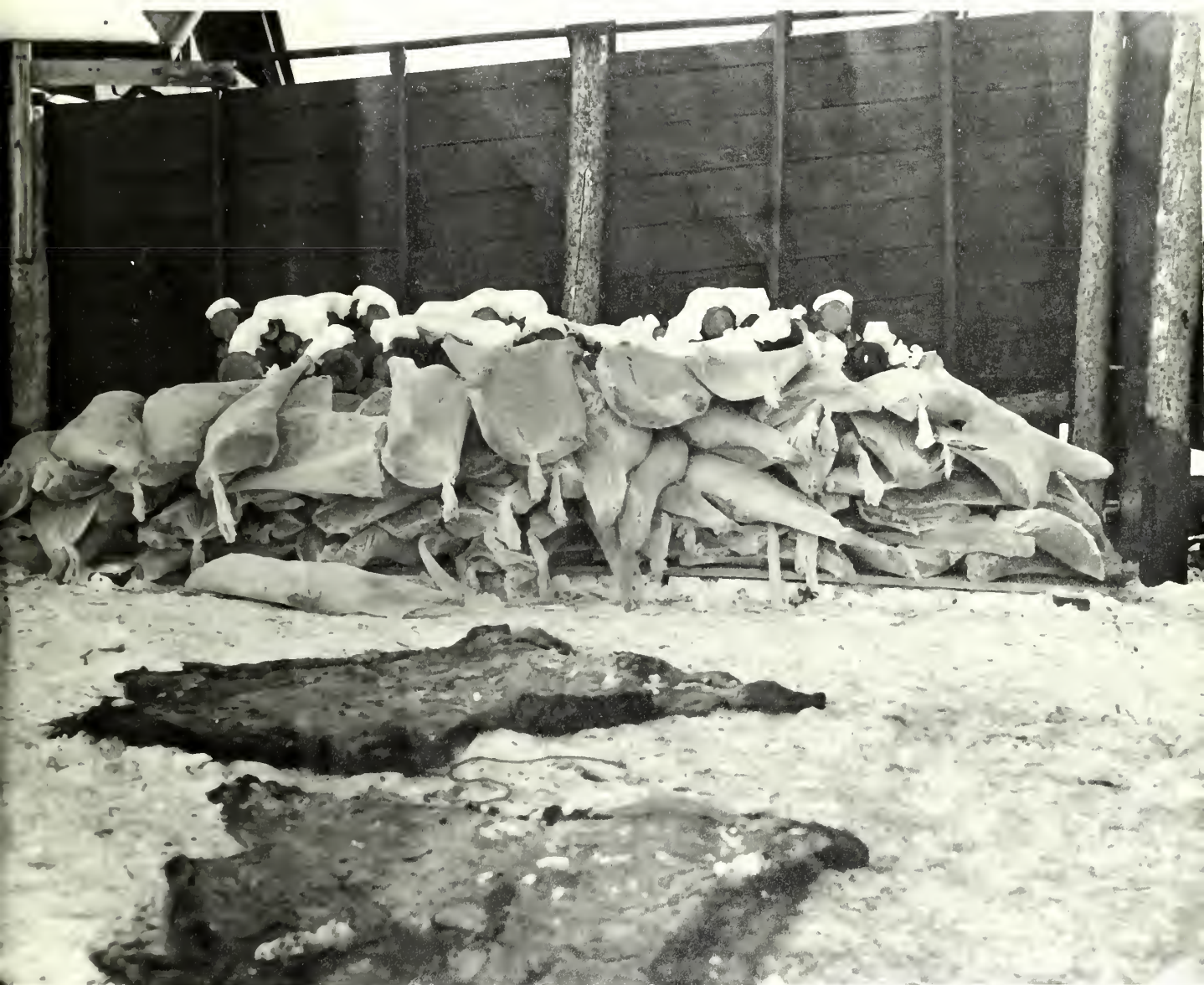
Employees of Montana State Fish & Game Department doing finish butchering job on elk carcasses delivered to slaughter house at Lamar Unit December 31, 1949.



YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

ELK REDUCTION 1949 - 1950

Half carcasses of elk cooling out at slaughter house, Lamar Unit.
December 31, 1949.



YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

ELK REDUCTION 1949 - 1950

Quarters of elk meat wrapped in cheesecloth and stacked for loading and transport to Montana State Institutions. Lamar Unit, December 31, 1949.

P.S.: Salted elk hides in foreground awaiting rolling.



YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

ELK REDUCTION 1949 - 1950

Park Biologist Kittams inspecting entrails of slaughtered elk. Full advantage is being taken of opportunity for scientific study during elk reduction program.



YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

ELK REDUCTION 1949 - 1950

Representatives from Montana sportsmen's and conservation organizations who visited the park to inspect elk reduction operations together with NPS personnel, December 31, 1949. Photo taken at Lamar Unit.





