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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

For

AUGUST

1944

IMPORTANT

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

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Letter to file file 25-45 MKP

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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

September 5, 1944.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

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

Weather Conditions. The weather throughout most of the month was quite favorable from a fire danger standpoint and such precipitation as fell was fairly well spread so as to do the most benefit. Total precipitation for the month was .61 inch, as compared with .64 inch last year and .42 inch in August 1942. The mean precipitation for August is 1.21 inches. The maximum temperature for August was 84° on the 6th and 7th and minimum temperature 34° on the 15th. There were 19 clear days during the month, 8 partly cloudy and 4 cloudy. Visitors to the park during the month benefited from the many clear days. Only 3 fires occurred during the month, the largest, the Fairy Creek Fire, being under control the second day.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers spent the entire month in the park, with the exception of trips made on August 2 to Teton National Park to get Director Drury and Chief of Lands Wirth and bring them to the Yellowstone; to Livingston on August 3 to take Director Drury to the train; to Livingston on the 5th to take Regional Director Merriam and Chief Counsel Price to the train; to Livingston on the 7th to attend Rotary with former Director Albright and other park members; to the Elkhorn Ranch near the Gallatin Ranger Station on the 10th and 11th for a horseback trip to Bighorn Peak; to the Bechler River Ranger Station on the 19th with Messrs. Johnston, Mohlbrandt, Bowman and Wiggins; to Sheridan, Wyoming on August 24 to meet Regional Director Merriam and thence to the Roosevelt R.D.A. in North Dakota, Devils Tower National Monument and Custer Battlefield National Cemetery from the 25th to the 29th, inclusive.

Groups of Girl Scouts from the Heart Mountain War Relocation Project continued to use the old Nez Perce C.C.C. Camp until August 12, when the last outfit left the park. The first group of Boy Scouts from the project came into the park on July 8 and for each succeeding week a new group of either Boy Scouts, Campfire Girls or Girl Scouts used the camp. Authority for the use of the camp was granted the War Relocation Authority at Heart Mountain. Following the departure of the Scout groups, a detail of men from the Relocation Center was brought in to tear down the remaining buildings and clear the area.

Several slight earth tremors were reported at West Thumb on the late evening of August 12 and early morning of the 13th. The first one, reported

by Seasonal Ranger Soper, occurred about 11:30 p.m. on the 12th and the next one approximately 2:00 a.m. on the 13th. Two more light shocks occurred between 6:25 and 6:35 a.m. of that day. No damage occurred and no other areas in the park reported quakes.

The only 3 fires of the month occurred on the 13th and 17th, the first on the Old Faithful freight road, which burned about one-third of an acre, the second a grass fire in the Game Ranch area, and the third near Fairy Creek and Twin Buttes, which was under control the second day. The park has been exceedingly fortunate this year from the standpoint of forest fires, particularly in view of the fact that it would have been almost impossible to get fire fighters should a large fire have occurred.

The unexpected travel which had prevailed throughout June and July continued throughout August and by the end of the month 72,864 persons had visited the park for the travel year, as against 53,340 to the same date last year, an increase of 36.6%. By August 20 as many people had entered the park this travel year as visited it during the entire 1943 year to the close of September.

A severe wind storm occurred in the park about 5:20 p.m. on August 28 which broke down a number of trees in the Canyon, Lake, East Entrance and Thumb sections. Seventy-two trees were removed from the highway between Lake and Thumb. The telephone and power lines at Lake were put out of commission by the storm. The storm was worst on the east side of the park.

The first of the park accommodations to close was the furnished cabins at Old Faithful on August 28. Unfurnished cabins at this location will be available until September 5, on which date the furnished and unfurnished cabins at Fishing Bridge will also close, as well as the boat operations. Mr. Hamilton will keep open his Fishing Bridge store until September 11 and the general stores at Mammoth and Old Faithful will remain open as long as the roads remain open to travel.

Assistant Superintendent Johnston, Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe and Park Engineer Wohlbrandt attended a meeting at West Yellowstone on the evening of August 28, sponsored by the Bozeman and Idaho Falls Chambers of Commerce, to promote the improvement of Highway No. 191 from Bozeman to West Yellowstone and into Idaho, a section of which passes through the west side of the park.

Evelyn E. Kumor, Clerk in charge of files, was injured in an automobile accident about eight miles east of Bozeman early on the morning of August 31 while enroute to Helena in connection with possible enlistment in the Waves. She received a bad scalp wound and will be confined to the Bozeman Hospital for several days.

Inspections. Director Newton B. Drury and Chief of Lands Conrad L. Wirth in south August 2; Regional Director Lawrence C. Merriam, Ralph Boyd, Attorney for the Department of Justice, Jackson E. Price, Chief Counsel, N.P.S., Chicago, and Paul Franke, Superintendent of Grand Teton National Park, in south August 5; B. F. Kitt, Highway Engineer, P.R.A., Missoula, in August 11; C. T. Holmes and H. L. Hodge, Internal Revenue Inspectors, in east August 12;

Herbert E. Kahler, Chief Historian, N.P.S., Chicago and Frank E. Mattson, Regional Landscape Architect, Region Two, Omaha, in north August 21; Frank J. McCue, Chief Investigator and E. J. Manna, District Mileage Ration Representative, O.P.A., in east August 25; A. E. Wilde, State Administrator, Wyoming War Finance Committee and Mr. Ross of the National Headquarters War Finance Committee in south August 25; Leo Laythe, Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon, and Jean T. Delacour, Advisor to the New York Zoological Society, in August 28; Weldon W. Gratton, Custodian, Roosevelt N.H.A., in August 29 on leave; J. W. Emmert, Superintendent, Glacier National Park, in east August 30 enroute to his new station in Glacier from Hot Springs National Park; Frank G. Clark, Collector, Internal Revenue, Cheyenne, Wyoming, in August 31.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. The engineer force engaged in completing preparation of deferred maintenance reports and snow removal report.

General Publicity. No press releases were issued during the month and no pictures were sent out for publicity purposes. The accommodations and services circular was revised on August 18 and again on August 28.

General Complaints. While no written complaints were received during the month, this does not necessarily mean that the services for accommodations were all that might be expected. However, it is evident that people travelling these days are becoming accustomed to inconveniences and they are taking conditions as they find them without complaint. The operators who have been furnishing accommodations in the Yellowstone this summer, with travel beyond all expectations and very inexperienced help, have succeeded in doing a good job and most visitors apparently are quite satisfied with the park's operations.

Maintenance. The control of two small fires during the month required most of the road maintenance force for a period of about two days.

Road oiling operations were carried on with very little interruption from bad weather. Approximately 30,000 gallons of RC-2 road oil were used for seal coating, mostly in the Madison and East Entrance sections. Approximately 12,000 gallons of MC-2 road oil were used for reprocessing and pit mixing of patch material, mostly on the south approach and Gallatin sections.

The end of the month saw most of the school age boys leaving for school. The remaining men have been combined into five groups which will soon be reduced to four.

One and one-half miles of the south approach road oil surface was reprocessed and laid.

The power shovel was used the entire month on the Gallatin section, getting out material for the north two miles. This material came from a pit located on private land approximately one-half mile north of the park boundary.

The concrete rail on the Chittenden Bridge was repaired by patching and painting the cracks with a cement grout. This work is only a temporary solution as the entire rail is deteriorating quite badly and should be replaced with a new concrete rail in the next four or five years.

On August 28 a very heavy wind struck at Fishing Bridge, Lake and Thumb areas, blowing down many trees across the roads and making quite a cleanup problem.

The road shoulders on the Gardiner to Lamar and Mammoth to Golden Gate sections of the road were mowed by the use of a Park Service mower and team. This made quite an improvement in the appearance of the road but the farm equipment is hardly suited for this type of work.

The flood damage to the road near the arch at the north entrance, caused by the rapid run off in the spring of 1943, was repaired and a new oil mat laid.

Park Operators. C. A. Hamilton continued to furnish meals and lodgings and operate his general stores and filling stations at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge and the same accommodations and services were provided by Mrs. Pryor at Mammoth. The tourist cabins at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge were kept open during the month, although the furnished cabins at Old Faithful were discontinued on August 28.

Mrs. Lavina Lewis, nurse, reported for duty at Mammoth Hot Springs on August 1, succeeding Miss Elsie Kane.

Mr. W. M. Nichols, President of the Yellowstone Park Company, visited the park on August 2 and again on August 20 to look over the company's operations.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. The Mammoth Museum was kept open throughout the month and the Old Faithful Museum was open to the public, although no Ranger-Naturalist was in charge. This building is also the headquarters of the District Ranger.

The Artist Point exhibit, which was open for the first time this spring, is proving very popular with visitors in that area.

Research and Observation. Morning Glory Pool, which boiled over on June 10, has not completely cleared, although algae is starting to grow around the edges. The water in the pool is still milky but is becoming bluer each day.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Twenty-four thousand two hundred eighty-five persons entered the park during August, as compared with 17,999 for the same month in 1943. The total persons entering the park for this travel year is 72,864 as compared to 53,340 for 1943, an increase of 36.6%.

Six thousand six hundred eighty-one motor vehicles entered the park in August as compared with 5,087 for the same month in 1943. The total motor vehicles for this travel year, 20,330, as compared with 16,046 for 1943, shows an increase of 26.7%.

Visitors. Horace M. Albright, former Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park and former Director of the National Park Service, in south August 4, out west 7th; U. S. Congressman Homer D. Angell of Oregon in north August 8, out south 9th; Major General Lewis B. Hershey, Director of Selective Service,

in north August 3, out west August 4. General Hershey was accompanied by Mrs. Hershey and Lt. Col. W. S. McAtee of Denver and Lt. H. C. Schulke, Naval Officer of the Selective Service headquarters, Helena, Montana; Warren H. Atherton, National Commander, American Legion, in and out north August 26. Commander Atherton was accompanied by Roscoe Turner, nationally known speed pilot and Almendo Alfara, Attache of the Ecuador Embassy, Washington, D. C.

Ranger Service. Three fires occurred during August which required the services of a number of rangers over a period of several days in their suppression.

Cabin, trail and truck road maintenance work was done by the Ranger Department.

Several fish plants and a swan count were made.

A number of winter moves were accomplished by the end of the month.

Bad windstorms in the Yellowstone Lake area caused trouble among boating parties on several occasions. Rangers assisted in helping these parties, both by boat and by car; the car being used in skirting the lake shore in the direction of Thumb when one party abandoned the boat on the lake shore and started to walk back to the Lake area.

Police Protection. Seven law enforcement cases were held before the United States Commissioner during the month, including 5 traffic violations, one violation of fishing regulations and one case of disturbing Government property.

Wildlife Administration. Trumpeter Swan. On August 15 and 16 a census of trumpeter swans in the park and areas adjacent to the south boundary was made by the park staff and cooperators of the Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service. A total of 59 swans was counted, including 48 adults and 11 cygnets. Officials of the Fish and Wildlife Service planned to count areas outside the park on the same dates in order to secure a complete census for this entire region.

Bears.

Comparative Bear Injuries and Damages

	1943				1944			
	June	July	August	Season to Date	June	July	August	Season to Date
Personal Injuries	1	1	3	5	1	0	1	2
Property Damages	4	16	17	37	1	13	3	17
Total Incidents	5	17	20	42	2	13	4	19
Bears Killed	1	6	6	13	0	8	2	10

Range Conditions. Only a small amount of precipitation was recorded during August but during the preceding two months an ample amount of moisture had been received and this permitted range plants to attain maximum growth and to mature and produce an excellent seed crop. Browse plants have made an excellent growth.

A small amount of grasshopper damage was observed on Hellroaring slopes and in the Horseshoe area.

Haying Operations. Frank Barnes and Sons, of Belgrade, Montana, were awarded the contract to cut, bale, haul and stack hay at Lamar. Work was started on August 8 and the operation was completed on August 25. The hay was of excellent quality and 222.58 tons were harvested. Approximately 20 tons were stored in the barn and the balance stacked in one of the large corrals. The work was carried on without interference from bad weather or other difficulties, and the entire operation demonstrated quite conclusively that baling will prove most economical and practicable in the future.

Fish Planting. The following fish, received from Fish and Wildlife Service and State of Montana stations outside the park, were planted in park waters:

Source	Species	Number	Size	Transported by
Emigrant	Blackspotted	30,000	#5	State of Montana
Bozeman	Loch Leven	29,800	#4	Fish & Wildlife Service
Emigrant	Rainbow	32,750	#1½	State of Montana

Lamar River received 10,000 blackspotted trout and 20,000 were planted in Slough Creek. The loch leven were planted in the Firehole River. The upper Gardiner River received 22,750 rainbow trout while 10,000 were stocked in Slide Lake near Mammoth. Large numbers of blackspotted trout fry, fingerling and eyed eggs from the Yellowstone Lake station were planted during the month. Details of these plants will be recorded in the annual fish planting report.

Building Fire. A small temporary cabin located at Snake River District Headquarters was destroyed by fire on August 25. The fire was apparently caused by an explosion of a small wood-burning heating stove. The cabin was valued at $150, the Government-owned contents at $26.56, and the personal property of the occupant at $283.96. The fire was suppressed soon after it was detected and did not spread to adjacent buildings or to the surrounding forest cover.

Forest Fire Protection. Three forest fires occurred during August. The Reese Creek fire near the Game Ranch area was a grass fire of fifty-seven acres, adjacent to the Northern Pacific Railway and was apparently set by sparks from a locomotive. The other two were a Class A fire called the Gooseneck Creek Fire and a Class B, the Fairy Creek Fire, both of which occurred in the Old Faithful District. Only five fires have occurred throughout the summer season which is an unusual record.

Accidents. Four automobile accidents occurred during August.

Fred T. Johnston,
Acting Superintendent.

In Quintuple
cc- Region Two
File (2)
JJ/san