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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

	ROGERS	
✓	JOHNSTON	
✓	JOFFE	
✓	ANDERSON	
	NOVICKI	
	GILLUM	
	QUIST	
	BIRD	
✓	BAUER	
	BARK WS	
✓	ELLIOTT	
✓	EVANS	
✓	CHAPMAN	
✓	SKINNER	
✓	WOHLBRANDT	
	ROBINSON	

FILE NO.

207-02.3

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

MONTHLY REPORT

FOR

FEBRUARY

1946

IMPORTANT

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 6—7410

March 6, 1946.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for February 1946.

Weather Conditions. Generally unsettled and stormy weather conditions prevailed throughout the park with considerable new snowfall recorded at nearly all weather stations. At the close of the month the snow depths reported from various points indicated that snowfall for the winter to date is about normal. Following is a tabulation showing the comparative snow depths, in inches, at the end of February from 1942 through 1946:

	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942
Bechler River	73.9"	58.0"	46.5"	90.0"	56.0"
Gallatin	37.0	20.0	13.0	40.0	50.0
Lake	35.0	29.0	26.0	68.0	34.0
Lamar	15.5	12.5	10.0	30.5	18.0
Mammoth	23.0	6.0	10.0	22.0	7.0
Northeast Entrance	43.0	24.0	18.5	50.0	34.0
Old Faithful	46.0	30.0	34.0	79.0	35.0
Snake River	59.0	51.0	38.0	-	43.0
Tower Falls	22.5	14.5	15.0	32.0	16.0
West Yellowstone	42.0	31.0	38.0	76.0	39.0

The lowest temperature recorded in the park during the month was at West Yellowstone when the thermometer dropped to 29 degrees below zero on February 8. At Mammoth, there were only ten days during the month when the maximum temperature rose above freezing and the lowest temperature recorded was -7 degrees on the 5th.

Special activities. Superintendent Rogers was away from the Park during the entire month on assignment in Denver. On February 10, he left Denver for a trip to Carlsbad and Big Bend National Parks with Mr. Edward [illegible]. Groth of the State Department, returning on the 18th. From the 19th to the 22nd he was on a trip to Omaha for a meeting with the Regional Director.

Assistant Superintendent Johnston was acting Superintendent during the month of February. On February 5, he and Mr. Wohlbrandt attended a meeting of the Gardiner Commercial Club where the subject of rural electrification in the Yellowstone Valley and Town of Gardiner was discussed. On February 7, with Messrs Bauer and Wohlbrandt, he went to Livingston, Montana, to contact real estate and rental agencies to obtain information in connection with the quarters evaluation survey.

Mr. J. D. Kurtz returned to duty as Postmaster in the Yellowstone Park Post Office on February 1, following his discharge from the U.S. Navy.

Two National Park Service employees returned to their old jobs here during February. They were: Merritt S. Johnston, Park Ranger, returned on February 4, after having served with the U.S. Coast Guard since October 5, 1942; and Walter H. Gammill, Park Ranger, returned on February 5, after serving with the U.S. Coast Guard since October 13, 1942.

Miss Margaret A. Bowman was employed as a PBX Telephone Operator on February 5.

Mr. Julius A. Krug was nominated by President Truman as Secretary of the Interior to succeed Secretary Ickes who resigned. His appointment will be effective March 15, 1946.

The number of individual requests for Park literature answered by form letter jumped to 360 during February, while an increasing number of letters had to be prepared to answer questions not covered by our form letter. A few requests for large numbers of folders were referred to Region Two.

During February letters of inquiry from students and other persons seeking vacation employment continued to pour into the Superintendent's Office, and 302 form letters were sent out referring them to the concessioners, while letters from veterans or applicants for ranger or naturalist positions were answered by regular letter. The concessioners report that they are also receiving a record-breaking number of applications.

Inspections. Mr. W. R. Rankin, Director of State Parks in Montana, was in on February 27, for a discussion of his master plan.

Plans, Maps, and Surveys. Park Engineer Kohlbrandt left the Park on February 24 for a trip to Custer Battlefield National Cemetery, Devils Tower National Monument, Region Two Office, Omaha, and Rocky Mountain National Park in connection with the new Roads and Trails program. He will return to Yellowstone on March 8 or 9.

Much of the time this month was spent collecting data for the building evaluation report. There are no active construction projects in Yellowstone at this time; however, an allotment has been received for Account 481, Electric System at Canyon, P.C.P. Index No. U-10-3.

General Publicity. On February 5, an article by Mr. Joffe and some park pictures were sent to the Casper-Tribune Herald for their annual Wyoming edition. On February 7, Dr. Bauer's article on "How Old is Old Faithful" and photographs were sent to Mr. L. L. Ferrin, Publicity Manager for the Northern Pacific Railway, St. Paul, Minnesota. On February 7, pictures were sent to the Great Falls Tribune for use in connection with the publication of Dr. Bauer's article on thermal activity which appeared in Nature Notes. On February 7, two pictures and a story on the buffalo reduction prepared by Mr. Joffe were sent to the Director for possible use by the Department's Photo News Service. During February, Mr. Joffe also assisted with revision of the first 64 pages of the "Haynes Guide."

Road Maintenance. The first part of the month was quite stormy with high winds making it necessary to keep the snow plows operating most of the time. It was necessary to use the rotary plow to remove the drifts between Black Tail Deer Creek and Geode Creek. The latter part of the month we had a few warm days with cold nights which reduced the snow plowing but increased the sanding operations.

Snow removal operations were handled by foreman Beate White and Heavy Equipment Operator Armstrong with the occasional use of an extra snow plow operator from the garage.

Funds on hand for road maintenance between March 1 and July 1 are low, especially in view of the expected heavy tourist season ahead.

Concessioners. Mr. J. E. Haynes, President, Haynes, Inc., was in on February 9 and out on the 10th. Mr. Huntley Child, Jr., was in on February 12 to discuss the wood supply for lodges and tourist cabins. Mr. F. S. Hammermeyer, Superintendent of Transportation, Yellowstone Park Company, arrived in the park on February 25. He expects to start operations at the Company's garage at Gardiner beginning March 1.

Schedule of basic rates for Haynes, Inc., for the 1946 season was approved on February 18; for Fryor Stores on January 29; and for the Yellowstone Park Company on February 21.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. Considerable time was spent by the Chief Park Naturalist in preparing descriptions of quarters and meetings with the committee on quarters when appraisals were made.

Park Naturalist Brodrick spent about a week in the darkroom and on the picture files, and also printed some letterheads and envelopes for the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association.

Research and Observation. Chief Park Naturalist Sauer carried on some research on the physical character of geyser and hot spring deposits, which reveal their manner of formation and other conditions at the time the sinter was deposited, and also spent about three days on the study of geology of the Sierra Nevada.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Four hundred fifty-one motor vehicles entered the Park during February as compared to 114 for February 1945, an increase of 338 per cent. Six thousand four hundred ten motor vehicles have entered the Park this travel year as compared with 1,632 for 1945, an increase of 292 per cent.

One thousand three hundred eighty-one persons entered the Park in February as against 328 for February 1945, an increase of 311 per cent. Seventeen thousand seven hundred three persons entered the Park this travel year, as against 4,934 for 1945, an increase of 258.8 per cent.

Ranger Service. Patrols were made on skis and snowshoes along the park boundaries and to some interior areas during the month. Protection patrols were maintained along the north boundary of the park where areas adjacent to the park were open to hunting throughout the month.

Assistant Chief Ranger W. Leon Evans continued his training at the F.B.I. school in Washington, D. C., throughout the month of February.

Wildlife Activities. ELK. Elk trapping operations were carried on intermittently at the Mammoth, Gardiner, and Game Ranch traps until February 19. Twelve cows were shipped to C. V. Barton, of Klamath Falls, Oregon, and three calves (2 female and 1 male) were shipped to R. B. Nidenour at Mansfield, Ohio. Both shipments were made by the receiver's trucks.

In connection with elk trapping operations, 31 elk of varying ages were weighed on the scales at the Game Ranch trap. From this group, 14 mature bulls averaged 665 pounds each; 9 mature cows averaged 499 pounds each; and 2 spike bulls averaged 406 pounds each. The 24 calves which were weighed averaged 256 pounds each.

Elk hunting conditions along the north boundary, in Park County, improved considerably during the month with numerous small bands of elk migrating into open hunting territory. At the close of February 27, the total hunters' kill was estimated at 2,067 animals. Final figures for the hunters' killing in connection with the reduction of the Northern Yellowstone elk herd will not be available until after the middle of March.

BISON. Periodic observations have been made to determine the possible migration of bison from the Lamar Valley to areas outside the park and to lower winter range areas within the park. So far, there have been no indication that bison are migrating from the Upper Lamar River area to the lower winter range or to areas outside the park.

Rangers on patrol from Mammoth to Lake Ranger Station made an interesting observation on February 15, when they discovered 9 dead bison caught in the ice on the Yellowstone River about 5 miles down stream from Lake Junction. It appeared that these animals had attempted to cross the river and had either fallen through the ice or were unable to climb out of the river on the opposite bank due to ice conditions and had consequently been trapped and drowned or frozen.

Forest Fire Protection. Park rangers spent several days during the month in preparing seen area maps and fire weather graphs for inclusion in the Fire Atlas. Some work was also done on lookout evaluation figures for several existing lookout stations. A preliminary draft was made for revision of the Yellowstone Park Fire Fighting Plan and Guide and for a progressive step-up plan for fire presuppression personnel.

Accidents. Two automobile accidents were reported during the month. One occurred on the sharp horseshoe bend on the road between Gallatin Ranger Station and West Yellowstone, where two cars collided head-on. The accident was not

reported to park rangers until after the occupants of the vehicles and the cars involved had been removed from the scene of the accident. Apparently, there were no serious personal injuries and the extent of damage to the two vehicles was not definitely determined.

The other accident occurred when a man from Anaconda, Montana, who had been hunting in the Gardiner area started to leave Gardiner late at night and mistook the front street in Gardiner, which runs east and west, for the main highway leading out of Gardiner to Livingston. He drove off the east end of the street over an embankment of about 150 feet in height to the brink of the Yellowstone River. The car was badly damaged but the driver was unhurt.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the National Federation of Federal Employees, Local 465, was held on February 4, at the Canteen.

Edmund B. Rogers,
Superintendent.

In Sextuplicate.

cc: Region Two (in duplicate)

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