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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

	ROGERS	
✓	JOHNSTON	FJ
✓	JOFFE	J
✓	SOUTE	
	MACBETH	
	SHOREY	
	QUIST	
	SOMERVILLE	
✓	BAUER	CWB
✓	BARROWS	NB
	ELLIOTT	
	EVANS	
	CHAPMAN	
✓	WOHLBRANDT	
	ROBINSON	

FILE NO. 207-02.3

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

MONTHLY REPORT

for

SEPTEMBER

1945

IMPORTANT

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371

October 5, 1945.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of September 1945.

Weather Conditions. Weather conditions were near average for the month. Four storms, two of which left considerable snow at higher elevations, were recorded. One snowstorm closed some of the park roads on the 22nd and travel was stopped for two days over these sections. The Red Lodge-Cooke approach road was closed by snow on September 20.

The maximum temperature was 84 degrees on the first of September and the minimum of 16 degrees was recorded at Mammoth on the 20th. The Snake River station reported a minimum temperature of 12 degrees on the same date. Total precipitation was 1.92 inches as compared to 1.94 for September 1944. There were 11 clear days, 8 partly cloudy and 11 cloudy.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers made the following trips outside the Park during the month: September 4, to Livingston, in the afternoon, to see Kenneth Reid at Park Hospital, and to take personal belongings of George Harris for shipment to his family; September 7, to Bozeman, to the library to study legislative history documents on the Park; September 13, to Livingston, with Chief of Concessions Cannon, to discuss medical contract with Dr. Windsor; September 15 to 18 to Denver and Omaha, for conference with the Regional Director on park administration problems.

Seasonal Ranger George O. Harris, age 23, of Nyack, New York, was fatally injured about 3:00 a.m. on September 3, when he was struck by an automobile on the Gardiner highway, about 1.5 miles from Mammoth. F.B.I. representatives arrived on September 3 to investigate the death of Harris and the body was transferred to Livingston for shipment to the Harris home for burial. An intensive investigation failed to disclose the identity of the driver of the car or to locate the automobile which did not stop to render aid to the injured man or to report the accident.

Vernon D. Marquis, 50, of Bozeman, was reported lost in the Park on September 2. A search was instituted and he was found on September 5 on Pan Creek, about one mile from the junction of the Gallatin River. Apparently he had sat down to rest and died of natural causes. The body was located by District Ranger Arthur Jacobson, one of the members of the searching party, and removed to Bozeman for burial.

John Joseph Blair, 77, father of Mrs. Earl Hochstrasser, (Mr. Hochstrasser is the park blacksmith) died of a heart attack at the Hochstrasser residence at Mammoth at noon September 20. Mr. Blair had just come to the Park to visit his daughter. The body was removed to Idaho Falls for burial, which took place on September 25.

Word was received here on September 25 that Mrs. Thelma Edwards, wife of Guy D. Edwards, had died of a heart attack at Puyallup, Washington, on September 23. Mr. Edwards was Assistant Superintendent of the Yellowstone from April 1930 to September 1934, and Mrs. Edwards was well-known here.

Most of the Yellowstone employees enjoyed a holiday on Labor Day, September 3, but it was necessary that some employees work in order to keep the area operating as this was our period of heaviest travel since the July 4 holiday in 1941.

The school term for the Mammoth school commenced on September 4, with Mrs. Walter Stebbins instructing the lower grades, and Thomas [illegible] Ellis the upper grades.

On September 9, the forty hour week became effective in the Park, pursuant to Secretary's Order No. 2092, of August 25, 1945.

Miss C. Wilma Smith, Clerk-Stenographer, Office of the Superintendent, was appointed a member of the local Civil Service Board on September 12, succeeding Mrs. Susanna N. Bowman.

War Price and Rationing Board No. 24 at Mammoth was discontinued on September 28. All products still rationed will be handled by the Livingston Board, with former members of the Yellowstone Board acting as a screening committee for applications in the Park.

The Absaroka Conservation Committee held its annual fall meeting at the Lamar Ranger Station on September 29 and 30. The first day was devoted to riding over the winter range on Lower Slough Creek and to checking the progress made toward reducing the pollution of Soda Butte Creek by mine wastes from the mines near Cooke, Montana. Protection and management of natural resources were topics for discussion at the meeting held the second day. Officers were reelected to serve another year.

Inspections. M. C. Riley, Forester, and M. [illegible] Swanson, Regional Leader, Blister Rust Control, Bureau of Entomology, Spokane, out September 6; James C. Evenden, Senior Entomologist, Forest Insect Laboratory, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, in September 6; G. Frank Brown, Assistant Chief, Accounts Section, Director's Office, and Miss Geneva Pillars, Chief, Classification Section, Director's Office, in north September 6, out north September 16; Halsey Davidson, Architect, [illegible], Region Two Office, in South September 8, out North; Paul M. Franke, Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park, in September 11; Seldon B. Robinson, Biologist, [illegible], out September 24; Dudley C. Baylies, Chief Architectural and Parkway Division, [illegible], Director's Office, in South September 24, out North September 26; Dr. [illegible] Cottam, Director of Wildlife Research, [illegible], Chicago, in company with Dr. Joao [illegible]jen, (see Visitors), Joao Roscalla, C. J. Murie, [illegible], and Dr. Jesup B. Low, [illegible], Utah Agricultural College.

Plans, Maps, and Surveys. The study of a possible gravity sewer system for the Canyon area was completed. A check was made on the possibility of fencing Fishing Bridge area against bears.

General Publicity. On September 3, telegraphic press releases were sent to the United Press and Associated Press at Helena, concerning accident and death of Seasonal Ranger George O. Harris. On September 13 a press release was issued

concerning the closing dates for concessioner facilities in the Park, and type of accommodations to be available. The circular of information was revised and reissued on September 10.

Maintenance. Wet weather continued through the month causing much additional road work and stopping most of the oiling operations. Two heavy storms occurred the latter part of the month making it necessary to use the snow plow to keep roads open. From 6 to 16 inches of snow covered all higher passes and tied up traffic.

The special crew made a good start on replacing the old log bridge across Nez Perce Creek on the Fountain freight road.

Maintenance crews have been setting snow stakes and bracing buildings for the winter.

Some reprocessing was started on the Canyon-Norris cutoff, but because of heavy snow, this had to be discontinued. Patching of the road surface is carried on when the weather permits.

At the close of the month road maintenance camps were located at Mammoth, Madison and Lake, with 22 men employed.

The labor situation remains tough with considerable criticism by the men of the 40-hour week and the reduced take-home pay.

Concessioners. Boat rental service was discontinued at Fishing Bridge on September 4. Old Faithful tourist cabins and cafeteria closed after breakfast on September 4. Fishing Bridge cafeteria and cabins closed after breakfast on September 16. Cottage Hotel at Mammoth closed September 16. General store and filling station at Fishing Bridge closed September 21. Haynes Picture Shop at Old Faithful closed September 25. Mr. W. M. Nichols, resident, Yellowstone Park Company, came in the Park on September 4, 10, and 20.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. Museums at Mammoth and Old Faithful closed on September 9. A total of 2,215 visitors was recorded at the Mammoth museum during September.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. The largest September travel since 1940 recorded 46,095 persons entering the park during the month, as compared with 12,485 for the same month of 1944, or an increase of 269.2 per cent. Total persons entering the park for the 1945 travel year is 179,296, as compared to 85,350 for 1944, an increase of 108.9 per cent.

Motor vehicles entering the Park in September totaled 14,461, as compared with 3,869 last year. Total motor vehicles for the 1945 travel year was 52,159 as compared with 24,212 for 1944, an increase of 115.5 per cent.

During the three-day period of September 1, 2, and 3, thirteen thousand one hundred twenty-seven persons entered the Park. This was the heaviest travel recorded since the July 4 period of 1941.

Visitors. Major General Ralph Royce, U. S. Army, in east, out south Sept. 5; Congressman Jack Z. Anderson, of California, in west September 7, out south 8th; Admiral Ray Spear, U. S. Navy, retired, and Mrs. Spear, in south Sept. 12, out west 13th; Mr. and Mrs. Struthers Burt, nationally known authors in south 12th, out 13th; Governor Lester C. Hunt, Wyoming, accompanied by Lester Haggley, State Game Warden, in South 19th, out north; Governor Sam C. Ford, of Montana, and Governor Dwight Griswold, of Nebraska, in North 21st, out west; Dr. Joao Moojen, Head Curator of Zoology of the Natural History Museum in Rio de Janeiro, in company with Dr. C. C. Cottam, Director of Wildlife Research, F&WS, Chicago, and also in Dr. Moojen's party were Joao Roscalla, Biologist of the Zoology of Natural History Museum, Rio de Janeiro, Biologist O. J. Murie, F&WS, Jackson, Wyo., and Dr. Josup E. Low, Head of Cooperative Unit, F&WS, Utah Agricultural College, in south September 24, out west 25th; A Norwegian journalist party, consisting of Messrs. Olav Brunvand, Bergens Arbeiderblad, Bergen, Norway, Oskar Hasselknippe, Vardens Gang, Oslo, Norway, Per Thomsen, Stavanger Aftenblad, Stavanger, Norway, C. Kirkebee, Norwegian Religious News Service, Oslo, Norway, Gunnar N. Martin, Norwegian State Broadcast, Oslo, Miss Jorunn Johnson, Aftenposten, Oslo, Norway, and Mr. Dan Ferrell (OWI) c/o Mr. Underhill's Office, New York, entered the Park at North September 24, toured the Park and left by North, September 25.

Ranger Service. Park travel continued to be heavy during September and rangers at checking stations were able to handle the sale of permits and other gate work only with considerable difficulty, as personnel available was insufficient to cope with the situation in the usual manner. After the introduction of the 40-hour week, which further reduced the effective personnel, and after most of the seasonal rangers left early in September it was not possible to operate the checking stations at all times. Sale of motor vehicle licenses was terminated at the close of September 9.

Hunting patrols of the north and south boundaries were necessary, since both Wyoming and Montana opened certain areas to hunting of moose and elk in September.

Most of the rangers were moved to their winter stations during the month.

Police Protection. One case, involving two persons charged with having more than the prescribed number of fish in their possession, was presented before the U. S. Commissioner. Each defendant was found guilty and paid a fine of ten dollars.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. BEARS. Bears became more numerous along the roads with the increase in travel and two persons were injured by these animals. One property damage incident was reported and it was necessary to dispose of one dangerous bear.

Comparative Bear Incidents

	1944					1945				
	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Season	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Season To Date
Personal Injuries	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	2	3
Property Damages	1	13	3	1	18	1	3	0	2	6
Total Incidents	2	13	4	1	20	1	3	1	4	9
Total Bears Killed For Control	0	8	2	1	11	0	1	0	1	2

FISH. The planting of fish in park waters was completed for the season and the Fish and Wildlife Service operations at Yellowstone Lake were closed at the end of September.

The Fish and Wildlife Service station at Ennis, Montana, furnished additional rainbow trout fingerlings for the Madison River and this has brought the stocking of that stream to a satisfactory level for the first time in three years. The Madison River was closed to fishing at sundown on September 30. During the 1945 travel year, park visitors reported taking 127,835 fish.

Forest Fire Protection. Only one fire was reported during the month of September. This was at the head of Forest Creek in the Snake River District. Two fire guards were dispatched to search the area, but they did not find the fire; so evidently it was rained out.

All fire equipment in the outlying caches have been checked, trailers blocked up and fire trucks drained for winter storage. All bed rolls, with the exception of those at Bechler River, have been returned to the Mammoth Cache, and emergency rations stored in the Park Warehouse.

Seen area studies have been made by Park Ranger Aubrey L. Haines, including Horse Butte, Forest Service lookout west of the Park, a point South of Craig Pass, Mount Washburn, and Twin Buttes. Further studies are contemplated this season.

Trails. Several attempts have been made to procure per diem trail workers through the U. S. Employment Service offices at Livingston, Bozeman, and Billings, without success.

A snowstorm held up the completion of the Purple Mountain trail to the proposed lookout which is to be completed by C.P.S. labor. It is planned to complete the last 1,000 feet to the top this season as the snow is rapidly receding.

Considerable maintenance was accomplished on the section from Trail Creek to Thorofare by the ranger and fire guard stationed in that area during the first two weeks of the month.

Insect and Tree Diseases. On September 3, 1945, a conference was held in the Superintendent's Office with representatives of the Yellowstone Park staff and Messrs. Riley and Swanson representing the U. S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. The progress of the Blister Rust control work in the Mammoth area was discussed. It was the opinion of Mr. Riley and Mr. Swanson that the control area should be continued for about one-half mile up Clematis Gulch, and to include the portion of Glen Creek between the water intake and the bridge on the Bunsen Peak road. It was also recommended that ribes be eradicated from the brush area in the old Buffalo pasture site.

Blister Rust control work was resumed on September 10 after the C.P.S. crew returned from the fires at Glacier. It was continued until September 20. The work was stopped at that time due to the fact that frost had killed the leaves on many of the ribes plants and they could not be identified by the work crews. It is probable that it will be necessary to do some additional ribes eradication work in this area next year inasmuch as the control areas recommended by representatives of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine were not completely covered this season.

Since September 24, the C.P.S. Side Camp has been engaged in the construction of a trail to the Purple Mountain lookout and on the preparation of fuel wood at West Thumb and at Lamar Ranger Station. Approximately fifty cords of wood were sawed into stove wood lengths between September 24 and 28.

Accidents. Seasonal Ranger George O. Harris was fatally injured on September 3, when struck by an automobile on the Gardiner highway. Seven other motor vehicle accidents were reported during the month. Heavier travel, the tendency of motorists to drive at higher rates of speed and snow on the roads were principal factors contributing to the increase in accidents.

Edmund B. Rogers,
Superintendent.

In Sextuplicate.

cc: Region Two (in duplicate).

File (2)

JJ/cws