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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

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	ROGERS	
✓	JOHNSTON	
✓	JOFFE	
✓	ANDERSON	
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	GILLUM	
	QUIST	
	BIRD	
✓	BAJER	
✓	BARROWS	
	ELLIOTT	
✓	EVANS	
	CHAPMAN	
	SKINNER	
✓	WOHLBRANDT	
	ROBINSON	

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

MONTHLY REPORT

For

APRIL

1946

IMPORTANT

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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.

E OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

May 6, 1946.

MEMORANDUM for the Director:

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of April 1946:

Weather Conditions. The outstanding feature of the weather during the month was its dryness. Though a total of 22 days was listed as partly cloudy to cloudy, a total of only .36 of an inch of moisture was recorded. Patches of snow were still in evidence in the Mammoth area on the 7th, but by the end of the month one had to look to elevations considerably above or in deep ravines in the shade to find any. During the latter half of the period several temperatures above 70 were read, and the maximum for the month was 75 degrees, recorded on the 27th. Most minimums were well below freezing, and the low for the month was 16 degrees, recorded on both the 2nd and the 10th.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers spent the entire month in the park, making one trip to Bozeman on the 15th to continue research work in connection with the legislative history of the park.

The following Yellowstone employees were returned from military furlough during the month: Lester C. Abbie, to the position of Warehouseman-Truck Driver on April 1, having served in the Navy since October 2, 1943; John Lewis, to the position of Park Ranger on April 7 by transfer from Grand Teton National Park, after having been discharged from the U. S. Army on March 8, 1946; Lloyd J. Astle, to the position of District Park Ranger on April 9, having been released from the U. S. Navy on February 18, 1946. District Park Rangers Earl W. Semingsen and John C. Jay returned to the park on April 30 and will be returned from military furlough on May 1, after service in the U. S. Coast Guard. By the end of the month, besides Messrs. Semingsen and Jay, there were only three employees still on military furlough, Chief Ranger Francis D. LaMoue, Purchasing Clerk Lazd S. Shorey and Clerk-Stenographer Evelyn R. Kumor. Mr. Shorey was discharged from the Army on April 30 and expects to return to duty on June 1, while Miss Kumor expects her release from the Waves about the middle of May and will return to duty by June 1. The return from military furlough of Mr. LaMoue is still indefinite, as he is now in Korea. The Yellowstone has established a rather unique record, in that every one of its employees who entered the military service, with the exception of the above three, have returned to their old positions and there were no casualties among its members. Thirty-Five of our regular employees saw service in the armed forces.

Yellowstone Park, Wyo.

Other personnel actions during the month included the employment of Susanna M. Bowman as a Clerk-Stenographer under Section 4, Regulation VIII, on April 8, the resignation of Clerk-Stenographer Alice B. Murphy on April 12 and the resignation of her husband, Park Ranger Robert J. Murphy, on April 15, and the return from furlough of seasonal Clerk-Stenographer (Warehouseman) Bessie M. Carr on April 22. Assistant Chief Ranger W. Leon Evans returned to duty on April 5, after having spent 3 months in the F.B.I. school in Washington, D. C.

The inter-agency transfer of Frank S. Matteson, Landscape Architect, P-4, Region Two, to the same position, Yellowstone National Park, was approved on April 9. Mr. Matteson expects to arrive in the Yellowstone about May 17.

Arrangements were made on April 11 by the U. S. Employment Service in Livingston to establish an office at Mammoth Hot Springs to assist in recruiting employees for the park. A representative of the U.S.E.S. will be stationed in the park throughout the summer.

The park's rotary snow plows started opening the roads on April 15, some 2 weeks earlier than the previous year. It was necessary to get the roads open to Canyon and Old Faithful in order to give the park concessioners an opportunity to get their facilities in shape for the coming summer. The Yellowstone Park Company is to pay for the snow removal covering the period from April 15 to April 27, inclusive. The plows reached Norris on April 18, Canyon April 23 and Old Faithful April 25. The plows returned from Old Faithful to Canyon by way of Norris and opened the road to Lake on the 29th and West Thumb on the 30th.

A new School Board was appointed by the Superintendent on April 19, consisting of Edwin M. Bird, Chairman, Mrs. Beate T. White, Secretary-Treasurer, and Hugh M. Obert, Member.

A special candlelight Easter service was held in the Mammoth Chapel at 6:30 A.M. on Easter Sunday, April 21, with Rev. A. S. Seebart of the Congregational Church in Livingston in charge. Special music was provided by residents of Mammoth and Gardiner.

Bids were opened by the F.B.A. in Denver on April 23 for bituminous surfacing of 7.01 miles of section 1-D1-H5, Old Faithful to Isa Lake. Peter Kiewit Sons Company, Sheridan, Wyoming, was the low bidder, with a bid of $133,327, Olaf Nelson Construction Company was second with a bid of $138,760, and the Northwest Engineering Company was third with a bid of $161,712.20. Only 3 bids were received. The engineer's estimate, dated March 4, 1949, was $82,116. The awarding of the bid to the low bidder was concurred in by the park Superintendent.

Inquiries continued to pour in during the month in connection with employment with the park concessioners and a large number of applications was received for employment with the National Park Service, particularly seasonal ranger, a great many of which were from veterans. More inquiries in connection with park operations for the summer were received than in previous

years, and there is little doubt but that all travel records for the park will be exceeded in 1946 unless something unforeseen occurs to interfere with travel.

Inspections. William Dunn of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Bozeman, in charge of Yellowstone hatcheries, in April 5 for discussion of fish planting program; Mr. Dunn returned to the park on the 23rd with Mr. Jack Chipman and Harry M. Baker of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and on April 30 he returned on his way to Lake to open the hatchery there. Lloyd Noel, Supply Officer, U. S. Forest Service, Missoula, and Forest Ranger Burke of Gallatin National Forest, Bozeman, in April 17. M. S. Monger, Postal Inspector, Denver, and T. A. Fellows, Postal Inspector, Casper, in April 26 to make arrangements for summer mail service. Leo Foster, U.S.G.S., Helena, and L. A. Pavey, U.S.G.S., Livingston, in April 26 in connection with the establishment of an Employment Service Office in the park. Wayne I. Travis and James R. Spofford, U.S.G.S., Boise, in April 29 for water gauge readings. Fred Bussey, former Yellowstone employee, visited the park on April 3, en route to Glacier by transfer from Rocky Mountain. He had just recently been discharged from the Army.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. The road maintenance report for the Red Lodge-Cooke road was prepared and the drawing for the Canyon power system revised and mailed to the Regional Director. The allotment for the Canyon power system was impounded so no active construction project is underway in the park at this time.

General Publicity. On April 8 Yellowstone material was sent to the Burlington Railroad, Chicago, for publicity purposes and the following day the Northern Pacific folder on the Yellowstone was reviewed. A press release on the road and accommodations opening was sent out on April 15. A picture of the lower falls was furnished Lassen National Park on April 22 for use in connection with an exhibit proposed in that park in connection with the 30th anniversary of the National Park Service. Some excellent Yellowstone material and pictures promoting park travel have been released by the railroads, airlines, bus lines, oil companies and others interested in and serving the park.

Road Maintenance. Very little snow fell during the month, and the only plowing required on the Gardiner-Cooke road was the removing of several large drifts between Blacktail Deer Creek and Gardo Creek, caused by high winds. The snow plows left Mammoth on April 15 for the spring opening of the park roads and by the end of the month the roads were open from Mammoth to Old Faithful and from Norris Junction to Canyon, Lake and West Thumb. The weather was unusually warm during the month of April and the snow had melted and settled much faster than was anticipated, making plowing conditions very favorable.

Our maintenance funds are the lowest in many years and the work to be done greater. Heavy trucks on the Gardiner-Cooke section during the winter and spring have caused a great many breaks in the surfacing between Mammoth and the Lamar Canyon. The Norris to Canyon section is also in need of heavy repair.

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During May and June of 1940 we were employing 198 men on road maintenance, in 1941, 202 men, in 1945, 85 men, but the maximum we will be able to employ this year for the same period is 45 men. Repair of many of the important maintenance items will need be delayed until late in the season during heavy traffic when maintenance is very difficult.

Concessioners. Mr. J. H. Haynes paid a visit to the park on April 6 and again on the 13th. On April 28 he moved to Mammoth with a crew to start his season's operations.

The Yellowstone Park Company opened its mess at Mammoth on April 15 with a crew of 25 men who were engaged in clean up and repair work around Mammoth. A crew was moved to Canyon on April 25 and to Old Faithful a few days later. Gar Holpple, General Manager, Hamilton Stores, Inc., recently released from the U. S. Army, arrived in the park via the west gate on April 29 to start the Hamilton operations in the park. Mr. Hamilton is not expected to arrive here until later in the season.

Dr. Alfred M. Lueck, one of the park medical officers, visited the park on April 17 to vaccinate and examine some of the school children.

Interpretative Service. Twenty-two Ranger Naturalists were selected from the list of applications for employment after July 1 if the Interior Department Bill is passed by that time. Due regard was given to applications of veterans, and there are 4 positions yet to be filled by the selection from a list of 10 or 12 applicants. These 22 Ranger-Naturalist positions, which were abolished for the duration of the war, were re-established on April 5, 1946 along with the establishment of 4 new Ranger- Naturalist positions.

The Chief Park Naturalist attended the meetings of the Cordilleran Section of the Geological Society of America in Berkeley, California April 19 and 20 while on annual leave.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. During the month a number of people called at the office of the Naturalist Division and asked to be allowed to see the Museum. These requests were granted and 28 people were accommodated in this way. Also, on the 24th a group of wildlife students from the University of Idaho, under Professor Young, was given a special talk on the National Park values in the Mammoth Museum and were accompanied one day in the field.

The March-April issue of Nature Notes was completed and mailed on April 1 and 2.

Research and Observations. One day was spent in the field by all three naturalists, making observations and taking pictures (April 3) in the Horseshoe-Lamar River and Soda Butte areas. Another half day was spent by Bauer and Condon on the Mammoth Hot Springs terraces obtaining black and white pictures and Kodachrome movies. Numerous changes were observed in the thermal activities of the terraces.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Nineteen hundred and sixty-eight persons entered the park during April, compared with 217 for the same period in 1945. The total persons entering the park for the travel year is 20,048 compared to 5,304 for 1945, which is an increase of 278 per cent.

Seven hundred and six motor vehicles entered the park during April, compared to 74 during the same period in 1945. Total cars for the travel year thus far is 7,432 compared to 1,762 for the same period last year, which is an increase of 321 per cent.

Visitors. Archduke Felix of Austria visited the park on April 17 with a Mr. Coan of Billings. As none of the roads in the interior of the park was open, the party was able to make only the trip along the north side of the park to Cooke.

Carlos Moerning of Santiago, Chile, Third Vice President of Rotary International, with Mrs. Moerning and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Savage of Butte, visited the park on April 29. These special visitors were escorted over what roads were open in the park and were the first 1946 visitors to see Old Faithful in action.

Ranger Service. The elk trap at Blacktail was dismantled and the traps at Mammoth, Gardiner, and the Game Ranch were put in condition for future use. The winter game ranges were covered to count winter-killed animals, to study spring range conditions, and the movement of animals during their spring migrations. Spring hunting seasons on bear in Wyoming and Montana required patrol of the south, west, and north boundaries. The highway in the Gallatin required constant patrol due to the effects of the spring weather and melting snows. Accessible sections of the north and west boundaries were marked with new boundary signs.

A first aid and law enforcement training school for rangers stationed at or near headquarters was started on April 29. A study of the traffic accident and enforcement records for a five-year period was completed and the results will be used as a guide for future planning.

Wildlife - General. During the month the bighorn census was completed and reports were prepared on this, the elk, bison, antelope and deer counts. Some of these have not yet been submitted, due to lack of stenographic help.

On April 27 and 28 an inspection of a part of the West Yellowstone District was made and the annual spring meeting of the Upper Gallatin Conservation Committee was attended in connection with discussion of wildlife management problems.

Bison: After the road was cleared of snow during the latter part of the month, a check was made of the Yellowstone River between Canyon and Yellowstone Lake to more accurately determine losses from drowning. Thirty-six carcasses were observed in the river over a 2-mile section from Mud Volcano southward, and plans were made for early removal and burial of the carcasses before high water. From observations made earlier in the winter, it appears that this herd of buffalo attempted to cross on the ice from the east side and were trapped when the ice broke up beneath them. Removal operations may reveal additional animals lost in this manner.

Elk: During the month of April field surveys were made in the Mammoth, Tower Falls and Lamar Districts to obtain an estimate of natural winter losses. Estimates were submitted on April 30 showing a total for the northern

range of 251, or in round numbers, 250. Since exceptionally mild weather prevailed during the entire month, extensive areas of winter range were made available and elk migrated to the higher areas where much green forage was available at the close of the period. It is believed that additional natural losses (except for newly-born calves) will be negligible, and the figure of 250 is regarded as the final winter loss estimate for 1946.

Building Fire Protection. Fire inspection of all Government owned buildings in the Mammoth area was completed during the month. A number of the hazardous conditions which were found were corrected at the time of the inspection, but other conditions were found which will entail considerable funds and work to bring the buildings up to recommended standards.

Forestry and Fire Protection. Maintenance of fire equipment and marking of property in the fire cache at Mammoth occupied a good portion of the month.

Lookout studies and evaluations and assembling all available information concerning our primary and secondary lookouts was carried on.

Definite commitments were made to twenty fire control aide applicants to report on June 17.

Four commitments were made to prospective trail laborers, to begin work on June 5.

Accidents. One motor vehicle accident was reported. The single occupant suffered painful injuries and the vehicle was badly damaged.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the National Federation of Federal Employees No. 465 was held in the Canteen on April 1. The last meeting of the local before the summer season begins was held on the 29th.

A beautiful wedding was solemnized in the park at the Mammoth chapel on Sunday, April 14, when Miss C. Wilma Smith was married to Aubrey L. Haines. Rev. A. W. Seebart of the Congregational Church in Livingston officiated. Miss Smith is the secretary to the Superintendent, while Mr. Haines is a park ranger, having been the first of the Yellowstone employees to enter the military service. He returned from military furlough on May 2, 1945, having served since June 4, 1941. The couple left by auto following the ceremony for a month's honeymoon trip to the southwest, expecting to visit a number of National Parks and Monuments. A wedding supper was held in the Government mess on April 15.

A daughter was born to park ranger and Mrs. William A. Nyquist in a Seattle, Washington hospital on April 29. Mr. Nyquist was recently discharged from the U. S. Coast Guard and was returned to the Yellowstone from military furlough on March 28, 1946.

The mother of District Park Ranger John T. Jay died at Salida, Colorado on April 17, the burial being held at Salida on the 20th. Mr. Jay had just recently been discharged from the U. S. Coast Guard and was at home with his mother at the time of her death.

One of the few remaining old timers of the park, Charles Johnson, died of a heart attack at the Lott Hospital in Livingston on April 20. Burial was in the Mountain View Cemetery in Livingston on the 25th. Mr. Johnson is the stepfather of Olivind F. Scoyen, Associate Regional Director, Region Three, and Clarence Scoyen, an employee of the Post Office at Mammoth. He was born in Gytenberg, Sweden on March 12, 1868, and took up residence in the park in 1895. He lived in the park since that date and worked as a teamster for the War and Interior Departments and handled wood cutting and hauling contracts.

Edmund B. Rogers,
Superintendent.

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cc: Region Two (In Dupl.)
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Yellowstone Park, Wyoming.