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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone
NATIONAL PARK

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	ROGERS	
✓	JOHNSTON	
✓	JOFFE	
✓	SOULE	
	MACBETH	
	SHOLEY	
	QUIST	
	SOMERVILLE	
✓	BAUER	
	FARROWS	
✓	ELLIOTT	
	EVANS	
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YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER

1944

IMPORTANT

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service
Yellowstone National Park
Yellowstone Park, Wyoming

of the Superintendent

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October 5, 1944

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

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

Weather Conditions. As was the case last September, the weather during the month was extremely favorable and there were only three storms of any consequence, one at the first of the month which lasted for about three days and lessened the fire danger, one on the 15th, 16th and 17th when a heavy snow closed the roads for several hours, and the other on the 29th and 30th when another snow storm temporarily closed the roads. The storm of the 29th and 30th closed the Red Lodge-Cooke highway and it is not likely that this road will be open to travel again this year. The usual Indian Summer days prevailed most of the month.

There were 16 clear days during the month, 5 partly cloudy and 9 cloudy. The maximum temperature was 82° on the 6th and 7th and the minimum temperature 26° on the 18th. Total precipitation for the month was 1.94 inches, as against .70 inch in 1943 and 1.23 inches for September 1942. The mean precipitation for September is 1.25 inches.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers spent the entire month in the Park, with the exception of trips made outside, as follows: On September 12 to the Berolz Ranch between the south entrance and Moran to discuss the south approach highway routing; to Helena on September 21 with Mr. Joffe to attend meeting of advertising committee of Montanans, Inc., returning the next day.

September was unusual in that no forest fires occurred during the month. The precipitation throughout the summer was well scattered and kept down the fire danger and there was comparatively little lightening as against other years. Only 5 fires occurred throughout the entire summer season, none serious.

The Absaroka Conservation Committee held its regular fall meeting in the Park on September 16 and 17. The first day was spent in automobile and horseback trips by various groups over the winter range and to Jardine and Cooke to investigate stream pollution in the Yellowstone River and Soda Butte Creek. One group looked over the buffalo area in the Hayden Valley and Mary Mountain region. The business session was held at the Buffalo Ranch on Sunday, September 17.

A group representing the Colorado Museum of Natural History, in charge of Alfred M. Bailey, Director, was in the Park during the month to collect bear specimens for an exhibit to be prepared for that museum.

Giantess Geyser went into action on September 1, the first eruption since June 12, 1942. The eruption started about 3:00 a.m.

Despite the numerous restrictions on travel, the travel season ended on September 30 with 85,347 visitors, as against 64,144 in 1943, an increase of 33%. Members of the armed forces visiting the park totalled 10,898 for the travel year. One thousand seven hundred twenty-two persons entered the Park on September 3 for the Labor Day holiday.

Following the Labor Day travel, most of the accommodations in the Park were closed before the end of the month. The unfurnished cabins at Old Faithful and the furnished and unfurnished cabins at Fishing Bridge were closed on September 5 and the boat service at Fishing Bridge was discontinued on the same date. The Hamilton store at Fishing Bridge closed on September 11. The Haynes Old Faithful shop was closed on September 18 and the following day Mrs. Dryer discontinued serving meals and taking care of overnight guests at Mammoth. The general store and gasoline filling station at Mammoth will remain open throughout the winter. The general store at Old Faithful will remain open to serve meals and take care of overnight guests as long as the roads remain open to travel.

The collection of the motor vehicle license fee for the Park was discontinued on September 5 and on September 11 the gate hours were changed from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Government power plant at Fishing Bridge was closed on September 11 and the one at Old Faithful on the 25th.

A Taylorcraft BC-65 two-passenger plane landed in the field inside the north entrance on September 20. The landing and take-off were made without mishap. The owner of the plane delivered a passenger from Helena to Gardiner. A report covering this incident was made to the Regional Director on September 25.

Chief Ranger Maynard Barrows met with an unfortunate accident on September 28 when he was kicked in the jaw by a horse while loading it in a trailer. Mr. Barrows has been hospitalized in the Park Hospital in Livingston. This is the second time Mr. Barrows has been kicked in the jaw by a horse, the first accident occurring in July 1933.

The Madison River was closed to fishing on the evening of September 30. All other streams and lakes will remain open until sundown October 15. Some excellent catches of large Rainbow and Loch Leven were reported from the Madison and Firehole Rivers during September.

An award of excellence by the Board of Suggestions Awards, Department of the Interior, was presented to Accounting Clerk LeRoy B. Van Cott in the fiscal office on the afternoon of September 5. The presentation was made by Assistant Superintendent Johnston. The award carried an increase in salary of $100.00 per year and was made effective August 11, 1944.

A Prisoner of War group from Rupert, Idaho, enroute to Billings, Montana, entered the Park at the west gate on September 5. The party camped in the

Mammoth campground the night of September 5 and departed early the next morning via the north gate. The party consisted of 30 Italian prisoners, 12 guards, 2 civilians and a Lieutenant in charge. There were 6 trucks and one command car in the party.

The Yellowstone Park school term started on September 5 with only one teacher, Mrs. Irene C. Evans, being available. A teacher for the upper grades, Mrs. Catherine Onstott, entered on duty September 26.

The star mail route was discontinued on September 13. The Mammoth Post Office went on a new schedule on September 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Inspections. John Coffman, Chief Forester, N.P.S., Chicago, in north September 1, out north 9th; Marvin C. Riley, Forester, Frank O. Walters, Pathologist, C. M. Chapman and V. M. Marsh, Scientific Aides, Blister Rust Control Section, Bureau of Entomology, Spokane, Washington, in September 2 to investigate blister rust infection on ribes and the white pine in the park, out south 12th; L. D. Parker, Investigator, Alcohol Tax Unit, Cheyenne, Wyoming, and J. B. Clawson, Investigator, Alcohol Tax Unit, Denver, in September 4 investigating liquor sales in the Park; Keith P. Neilson, Chief, Accounts Section, N.P.S., Chicago, in north September 11, will remain until October 4; Clarence A. Persons, Field Auditor, N.P.S., in September 11, will remain until October 4; Guy Robertson, Director, War Relocation Authority, Heart Mountain, Wyoming, in September 13 for final inspection Nez Perce cleanup job; Frank A. Childs, Regional Forester, Region Two, in north September 14, out north 20th; Paul Franke, Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park, in south September 15 to attend Absaroka Conservation Committee meeting, out south 17th; George Walker, N.P.S. Forester who has been in the Park since June 5, departed via north September 16; W. S. Travis, Associate Engineer, and A. E. Travis, Rodman, U. S. Geological Survey, Boise, Idaho, in September 20; William M. Barrett, Legal Investigator, and Henry C. Heller, District Commodity Investigator, O.P.A., Salt Lake City, in September 25 to investigate Utah cars visiting the Park.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. The Engineering Division ran preliminary line for proposed Canyon sewer line from Canyon village area to point near Inspiration Point, ran alignment and profile on the northeast entrance water line and ran fly line for proposed supplemental gravity supply for Canyon water system. The Canyon village area was inspected with Regional Forester Childs and Messrs. Johnston and Barrows.

General Publicity. A press release on an award of excellence to Accounting Clerk Van Cott was furnished local papers during the month and a special story on Park wildlife was prepared for Carl A. Hayden of Idaho Falls, Idaho, for use in the Salt Lake Tribune. Several pictures were furnished to illustrate this article and additional pictures were furnished other organizations for possible use after the war.

General Complaints. No written complaints were received during the month. The entire season has been free of written complaints but this does not necessarily mean that there was not some dissatisfaction with service and accommodations. It has been very evident during the war years that visitors to the

Park are inclined to accept conditions as they find them and they do not complain or criticize as is customary in normal years.

Maintenance. On September 17 and 29 snow storms covered most of the Park with 4 to 16 inches of snow and both times it was necessary to send out the push type snowplows to clear the roads.

Snow stakes have been set on nearly all of the roads and much of the building bracing has been placed.

One of the road crews spent the entire month on repairing foot bridges in the Old Faithful area. Some new rail was placed around the hot pools in this area. There still remains much repair work to be done on the foot paths and bridges.

The crews stationed at Lake spent considerable time cleaning up the down trees in the Lake and Fishing Bridge area, the blow-down having been caused by the high wind of August 28. There still remains large quantities to clean up, especially along the road from Lake to Thumb.

The Tower Falls crew placed approximately 80 cubic yards of rock rip-rap along the wing walls of the Pebble Creek bridge. High water has started to undermine the wing walls on the upper side of the bridge. The oil plant was closed down and some repairs made to the piping, which will greatly aid in the unloading operations.

Park Operators. Mr. C. A. Hamilton continued to take care of visitors by serving meals and furnishing overnight lodging at his Old Faithful store throughout the entire month and will continue these operations as long as the roads remain open to travel. The unfurnished cabins at Old Faithful and the furnished and unfurnished cabins at Fishing Bridge were closed on September 5. The boat operations at Fishing Bridge were discontinued on the same date. The Hamilton store at Fishing Bridge ceased operations on September 11. The Haynes Old Faithful shop closed on September 15, while the Mammoth shop kept open throughout the month. Mrs. Fryer discontinued serving meals and taking care of overnight guests on September 19. The general store at Mammoth will operate throughout the winter to take care of local residents.

Mr. W. M. Nichols, President of the Yellowstone Park Company, visited the Park on September 4 and again on September 21. The Yellowstone Park Company closed its office in the Haynes shop on the 10th.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. The Mammoth museum was closed for the season on September 5. Three hundred twenty-three persons visited the museum in September, as against 122 for September 1943.

Research and Observations. The steam vent which blew out at the north end of Elk Park about one-half mile from the Norris Geyser Basin on May 1 of this year is still very active. There has been very little change in its noise-making qualities and general characteristics. It is shooting a steady column of steam to a height of about 15 feet, with a roar that is quite deafening if

one is closer than 30 feet to the vent. On cool or moist days the vapor rises to a height of about 40 feet, or even more, depending upon the character of the atmosphere. But even on dry days it has a rather large plume. The temperature of the steam is well over 250° F. It is now beginning to kill the trees around it for a distance of 20 to 30 feet in diameter, although the opening itself is only about one foot across.

Morning Glory Pool, which boiled over in June, has been quite placid since that time and is gradually beginning to clear, but has not yet returned to its normal color.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Twelve thousand four hundred eighty-five persons entered the Park during September, as compared with 10,804 for the same month in 1943. The total persons entering the Park for this travel year is 85,347 as compared with 64,150 for 1943, an increase of 33%.

Three thousand eight hundred sixty-nine motor vehicles entered the Park in September as compared with 3,300 for the same month in 1943. The total motor vehicles for this travel year, 24,202, as compared with 19,346 for 1943 shows an increase of 25.1%.

Visitors. Alfred G. Arvold, Shrine Imperial Potentate, in north September 2, out northeast 4th; Struthers Burt, nationally-known author, Jackson Hole, in south 14th, out south 15th; Warren H. Atherton, National Commander, American Legion, in north September 23, out north 24th.

Ranger Service. Miscellaneous trail and telephone maintenance was accomplished by the Protection Department during September. A wood-sawing crew composed of rangers and mechanical division personnel spent several days sawing wood for the various stations.

An old C.C.C. cabin at Nez Perce Creek, which will be used as a snowshoe cabin this winter, was remodelled and put in condition for winter use by a crew of rangers. Most of the winter moves were made before the close of the month and preparations were made for winter by the rangers in the isolated stations. The seasonal ranger force was reduced to one man by the end of September. Another vacancy occurred in the permanent ranger force when Park Ranger Robert G. Fleet resigned his position effective September 15.

Police Protection. No law enforcement cases were had during the month.

Wildlife Administration. Bears. The bear situation in the park during September was very similar to that of the same month of 1943 in that very few bears were seen along the roads or in the utility areas. Both black and grizzly bears appear to be well distributed over the Park and no undesirable concentrations in or near areas of human habitation have occurred to create any serious problems. The single bear incident reported concerned the damage of the National Park Service mess hall at Lake by a persistent grizzly bear which had to be disposed of.

Comparative Bear Injuries and Damages

(Continued)

	1943					1944				
	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Season to date	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Season to date
Personal Injuries	1	1	3	0	5	1	0	1	0	2
Property Damages	4	16	17	1	38	1	13	3	1	18
Total Incidents	5	17	20	1	43	2	13	4	1	20
Bears Killed for Control	1	6	6	0	13	0	8	2	1	11*

*Includes 3 grizzlies. No grizzlies were killed as control measures during the 1943 season.

Wolves. On September 22, the District Ranger of the Tower Falls District observed a mature wolf near Dunraven Pass.

Fish. The following fish, received from the Fish and Wildlife Service station outside the Park, were planted in Park waters:

Source	Species	Number	Size	Transported by
Bozeman	Rainbow	12,000	#2½	Fish and Wildlife Service
Bozeman	Rainbow	7,200	#4	Fish and Wildlife Service
Bozeman	Rainbow	6,000	#2½	Fish and Wildlife Service
Ennis	Rainbow	12,750	#3	Fish and Wildlife Service
Ennis	Rainbow	16,200	#2	Fish and Wildlife Service
Bozeman	Blackspotted	12,600	#1½	Fish and Wildlife Service
Bozeman	Blackspotted	25,200	#1½	Fish and Wildlife Service

During the 1944 travel season which ended September 30, fishermen reported taking 97,401 fish as compared with 70,057 for the 1943 travel season.

Forest Fire Protection. A general storm period during the first three days of the month brought to a close a period of extremely high fire danger which had existed throughout most of the month of August. No forest fires occurred during September.

Four representatives of the Division of Plant Disease Control of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine spent the first ten days of the month scouting for blister rust infection in the Park and inspecting areas where blister rust control work has been proposed. Rust infection was found on ribes plants in the Mammoth area within the Park and in two drainages just north of the Park, Mol Heron Creek and Tom Miner Creek. From this discovery it is concluded that there must be some infection on five needle pines, either inside the Park or in this immediate vicinity.

All fire guards were released from duty before the close of the month. All fire suppression equipment, for which there is not adequate storage facilities at ranger station fire tool caches, was brought to Mammoth and stored for the winter.

A three day pack trip was made to the headwaters of the Lechler River to investigate possible secondary lookout sites for the Pitchstone and Madison Plateau areas. Superintendent Rogers, Chief Ranger Barrows, Chief of Forestry Coffman, Forester Walker and Assistant Chief Ranger Elliott constituted the party. No favorable lookout sites were found.

Accidents. Two automobile accidents occurred during September.

Edmund B. Rogers,
Superintendent.

In Quintuplicate
cc: Region Two
File (2)
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