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(June 1941)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

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MONTHLY REPORT

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

November

1942

IMPORTANT

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

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affecting the Yellowstone. He arrived in Chicago on the 30th. Assistant Superintendent Emmert who had been on leave for several weeks returned on November 22 and became acting Superintendent upon Mr. Rogers' departure.

Two slight earth tremors were reported November 1 by District Ranger John Bauman at Old Faithful as having occurred at about 9:40 a.m. October 31. While working at his desk in the museum office Ranger Bauman reports having felt the desk move and within the next few seconds the whole building seemed to move. He estimated the total time for the first shock at about three seconds and the second only about a second. Upon inquiry from the winter keeper and the Hamilton Store employees at Old Faithful he learned that they had also felt the shocks. No damage was reported, and as Old Faithful geyser erupted within 30 minutes after the shocks it was evident that it had suffered no damage.

Fearing a possible attack on some of our park children at Mammoth by coyotes, as an abnormal number of these animals have been observed on the streets at night and even during the daylight hours, an order was issued to kill off a few for control purposes. Between October 28 and November 7 a total of 5 coyotes were shot. No attempt was made to carry these control measures beyond the limits of the Mammoth community area. The fears of the park authorities were thoroughly justified, for on the afternoon of November 10 a coyote attacked the resident nurse, Miss Margaret Jelinek, at a point directly in front of the Mammoth Hotel as she was returning from the store. Miss Jelinek was bruised and bitten on the right hand and leg but the coyote's teeth did not break the skin. A package of rolls which she was carrying was taken by the animal to a point about a hundred feet from the point of attack and eaten. This coyote was shot immediately after the attack occurred. The control operations were discontinued on November 21 up to which time 16 coyotes had been killed.

The local rationing board, consisting of U. S. Commissioner Wilcox, Chairman, Chief Ranger LaRoue and Park Naturalist Bauer, issued gas rationing cards for 3 days, November 18, 19 and 20. Mrs. Enid Wilcox, wife of the Chairman, was appointed on October 27 as clerk of the board.

Considerable protest was being registered against the projected program of the killing of elk in the park and distributing the meat to the Japanese Relocation Center. The story regarding the killing evidently first became known to members of the Rocky Mountain Sportsmen's Association and a press release soon resulted. Many telegrams and letters of protest were being received by the end of the month and residents of the communities near the park, particularly in Montana, were extremely resentful of the Park Service disposing of the

meat to the Japanese. There was little criticism heard of the actual killing of the elk in the park but the "sore spot" seemed to be that the Japanese were to be used in the park for the work in connection with the reduction program and the meat was to be distributed through the Heart Mountain Relocation Center.

The park collected a total of 346 pounds of fat dripping in connection with the salvage drive which was disposed of in Livingston at 3¢ per pound, netting $10.38.

Inspections. Malcolm Stuart, Jr. Investigator, Civil Service District Office, Denver, in November 2 for investigation of former employees. Captain Alvin N. Howes, Military Police, Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Cody, in November 18 to inspect proposed C.P.S. camp.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. The Engineering Section was engaged almost entirely in office work during the month, consisting of compiling data for final reports and preparation of field data gathered during the summer months for use of the Branch of Planning for preparation of revisions in master plans and the "plans-on-the-shelf" program.

Publicity. No press releases were issued from the park during the month. Instructions had been received that no press releases were to be sent out from the park without the approval of the Director. Publicity in connection with the proposed elk reduction program was to be released from the Office of the Secretary of the Interior.

Road Maintenance. All section maintenance crews were disbanded on November 11, except one patrol crew consisting of a foreman and two laborers was held on the Gardiner-Cooke section. Heavy snowfall and inclement weather throughout the month made it necessary to send the snowplows to the Cooke area four times during the month.

Park Operators. The general store at Old Faithful was closed by Mr. Hamilton on November 2, which discontinued the last available accommodations in the park. Mr. Hamilton left immediately for Rochester, Minnesota to undergo further medical examination and treatment. The general store at Mammoth will remain open throughout the winter to take care of local residents. Mr. William M. Nichols visited the park on November 12 for a conference with the Superintendent.

Cooperating Governmental Agencies. No contract work was underway during the month.

Mr. Robert Bond, in charge of F.R.A. activities in the park, departed for Denver on November 3. The F.R.A. office at Mammoth was closed on November 5.

New Construction. Work was started on the repair of fire damage to Mammoth Quarters No. 9 on the 15th of the month. Accomplishments consisted of a general cleanup of the charred interior, such as tearing out burned framing and damaged walls.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. 141 persons visited the park during the month of November as against 1,838 for the same month in 1941, a loss of 1,697 or -92.3%. For the travel year first entry cars showed a loss of 1,809 or -54.1 and reentry cars showed a loss of 269 or -54.2. There was a loss of 2,078 car entries or -54.1% and a loss of 7,233 persons entering via motor vehicle or -59.3%. Six men in uniform were admitted.

Ranger Service. By the middle of the month the necessary winter moves had been made and in addition other ranger work for the month consisted of hunting patrol of park boundaries, checking station work and preliminary work on the proposed elk reduction program. Some coyote control work was done at Headquarters due to the fact that several of these animals had become too bold.

At the close of the month the ranger force had 10 vacancies, the Buffalo Herder and the Packmaster positions having been filled as well as two of the ranger vacancies.

The east entrance ranger station was closed for the winter on November 9 and arrangements were completed for the winter keeper at Pahaska Tepee to check the buildings and equipment weekly.

Police Protection. One law enforcement case was held before the United States Commissioner. This case involved two persons having in their possession an unsealed firearm. They were fined $25.00 each.

General. A change of assignments effective November 17 placed District Ranger W. S. Chapman in charge of the Chief Ranger's Office and Assistant Chief Ranger Leon Evans was assigned to Wildlife Administration.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. Elk. As shown under the heading Weather Conditions, snow depths throughout the park were much greater than last year. The lower layers of snow are heavily crusted and these conditions have produced a marked movement of elk to the lower portions of the winter range. By the close of the month only small bands had moved out of the park to open hunting territory but the drift noted during the past week strongly indicated that a strong migration of elk to lower elevations and areas outside the park may be expected in the near future. Hunting conditions have improved and this improvement probably will continue next month.

Elk Reduction Program. The elk traps at Gardiner, Mammoth and the Game Preservation Ranch have been surveyed for needed repairs and this work will be done as soon as labor is available for this project. Much time has been devoted to the preparation of plans for carrying out the elk reduction program but operations will not begin until rifles and ammunition are secured and the War Relocation Authority completes arrangements for furnishing labor, transportation and certain materials and equipment which are required.

Coyotes. A very limited program of coyote control was carried out in the Mammoth area between October 28 and November 21. This was designed to remove a few of the animals which frequented the community area in large numbers at night and in smaller number during the daylight hours. Parents of children had become apprehensive and feared that one of the animals might attack one of the smaller children. This fear proved not to be without justification for on November 10 a coyote, in broad daylight, attacked the resident nurse, Miss Margaret Jelinek, who suffered minor injuries as a result of the attack. It is not planned to resume control unless a concentration of coyotes in this area make such action necessary.

Fish Planting Activities. The Annual Fish Planting Report has been prepared and will be submitted early in December.

Forest Fire Protection. The fire equipment inventory was completed during the month. Some work was done on the fire atlas and the profiling of seen area from a proposed lookout near Old Faithful was started. As one man was available November 20 to 30 to work part time in the fire cache the 50 and 25-man outfits were rechecked, serviced and sealed for use next season.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union No. 1865 was held on November 2.

A son, John James, was born to Park Ranger and Mrs. Harvey E. Reynolds at the Park Hospital in Livingston on November 17.

J. W. Emmert,
Acting Superintendent.

cc- Region Two Hdqtrs.

JJ:san