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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

	ROGERS	
X	JOHNSTON	
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FILE NO.
207-02.3

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

MONTHLY REPORT

for

DECEMBER

1945

IMPORTANT

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge. All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room. Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.



January 7, 1946.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

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

Weather Conditions. The weather during the month was normal in most respects. No heavy storms were recorded, but frequent light snows totaled 14.7 inches. A snow storm followed by rain and a light freeze on December 28 resulted in icy conditions on the Cooke road and caused it to be closed on the 29th and 30th.

The maximum temperature for the month was 43° on the 4th and the minimum was -15° on the 18th. Total precipitation recorded was 1.15 inches as against .34 inch for December 1944. There were 7 clear days, 6 partly cloudy, and 18 cloudy days.

Snow depths increased considerably over most of the park during the month. A comparison of snow depths for the past five years at various points follows:

	<u>1945</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1941</u>
Cascade	53"	68"	20"	-	-
Callatin	18	14	8	20"	10"
Lamar	16	11	6	16	6
Madison Junction	19	15	10	-	16
Mammoth	10	7	4	10	3
Northeast Entrance...	33	21	11	35	23
Snake River	38	35	22	-	22
Tower Falls	15	10	7	20	10
West Yellowstone.....	27	21	12	47	20

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers returned to the Park from an assignment in the Director's Office on December 7. He departed for Denver on December 14, and was on annual leave until the end of the month. Assistant Superintendent Johnston was Acting Superintendent until he went on leave on December 19, and Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe was Acting Superintendent from December 19 to the end of the month.

Chief Ranger Barrows left for Omaha on an assignment in the Region Two Office on December 1, and returned to the Park on the 16th.

Assistant Chief Ranger Hugh Peyton departed on December 5 for Redding, California, and Millerton Lake Reservoir Area, to which latter location he was transferred to fill the position of Custodian. District Ranger Roy E. Hansen

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Following is the report of activities for the period ending 31st March 1954.

During the period, the Director's office has been busy with the preparation of the annual report for the year 1953-54. This report is being prepared in accordance with the instructions of the Council and is expected to be ready for presentation to the Council at its meeting on 15th April 1954. The report will cover the work of the Institute during the year and will also include a summary of the financial position. It is hoped that the report will be of interest to the Council and will provide a clear and concise account of the work of the Institute during the year.

The following table shows the number of publications issued during the period.

Year	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
Books	12	10	8	6	4
Journal articles	15	12	10	8	6
Technical reports	20	18	15	12	10
Publications in progress	5	4	3	2	1
Total	52	44	36	28	21

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resigned on December 14 to engage in private business. Watchman-Janitor Alfred D. Palmer resigned at midnight on December 12. Arvin P. Coy entered on duty on December 18 to fill the vacancy created by Palmer's resignation.

Park Ranger Harry Trischman was retired at the close of December 31, after more than 34 years of service with the Government in Yellowstone.

Two employees returned to their old jobs here after completion of military service: Assistant Chief Ranger William S. Chapman returned to the Park on December 2, and entered on duty on December 26, after having served with the U. S. Army since January 17, 1945. Park Ranger Frank F. Kowski returned to the Park on December 15, after having served with the U. S. Coast Guard since October 2, 1942. He will return to duty on January 2.

Messrs. Johnston, Joffe, and Bauer gave a Yellowstone program at a meeting of the Rotary Club in Livingston, Montana, on December 17. Dr. Bauer gave an illustrated talk on Park features.

On December 20, Messrs. Joffe, Barrows, Bauer, and Evans attended a meeting of the Park County Rod and Gun Club at Livingston, Montana, and Dr. Bauer showed movies of the Park.

The Victory Loan Drive closed on December 8, but sales were credited to the end of December 31. The Park finished with sales to Park service employees totalling \$13,555.80 against its interdepartmental quota of \$5,499.10, or 242 per cent. As a unit in the State of Wyoming, the Park finished with a total of \$53,962.84, as against a quota of \$13,000, or 415 per cent.

Holiday festivities in the Park this year were under the direction of a Christmas Committee appointed by Acting Superintendent Johnston. The Committee consisted of Mrs. Hollis R. Hope, Chairman, Mrs. Everette L. Arnold, Mrs. Rudolf Grimm; Mrs. W. A. Wright, Mrs. Alfred I. Bowman, Mr. Grant D. Anderson, and Mr. Earl Hochstrasser. The Mammoth school children presented a program in the Canteen on December 21. Santa Claus appeared after the program and distributed candy, nuts, fruit, and presents to the children.

Inspections. W. A. Jann, Superintendent, Yellowstone Fish Cultural Station, Bozeman, Montana, and Jack R. Chipman, Superintendent, Bozeman Fish Cultural Station, were in for a conference on fish planting on December 4. Willard P. Lindauer and Charles P. Mottz, Engineers, Region Two Office, were in on December 6 to review the Roads and Trails program and assist in engineering and maintenance problems of the Park.

Plans, Maps, and Surveys. During the visit of Regional Engineers Mottz and Lindauer the questions of a Roads and Trails maintenance report for Custer Battlefield National Cemetery and Devils Power National Monument were discussed. All agreed that an investigation in the spring would be more advisable when the roads were free of snow and the true condition of the surface more evident.

There is no active construction project in Yellowstone Park at this time. A test well was drilled at Custer Battlefield National Cemetery during the month. Almost daily contact was made with Superintendent Luce over the radio

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during drilling operations. From latest reports, the well was completed and a very satisfactory supply of water encountered.

General Publicity. On December 14, distribution of the Superintendent's Annual Report for 1945 (mimeographed) was completed. Twenty copies were mailed to National Park Service officials and collectors of Yellowstone literature.

Road Maintenance. Several light snowstorms occurred during the month, making snow removal and sanding almost a daily operation. The rotary broom was used to good advantage for keeping the snow off the road between Mammoth and Gardiner when the snowfall was light. Between Mammoth and Cooke the push type blade plows were used. Snow in the Cooke area is approximately three feet deep and packed. Snow in the Mammoth area runs from 6 to 12 inches. Heavy thaws and rain during the latter part of the month resulted in a bad ice condition on the roads necessitating heavy sanding.

Only two permanent men were on the road maintenance crew during the month, supplemented by one heavy equipment operator from the Mechanical Division.

Concessioners. The Western Park Concessioners' meeting in Chicago began on December 3. Superintendent Rogers attended the meeting.

Mr. J. E. Haynes left the Park on December 1, after having spent three days in his shop at Mammoth.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. Travel was low during December, and the Naturalist's Office received no applications for admission to the Mammoth museum. The occasional visitors are quite interested in the deer that frequent the Mammoth lawns, and usually take pictures of them.

Chief Park Naturalist Bauer spent about four days in reviewing and checking a historical manuscript on Yellowstone Park which was submitted by the author, Miss Marie Augspurger, of Middletown, Ohio.

Park Naturalist Fredrick continued his work on preparation of sketches of common birds of the park, for use as illustrations in the manuscript which he is preparing.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. One hundred fifty-six motor vehicles entered the Park during the month as compared to 60 in December 1944, an increase of 95 per cent. Five thousand five hundred ninety-three motor vehicles have entered the park this travel year as compared to 1,416 last year showing an increase of 295 per cent.

Four hundred seventy-nine persons entered the Park in December as against 232 for December 1944. The number of persons entering the park this travel year (15,285) as compared to 4,317 to December 1944 shows an increase of 10,968 or 254.1 per cent.

Ranger Service. Protection patrols of the park boundaries and some interior areas featured the work of rangers stationed outside of headquarters. These

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patrols were made by skis and snowshoes, except along the north boundary where the elk hunting season is still open in Park County, Montana, horses were still used. Patrols of the highway through the Gallatin area of the park were made regularly at night to prevent poaching, and these efforts have been successful as no illegal activities have been noted this month.

Repairs to the three elk traps located at Mammoth, Gardiner, and the Game Ranch were completed and the traps were baited during the month to attract the animals, so that they can be captured in early January to fill pending live shipments. The permanent fish planting records were brought up to date and all pertinent data for the last year were placed on cards for the wildlife index. All preliminary arrangements for the slaughter of 200 bison in the Lamar area were completed and baiting operations to attract the animals to the vicinity of the trapping corrals were carried on, starting December 12. Approximately 250 bison have visited the bait and can probably be trapped soon after January 1. Conferences were held with the superintendents of Fish and Wildlife Service stations and the Foreman of the migrant, Montana, hatchery to make plans for the 1946 fish cultural program.

Police Protection. On December 24, a park ranger on boundary patrol apprehended three youths from Gardiner, Montana, as they were walking up the Yellowstone River trail while in the possession of three unsealed .22 caliber rifles. After being questioned at the Chief Ranger's Office, the boys were released, as it appeared that they were using the park trail to reach their hunting grounds outside the park.

Three men, from Buffalo, Montana, were apprehended on December 28th on the charge of killing an elk in the park near Crevice Creek. As Commissioner Gilcox is now on annual leave, their hearing has been held over until sometime after January 18.

Forest Fire Protection. The Forest Protection Requirements report was revised in the Region Two Office by Chief Ranger Barrows and regional forester Childs during the first two weeks of December. The report was completed in rough draft form and was to be typed in the Region Two Office then transmitted to Yellowstone before formal submittal.

Wildlife Activities. Hunting Seasons: The elk hunting season in Gallatin County, Montana, closed at midnight on November 28, or three days ahead of the regular closing date, as the desired kill of 600 animals had been exceeded. The game checking station report shows that 738 elk were taken by hunters and it was estimated that 70 additional animals died as a result of the hunting season, making a total reduction of 808 elk in the Gallatin herd. Hunters also took 115 deer, 24 moose, and 7 bears in that area.

Hunting conditions north of the park in Park County, Montana, remained poor. The total elk kill for the season to date in the Gardiner-Jarline area is estimated at approximately 50 animals. This does not include elk taken during the early season in the Slough Creek, Hellroaring, and Buffalo areas. Warm weather

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and a lack of snow combined to make foraging conditions in the park favorable, and although many animals are concentrated in the lower areas and along the park boundary, there has been no migration to open hunting territory.

Accidents. One automobile accident occurred during the month. The single occupant of the automobile, a National Park Service employee, was not injured when his car overturned after climbing a bank after the lights went out as he was going around a curve. Damage to the car was slight.

An automobile, which had been stolen from a resident of Bozeman, Montana, during November was found at the bottom of a high fill on the Gallatin-East Yellowstone road. The car was covered with about two feet of snow and had apparently been there since the time it was stolen. The vehicle was removed by a wrecker from Bozeman and under the supervision of park rangers and the sheriff of Gallatin County, Montana.

Miscellaneous. Lieut. Col. Jack Barrows (Forester, Director's Office) and wife arrived in the Park on December 29, for a visit with his brother, Maynard (Chief Ranger).

The National Federation of Federal Employees, Local No. 465, held its monthly business meeting at the Canteen on December 3.

Fred T. Johnston,
Acting Superintendent.

In Sextuplicate.

cc: Region Two (in duplicate).

File (2)

JJ/cws

