10-23
(June 1941)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

✓	ROGERS	
✓	Johnston	
✓	JOFFE	
✓	SMITH	
	MACBETH	
	SHORLY	
	QUIST	
	SOMERVILLE	
	LANOUE	
✓	BARROWS	
✓	ELLIOTT	
✓	EVANS	
✓	BAUER	
✓	Mohlhenrich	
	ROBINSON	

FILE NO. 207-02.3

MONTHLY REPORT

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

MAY
1943

IMPORTANT

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371

June 7, 1943

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone Park for the month of May 1943:

Weather Conditions. As was the case during the past two years, there was considerable precipitation during the month of May in the form of both rain and snow which was beneficial in delaying the fire danger. There were few clear, sunshiny days, but toward the end of the month several days of warm weather raised the streams to flood proportions and many of them were running over their banks. The foot-bridge over the Gardiner river to the old target range was washed out and others were endangered, as were also portions of the Gardiner river road. Most of the streams and rivers were higher than they had been for many years, and there was still a great deal of snow in the high country to run off which might cause damage later. There was considerable concern over water damage which might result later around Livingston and other communities on the Yellowstone River. As only the north and west gates were open to travel during the month and there were very few visitors, the stormy weather did not greatly inconvenience those who were able to reach the park. There were only four clear days during the month, twelve partly cloudy and fifteen cloudy. The maximum temperature was 75° on the 27th and 28th and the minimum 18° on the 12th. Total precipitation for the month was [illegible].43 inches as against 4.25 in May 1942. A strong wind on May 10 caused numerous trees to fall and somewhat delayed road opening operations.

Snow depths decreased rapidly in the lower elevations of the park while at the higher elevations a great deal of the winter snow pack remained. Snow depths at the end of the month were reported as follows: northeast entrance, West Yellowstone, east entrance and Lake Station, drifts; south entrance, 36 inches; Old Faithful (in timber), 26 inches; Isa Lake, 72 inches; Sylvan Pass, 200 inches (drift).

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers was in the park until May 24 when he left for Denver and Omaha to confer with the Regional Director and to contact FSA, Civil Service, OPA, Forest Service and other governmental agencies on matters affecting the park. He arrived in Denver the night of May 24, having flown from Billings, and left Denver the night of the 28th for Omaha, spending the night of the 29th there and returning to Denver on the 30th. He expected to return to the park on June 2. Assistant Superintendent Johnston, who reported to the park by transfer from Region One, Richmond, on May 17 and entered on duty the following day, was acting in the Superintendent's absence.

The snow plows started opening the roads this year on May 3, considerably later than during the past several years. The plows reached West Yellowstone and Old Faithful the following day as very little snow was encountered. On May 10 the road from the north entrance to the west entrance was opened to travel, and on the evening of May 22 travel was permitted to Old Faithful. The plows reached Canyon on May 10. The road to Canyon and Lake was open to motorists on May 29. Considerable snow was encountered by the plows on the east side of the park and it was not expected that the east entrance road would be open before June 10 and the south entrance June 23. As no funds are available for opening the northeast entrance road from Red Lodge to Cooke it will probably be necessary for this highway to open of its own accord.

The meal rates for the government messes in the park were changed effective May 1 to $1.20 per day and 65¢ for single meals. The previously approved rates were $1.20 per day or 55¢ for single meals.

On May 12 details were worked out with Mr. W. M. Nichols, President of the Yellowstone Park Company, for the operations to be under way during the summer, and it was decided that no hotels, lodges or cafeterias would operate, that there would be no bus service, no service at West Thumb, Canyon or Tower Falls, and that meals and lodgings would be available at the C. A. Hamilton stores at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge and the Pryor Coffee Shop at Mammoth beginning May 29, and that tourist cabins, both furnished and unfurnished, would be available at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge beginning June 25. On May 22 a conference was held with Mr. Nichols and Mr. Moorman of the Yellowstone Park Company, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Haynes and Mrs. Pryor, and the services agreed upon May 12 were approved. A circular of information regarding the accommodations and services to be available during the 1943 season was issued under date of May 25 and a copy is attached to this report.

The Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge stores officially opened on May 29 to accommodate overnight visitors although the Old Faithful store had been taking care of visitors since the 23rd, and the Mammoth store was open to accommodate overnight visitors beginning May 29. The Haynes Mammoth store opened on the same day.

The fishing season opened in the park on Decoration Day, May 30, but due to high and muddy water stream fishing was very poor.

On May 22 the superintendent appointed a new school board for the next school year consisting of Albert E. Elliott, Chairman, Harold J. Brodrick, Secretary-Treasurer, Philip H. Wohlbrandt and Mrs. Henry Peterson. The school term ended on May 21.

On May 23 the park was the scene of a horrible accident which occurred in the area near West Yellowstone. A B-17 bomber from the airfield at Lewistown, Montana, caught fire and crashed at a point about four miles

south and two miles east of the west entrance shortly after midnight. Ten members of the crew died from the accident while only one member, Lieutenant William McDonald, 24, bombardier, was able to escape. A report covering this accident was prepared and submitted to the Director and Regional Director. The dead included Sergeant William S. McCune, 25, of West Orange, New Jersey; Staff Sergeant Lawrence T. Medlin, 19, of Chattanooga, Tennessee; Staff Sergeant Leo E. Thorn, 30, Lake Charles, Louisiana; Staff Sergeant Donald T. Rice, 21, Henrietta, New York; Staff Sergeant Gilbert E. Underwood, 37, West Orange, New Jersey; Staff Sergeant Alexander Jurkowski, 21, Brooklyn, New York; Lieutenant Roy E. Thompson, 23, Mount Pleasant, New York; Lieutenant James Jerome Highley, 22, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Lieutenant George A. Brast, 23, Roosevelt, New York; Lieutenant Robert H. Edwards, 37, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The approved efficiency ratings for park employees as of March 31, 1943 were received on May 27 and distributed to all employees concerned.

Inspections. Lieutenant F. A. Pelligrini, Coast Guard Intelligence, Seattle, in May 10 to investigate former District Ranger Earl Semingsen; C. H. Pollock, Post Office Inspector, Casper, and J. F. Burgett, Post Office Inspector, Denver, in May 15 to discuss postal operations for the summer; Harry J. Liek, Superintendent, Wind Cave National Park, in May 21 to get road grader for Badlands National Monument; Robert Bond, PWA engineer, Denver, in May 24; W. R. Krumm and A. T. Small, Weather Observers, U. S. Weather Bureau, Boise, in May 27 to make arrangements for furnishing weather reports to the park for the summer; John G. Gatlin, Regional Director, and F. S. Hibbe, Regional Supervisor, Division of Fish Culture, Albuquerque, New Mexico, in May 29 to discuss fish program.

Plans, maps and surveys. Besides the general office routine the final report on Old Faithful Sewer, F. P. 481, was completed.

General Publicity. A press release for local newspapers regarding the dead elk count was sent out from the park on May 7, and one on the season's operations and road openings on May 12. On May 25 a circular of general information regarding services and accommodations available in the park for the 1943 season was issued for answering inquiries and for distribution to park visitors to supplement the 1942 park folder which will be used again this season.

Road Maintenance. Maintenance crews were organized and were operating at Mammoth, Madison Junction, Gallatin, Tower Falls and Canyon by the end of the month. There is a severe shortage of labor for road maintenance work, and the park has been forced to employ quite a number of high school boys who are mostly sixteen and seventeen years of age and rather light for the heavy maintenance work. However, they are the best and only ones available.

Four thousand gallons of RC-2 road oil were placed as a seal coat on the Mammoth to Tower Falls section. Extremely wet weather is delaying the oiling operations.

The roads, in general, went through the winter in good shape; however, the rapid runoff of water the last two weeks of the month was causing considerable damage. The most danger is on the Mammoth-Gardiner section along the Gardiner river where the extremely high water is eating into the bank in a number of places. By the end of the month the crews had been able to check this erosion, but it is believed that the high water peak has not yet been reached.

The temporary bridge that was placed over the hot spot that developed in the middle of the road near Beryl Spring was removed and a concrete slab placed there. There was still plenty of heat at this point.

The snow crews started out on May 3 to open the roads to West Yellowstone and Old Faithful, then returned to Norris and went to Canyon, Lake and Thumb; from Thumb they returned to Lake and started east, and by the end of the month had reached Sylvan Lake. Exceptionally good time was made because of a number of bare spots, but the average depth of snow ran from three to six feet.

Work on Job 509, Improvement of Water Channels under Bridges, Tower Falls to Cooke, was nearly completed by the end of the month except for landscaping.

Other Maintenance. The carpenters completed placing a new asbestos shingle roof on Building 4-a A B and started on Building 5-a A B. The painters redecorated two rooms of Apartment F, Building No. 70; painted flashings and eaves of roof of Building No. 4; painted outside new work on Building No. 9-a; worked on kitchen and hall in Building No. 6-a; and painted hull and lettering on No. 2 boat.

Park Operators. The general store and gasoline filling station at Mammoth was open throughout the month to take care of local residents and early visitors. They began serving meals and accommodating overnight visitors on May 29. The general store at Old Faithful was opened on May 16, and Mr. Hamilton started taking care of overnight guests on May 23. The Fishing Bridge general store opened on May 29 for overnight guests.

Mrs. Pryor and Mr. Hamilton arrived at the park via the west gate on May 15. Mr. Haynes, who has made his home this winter in Bozeman, visited the park on several occasions during the month. His operations at Mammoth opened on May 29. Mr. Nichols visited the park on May 12 and May 21 and 22, and arrangements were completed for the operations to be under way in the park this summer.

Cooperating Governmental Agencies. No construction work was under way during the month. Mr. Robert Bond, PRA engineer from Denver, visited the park on May 24 for a conference on matters to be handled by the PRA in the park this summer.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. One thousand five hundred sixteen persons entered the park during May as compared to nine thousand three hundred fifty-seven during the same month of 1942. The total entering the park for this travel year to date is seven thousand seven hundred fifty-three, compared to twenty-five thousand two hundred twenty-nine for 1942, a decrease of 17,476, or 69.2%.

Five hundred ten cars entered the park in May compared with three thousand seventy for the same month in 1942. The total cars entering the park for this travel year is two thousand six hundred forty-eight compared to eight thousand eight hundred eighty eight for 1942, a decrease of 6,240, or 70.2%

Ranger Service. Ranger work for May was highly diversified.

The opening of the various roads required the moving of several of the personnel from headquarters to field stations. Of the interior stations, Old Faithful, Canyon and Lake are now manned and spring work is in progress.

North, northeast and west gates have been operated on a 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. basis since the opening of the road to West Yellowstone. North gate has been in operation throughout the month.

The army bomber which crashed in the vicinity of West Yellowstone on the night of May 23 required the efforts of all available ranger personnel for the ensuing week in the search and removal operations.

Trailwork, telephone line repair, horse pasture repair, building fire inspection and road patrol along with organization of the protection force for summer operations consumed the remainder of the rangers' time.

A "show-me" trip conducted by members of the protection force May 8 and 9 culminated in the formation of the Absaroka Wildlife Conservation Committee.

Hollis H. Hope reported for work as ranger May 18, 1943.

Police Protection. No law enforcement cases were held during the month of May.

Accidents. No automobile accidents were reported for the month.

Wildlife Administration. On May 8 and 9 the Absaroka Wildlife Conservation Committee was formed by representatives of the Montana Fish and Game Department, Forest Service, National Park Service, Park County Rod and Gun Club, Livingston Chamber of Commerce, Livingston Junior Chamber of Commerce,

Dude Rancher's Association and stockgrowers. The representatives spent parts of the two days examining the northern winter game range and at the final meeting voted to recommend to the Montana Fish and Game Commission that hunters harvest 1,600 elk from the northern Yellowstone herd next winter. From the facts available it was agreed that this would leave a herd of approximately 7,000 in the spring of 1944.

Elk. The 1943 reduction report summarizing the past winter's operations was submitted.

Buffalo. On May 20 eleven buffalo remained a short distance outside the park on Eagle Creek above Gardiner, Montana. Other buffalo which wintered outside the park apparently had returned to the park. Most of the animals in the Lamar herd frequented the Horseshoe area during May when numerous calves were observed. Attempts to secure a census of the calves were not successful.

The annual buffalo report was submitted during the month.

Bears. No bear damages or injuries were reported during the month. Very few black bears were seen near the roads but numerous grizzlies were reported from various places. One yearling grizzly was killed by a car near Norris on May 26.

Rodent Control. Rodent control activities disposed of 180 ground squirrels in the Mammoth area and 75 near the Tower Falls ranger station during May. Control measures, which are limited to areas of human habitation, were restricted by a lack of ammunition for the purpose.

Fish Culture. On May 19, 30,999 size 1-1/2 loch leven trout were delivered by the Montana Fish and Game Department from the hatchery at Emigrant and planted in the Gardiner River.

Superintendent William Dunn of the Fish and Wildlife Service hatchery at Yellowstone Lake started work on May 15 and had enlarged his crew to seventeen men by the end of the month. Extremely high water hampered the work of placing the traps in operation and the low temperature of the waters of the streams and lakes apparently delayed the run so that no spawn had been taken to the end of the month.

Spawn taking at Trout Lake near Soda Butte commenced on May 22 and 325,000 rainbow eggs had been secured by May 31. A spawn-taker will be assigned to work at Grebe Lake on June 1. It is planned to secure approximately 2,000,000 grayling eggs at that station this season.

Forest Fire Protection. Due to the fact that there was very little frost in the ground when the winter snow began to melt, there was an unusual amount of windfalls throughout the forested areas of the park during the

month. This added greatly to maintenance work on highways and telephone lines.

One ranger was assigned to work in the forest fire tool cache during most of the month and was assisted by other rangers from time to time as other work permitted. All the forest fire protection equipment was thoroughly inventoried and all fire fighting equipment units placed in readiness for the 1943 fire season. A fire guard was entered on duty on May 24 to handle the work in the headquarters fire tool cache. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in hiring fire guards and pre-suppression crewmen. Word was received during the month that one fire guard position had been reallocated to $1800 per year and five to $1620 per year.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees' Union was held in the Canteen on May 3.

Word was received on May 5 that former park service employees Carl Hemingsen, Hugh Peyton, Curtis F. Skinner, John Jay, Allin Hewitt, Frank Kowski, Walter Cassill and Wayne Alcorn, who had enlisted in the U. S. Coast Guard and were stationed on the West Coast, had all been recommended for commissions as ensigns and that Mr. Hemingsen had already received his commission and was being considered for promotion to a lieutenant, junior grade. Verde Watson, former Yellowstone ranger who enlisted in the same organization, was being recommended for Warrant Officer.

Park Ranger Harry Stone was married in Rock Springs, Wyoming, on May 28, to Edna Maxine Kralix of Prescott, Iowa.

Katherine Heavey, Yellowstone Acting Postmaster, was married in Bozeman, Montana, on May 30, to D'Orion Shew, Northern Pacific Agent at Gardiner.

Edmund B. Rogers,
Superintendent.

Encl.

cc- Region Two

JJ/rvc

Department of the Interior
National Park Service

May 25, 1943.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

SEASON OF 1943

Yellowstone National Park will be open during the 1943 season to take care of such visitors as might be able to reach the park. None of the hotels, lodges or cafeterias will be in operation during the season. None of the railroads serving the park will deliver passengers to the various gateways with the exception of the Northern Pacific, which will run daily bus service, except Sundays, from the main line at Livingston, Montana, to Gardiner, Montana, the north entrance.

No buses will be operated in the park so that travel will be confined entirely to persons having their own transportation.

ROADS

North and west gates now open to visitors and road to Old Faithful. Roads to Canyon and Lake from north and west gates open May 29.

East entrance road opens June 10; south entrance June 23; northeast entrance early in July; Continental Divide June 26; Dunraven Pass June 30.

ACCOMMODATIONS

MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS - General store and gasoline filling station; coffee shop (meals and lodgings and fountain service). This service now available.

OLD FAITHFUL - General store and gasoline filling station; garage service; meals and lodgings and fountain service in general store. This service now available. Tourist cabins (furnished and unfurnished) beginning June 25.

FISHING BRIDGE - General store and gasoline filling station; garage service; meals and lodgings and fountain service in general store. This service available beginning June 5. Boats for hire beginning June 10. Tourist cabins (furnished and unfurnished) beginning June 25.

HAYNES PICTURE SHOPS

Haynes Picture Shops at Mammoth Hot Springs and Old Faithful (beginning May 29 Film, postcards, Haynes Guide, etc. available at Fishing Bridge at Hamilton store.

RATES

Meals at coffee shop at Mammoth and Hamilton stores at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge; breakfast 75¢; lunch $1.00; dinner $1.00. Fountain service available at these three locations.

Lodging at coffee shop at Mammoth and Hamilton stores at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge; $1.50 per night single; $2.50 per night double.

Tourist cabins at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge after June 25: furnished cabins (not including cooking utensils), one person, per night $1.75; two persons, per night, $3.00. Partially furnished cabins: $1.00 for one person, per night; $1.25 to $4.00 for two to four persons per night.

BATHING

Neither the swimming pool at Mammoth Hot Springs nor the swimming pool at Old Faithful will be open. Public baths at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge tourist cabins - shower baths 25¢.

SADDLE HORSES

No saddle horses for hire in park.

- over -

MAIL

Only the main post office at Mammoth Hot Springs, the park headquarters, will be open. Mail must be called for at this post office.

TELEPHONE SERVICE

Telephone booths for long distance and park service available at the Haynes Picture Shop at Mammoth, Hamilton store and tourist cabins at Old Faithful and Hamilton store and tourist cabins at Fishing Bridge.

TELEGRAPH SERVICE

No telegraph stations will be operated in the park. Incoming telegrams for the park will be received at the Northern Pacific Depot at Gardiner and 'phoned into the park. Outgoing telegrams from the park will be 'phoned to the telegraph office in the depot at Gardiner.

MEDICAL SERVICE

The Mammoth hospital will not be operated. Nurses available at Mammoth, Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge.

LAUNDRY

No laundry service will be available in the park.

CHURCH SERVICES

No regularly scheduled church services in the park. Ministers from Livingston will conduct services in the chapel at Mammoth about once a month.

FISHING

Fishing season: May 30 to October 15, except in special areas. NO FISHING LICENSE REQUIRED. Boats for rent at Fishing Bridge. Fishing regulations available at ranger stations and contained in 1942 folder, which are available at park entrances and ranger stations.

MUSEUMS

The museums at Mammoth and Old Faithful will be open beginning June 20 on scheduled hours. No guide or lecture service. Self-guiding trails at Mammoth and Old Faithful.

HOURS FOR GATES

The park gates will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

CAMPGROUNDS

The following campgrounds will be open for campers: Madison Junction; Lewis Lake; Pebble Creek; Mammoth; Indian Creek; Lava Creek; Old Faithful; Fishing Bridge West Thumb; Specimen Creek; Norris.

The following campgrounds will not be open: Snake River; Canyon; Tower Falls; Yellowstone Cascades.

LITERATURE

As funds are not available for the publication of a Government folder for the 1943 season and due to changing conditions the 1942 folder for the park, containing a good map, general regulations and information on the park features, will be available at all entrance and ranger stations.

FIREWOOD

For sale at tourist cabins at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge beginning June 25

BUFFALO SHOW HERD AND GRIZZLY BEAR GROUNDS

The buffalo corral at Antelope Creek and the Grizzly Bear Grounds at Canyon will not be open to the public.

ENTRANCE FEE

The regular $3.00 motor vehicle license fee and $1.00 house trailer fee will be charged.

MAXIMUM SPEED 35 MILES - STRICTLY ENFORCED. DON'T FEED THE BEARS!

Edmund B. Rogers,
Superintendent.