10-23
(May 1929)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

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✓	NEILSON
	BUSSEY
	LARSEN
	SHOREY
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✓	LANOUE
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✓	SCHWEITZER
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MONTHLY REPORT

January, 1940

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 6—7410

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYOMING

February 5, 1940

Memorandum for the Director:

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of January 1940:

000 - General

010 - While the months of October, November and December were unusually mild and there was practically no snow until late in December, the month of January saw a change in weather and, like practically every place else in the United States, the park suffered from a severe cold spell lasting approximately from the eleventh to twenty-fifth of January. The snowfall for the month was above normal although the amount of snow on the ground at the end of the month at all points in the park was considerably below normal. While all of the roads except the north side road were closed before the end of the year, a car made the trip to Old Faithful on January 1 and returned the following day, and another car made the trip from Mammoth to West Yellowstone on the second. The following day the road from Mammoth to West Yellowstone was definitely closed. On January 22 and 23 the road was cleared by snow plow from Mammoth to Biscuit Basin in order to obtain data with regard to the cost of snow removal and as an experiment in winter road opening.

The New Year got an auspicious start with the annual Mummers' Parade and banquet at the Mammoth mess. This Mummers' Parade has been held each New Year's Day for the past several years, and a large number of Mammoth residents dressed up in grotesque costumes and paraded around the Mammoth village. More than a hundred participated in a New Year's dinner at the Government mess, where talks and entertainment for the group were provided.

Winter activities are becoming increasingly popular in the park, and an attempt has been made to bring more visitors in during the winter months to see and photograph the wildlife and to ski and skate. Considerable publicity was sent out through the park and the Gardiner Commercial Club with regard to the buffalo show on January 14 which resulted in 159 cars carrying 585 passengers coming into the park. Visitors engaged in skiing near Tower Junction and between Tower Junction and the Buffalo Ranch, and viewed the buffalo in the corrals at the Buffalo Ranch. Visitors were

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taken through the corrals on the hay sled. The road from Gardiner to Mammoth to Tower Junction to the north east entrance and Cooke is being kept cleared of snow throughout the winter, affording year-around travel over this northern section of the park. February 11 has been designated as Montana Day and quite a large gathering is expected in the park for that occasion. Last year more than one thousand persons came to the park on Montana Day. The Easter Sunrise Service will be repeated this year on Easter morning, March 24, and will be held as it was last year on the Mammoth hot spring terraces. An ice skating rink has been provided at Mammoth on the concrete platform in front of the Army orientation [illegible] and has proved very popular.

The Yellowstone and the National Park Service lost one of their best friends and champions in the passing on New Year's Day of Daniel [illegible]. Greenburg of Cheyenne, Wyoming. Going to the post office in Cheyenne to get his mail, Mr. Greenburg was struck with a heart attack and died the same day. He was sixty-three years of age. Mr. Greenburg had been interested in Wyoming and Yellowstone history throughout his years in the west and possessed one of the finest Yellowstone libraries in the country. He had been at the head of the Wyoming Planning Board up to several months ago and had recently received an appointment from the Census Bureau in connection with the taking of the 1940 census, having expected to enter on duty on January 2. Mr. Greenburg greatly aided the Park Service in its fight to prevent irrigationists from damming Yellowstone Lake and on other irrigation problems affecting the park, and could always be counted upon to uphold the Park Service viewpoint on matters affecting the national parks and monuments.

020 - General Weather Conditions

January 1940 was 1.8 degrees colder than the average for the month, with the cold period coming between the eleventh and the twenty-fifth. A cold wave arrived on the seventeenth, the temperature gradually falling from 21 above zero at 8 a.m. the seventeenth, and reaching 43 below zero at 8 a.m. twenty-four hours later. There were two full days during which temperatures were never above zero, and below-zero readings occurred every night from the seventeenth to the twenty-fifth. Precipitation was slightly above normal; between six or eight inches of snow lay on the ground at Mammoth throughout the entire month. Water content of the snowfields at higher elevations is well under the average for mid-winter.

The following tabulation shows the snow depths at the close of January for various locations in the park over a comparative ten-year period:

(see following page)

	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Buffalo Ranch	8	22	16	4	11	22	12	23	12	19
Pechler River	32	63	86	40	43	80	64	52	70	40
Cooke	17	32	23	29	16	29	28	38	41	---
East Entrance	8	29	30	24	30	40	24	--	30	21
Gallatin	18	24	27	17	27	29	21	15	22	11
Lake	11	29	31	20	20	26	15	25	32	21
Lewis River Divide	30	72	98	55	73	100	86	50	64	45
Mammoth	9	21	10	3.6	6.2	16	6.5	5.5	6.5	9
Old Faithful	14	41	48	31	36	30	19	38	34	17
Snake River	23	50	51	36	37	60	43	46	56	34
Tower Falls	14	24	20	5	12	26	13	24.5	15	15
West Yellowstone	16	36	38	26	30	35	34	20	32	18
Crevice										26

100 - Administrative

110 - Superintendent's Special Activities

Superintendent Rogers was on leave in Denver from December 17 to January 3, on which latter date he left for Washington on a special assignment to take over the acting superintendency of the National Capital Parks. He engaged on this work the remainder of the month and expected to be in Washington until about the first of April. During his absence Assistant Superintendent Kennert was acting.

Acting Superintendent Kennert and Assistant to the Superintendent Jaffe conferred in Gardiner on January 13 with the directors of the Gardiner Commercial Club and a representative of the Continental Oil Company with regard to the proper publicity in connection with the longer Yellowstone season and the keeping open of the north side road in the winter. On January 15 they conferred with Dr. Vinsor in Livingston with regard to his new medical contract.

120 - Park Inspections

L. J. Snell, Junior Engineer, Biological Survey, Boise, arrived via north gate January 19; out north twenty-second.

140 - Status of Private Lands

Little progress was made in connection with the obtaining of the private land as an addition to the winter range for wildlife of the park, but the United States Attorney's office at Billings was proceeding with the filing of declarations of taking on all private property in the area involved.

150 - Plans, Maps and Surveys

Compilation of the future construction program of the park was started, and cost records of the past year for maintenance were figured. Stakes were set on the Mammoth Service Road, and work continued on routine office drawings.

160 - General Publicity

Several news releases with regard to winter activities were issued from the park and published in papers throughout the country, while two special articles for the annual spring edition of the Casper Tribune-Herald were prepared and furnished that newspaper. The Cheyenne Commercial Club and the Livingston Chamber of Commerce have publicized the park's winter activities in news releases and radio broadcasts.

A six-installment story entitled "Old Lover's Ghost" which began in the January 13 issue of the Saturday Evening Post and which has its locale in the park has caused much comment and interest and should result in attracting a number of visitors to the park. The story was written by Mrs. Ford Brown of Annapolis, Maryland, who writes under the pen name of Leslie Ford and has a national reputation for her murder mystery stories. Mrs. Brown visited the park for some six weeks last summer to obtain material for this story.

200 - Maintenance, New Construction and Improvements

210 - Maintenance

The road to Cooke City was kept clear of snow throughout the month, snow fence was set, and the roads around Mammoth were graded.

230 - Special Improvement Activities

ERA - The ERA continued road bank sloping on the Mammoth-Gardiner road, landscaping and betterments around Mammoth.

CCC - The average company strength of Camps NP-1 and NP-2 was approximately 107 each from the first to the fifteenth, at which time new enrollees arrived. During the last half of the month the company strength was approximately 195 each. Due to the low company strength during the first half of the month, progress on all CCC jobs was retarded. During the last half of the month very good progress was shown on all jobs, although weather conditions did retard work on some. No jobs were given complete during the month of January.

300 - Activities of Other Agencies in the Park

310 - Park Operators

The general store at Mammoth was kept open throughout the month to take care of permanent residents and members of the CCC and ERA.

A new medical contract for a period of ten years with Dr. George L. Windsor and effective January 1, 1940 was prepared and forwarded to Washington on January 17 for approval.

400 - Interpretation

410 - Lecture and Guide Service

A member of the naturalist department gave lectures during the month, using Kodachrome movies, to groups totaling 250 persons. Two of these lectures were presented at Colorado Springs, Colorado, and two at Yellowstone National Park.

430 - Research and Observation

432 - Zoology

Antelope. Antelope were observed eating Russian thistle to the exclusion of other plants. This observation was made in the vicinity of Rattlesnake Butte where antelope and bighorns were using the same range.

Bighorn. Seventy-five animals were counted in the Mount Everts band of which fifteen per cent were lambs. In the Lamar District on Baronette, Druid, Abiathar Peaks and on Mount Norris and Specimen Ridge, 54 bighorns were counted. In the Tower Falls District 64 were observed, which made a total of 193 seen during the month.

Bison. The public was invited to motor to the Buffalo Ranch on January 14 to observe the animals in the corrals, and this event was given wide publicity. As approximately 150 buffalo were in the ranch vicinity on January 1, it was anticipated that they could be baited into the corrals with hay by the fourteenth. Although feeding was started on January 4, the buffalo refused to utilize the hay and with the mild weather conditions continuing they moved to the Gache Creek country where they stayed until the morning of January 14, when they were again between the two drift fences. As the buffalo show had been widely advertised, 110 animals were corraled by nine riders on that morning in time for the visitors to view them. Two sleds were used to take people through the herd in the corrals and practically all of the visitors had an opportunity to view the animals at close range.

There were 463 animals on the Buffalo Ranch at the end of the month, and an average of 400 buffalo were fed 25 tons of hay for 15 days.

Elk. No elk migrations to open hunting territory beyond park boundaries occurred this month as the rather light snowfall remained loose and the animals were able to forage without difficulty. The Mammoth and Gardiner elk traps were baited the latter part of the month but no elk could be lured into the corrals. There are shipping orders on hand for 55 elk at the present time.

The hunters' take in Park County, Montana, is 110 to date, as compared with 3,066 last year. As the condition of the weather is the controlling factor in elk migrations no predication of the probable hunters' take can be made. The Montana Fish and Game Department indicated that the season would remain open until March 1.

500 - Use of Park Facilities by the Public

510 - Increase or Decrease in Travel

An increasing interest in winter sports and the big game to be seen in the northern section of the park continues to draw many winter visitors and accounts largely for a continued increase in travel. (See attached report.)

ENTRANCE	1st Entry		Re-entry		Motorcycle		Other Transport.		TOTALS	
	Cars	Pass.	Cars	Pass.	No.	Pass.	No.	People	Vehicles	Pass.
North West	474	1583	202	508	0	0	0	0	676	2091
South Northeast East			48	127	0	0	0	0	48	127
TOTALS	474	1583	250	635	0	0	0	0	724	2218

600 - Protection

610 - Ranger Service

The open season on elk which was continued in Park County, Montana, and the open season on fur-bearing animals in other territory adjacent to the park, required intensive boundary patrols. The annual waterfowl census was conducted in connection with regular protection patrols and all drainages in the park were systematically covered.

Supervision of winter sports and highway patrols required much of the rangers' time--this being especially true on weekends. The buffalo roundup, land acquisition program, revision of the long range construction program and preparations for trapping live elk were the principal additional activities carried on.

640 - Forest Fire Protection

The Annual Forest Fire Report, the Annual Forestry Report, and the Fire Atlas were completed during the month. A proposed program for the Southwest Fire Protection Training School to be held April [illegible] to [illegible], inclusive, was prepared and data and information secured to be used in connection with it.

650 - Building Fire Protection

Upon the completion of the installation of the sprinkler system at the Buffalo Ranch, two hose houses were erected and each equipped with 300 feet of standard 2-1/2 inch hose with a playpipe nozzle attached. Several inspections were made of various buildings in the Yellowstone area on which major reconstruction or repair work is being done.

900 - Miscellaneous

The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union was held on January 6 in the Canteen at which meeting new officers were elected and the constitution revised. Curtis K. Skinner was elected President; Louie Smith Dudley, Vice President; Richard J. Smith, Secretary-Treasurer; and Lillian Reeve, Guardian. The Executive Board elected consists of Jess Stanton, Joe May, David Condon, Grant Anderson and Earl Robinson.

On January 27 the regular annual meeting of the Yellowstone Park Credit Union was held in the Canteen at which time new officers for the ensuing year were elected. Phil Kohlbrandt was chosen President; Thomas H. Rogers, Vice President; Albert T. Elliott, Treasurer; Charles Pratt, Secretary; and Keith Neilson, member of the board. The Credit Committee elected consists of Curtis K. Skinner, W. Lee Evans and Lillian Pratt. The new Supervisory Committee is made up of C. Max Cauer, Rudolf [illegible] Brim and Ladd S. Shorey. The members voted to pay a 4% dividend for 1953 and to keep the interest rate at 3/4 of one per cent per month.

Mildred Christenot, telephone operator, and Lester [illegible], motor truck driver with the National Park Service, were married on January 12 in Minneapolis at the home of the bride.

On January 2 an announcement of examination was issued by the Thirteenth Civil Service District for the position of Diesel Power Plant Operator for operating the park's new power plants, the closing date for the filing of applications for which was December 30. Because of the small number of applications received the closing date was extended to February 13.

Effective January 3 Clerk Ladd Shorey was promoted to the position of Senior Personnel Clerk, Toni R. Rulli, Jr. to Clerk, Grade 5, and Joan E. Macbeth to permanent Assistant Clerk, Grade 7. Personnel and File Clerk Virginia Goettlich was transferred to Death Valley National Monument, having entered on duty there January 22. Park Ranger Robert Weldon left on January 11 for transfer to Mount Rainier National Park, expecting to enter on duty in that park on February 5.

J. [illegible] Emmert
Acting Superintendent.

RC

10-157
(Dec. 1933)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TRAVEL REPORT

Yellowstone National Park for the month of January 1940

	This Month	This Travel Year To Date	This Month Last Year	Last Travel Year To Date	Increase for Travel Year	
					Number	Percent
RIVATE TRANSPORTATION:						
ars first entry	474	5581	331	2163	1418	65.5%
ars reentry	250	3493	175	1173	2320	197.8%
otorcycles						
Total motor vehicles . . .	724	7074	506	3336	3738	112.0%
ersons entering via motor vehicles	2218	20087	1547	9504	10583	111.3%
ersons entering via other private transportation . .						
Total persons entering via private transportation .	2218	20087	1547	9504	10583	111.3%
THER TRANSPORTATION:						
ersons entering via stages .						
ersons entering via trains .						
ersons entering otherwise . .						
Total other transportation .						
RAND TOTAL ALL VISITORS . .	2218	20087	1547	9504	10583	111.3%

	This Year	Last Year	Increase	
			Number	Percent
utomobiles in public camps during month				
ampers in public camps during month				

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UNITED STATES
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TRAVEL REPORT

Yellowstone National Park for the month of August 1937

	This Month	This Travel Year To Date	This Month Last Year	Last Travel Year To Date	Increase for Travel Year Number	Percent
PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION:						
Cars first entry	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Motorcycles	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total motor vehicles . . .	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Persons entering via motor vehicles	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Persons entering via other private transportation . .						
Total persons entering via private transportation .	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
OTHER TRANSPORTATION:						
Persons entering via stages						
Persons entering via trains .						
Persons entering otherwise . .						
Total other transportation . .						
GRAND TOTAL ALL VISITORS . .	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

	This Year	Last Year	Increase Number	Increase Percent
Automobiles in public camps during month				
Campers in public camps during month				