10-23
(June 1941)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 207-02.3

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| ROGERS | |
| JOHNSTON | |
| JOPPE | |
| ANDERSON | |
| STANTON | |
| CHASE | |
| FULLER | |
| [illegible] | |
| CONDON | |
| SKINNER | |
| EVANS | |
| CHAPMAN | |
| WILLIAMS | |
| WOHLENBANDT | |
| ROBINSON | |
| WIGGINS | |
| SEGEROLIZ | |

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 1949

## IMPORTANT

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
*Director.*

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UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone National Park
Yellowstone Park, Wyoming

Office of the Superintendent

Summary of the February 1949 Monthly Narrative Report for
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Yellowstone National Park
Yellowstone Park, Wyoming

Office of the superintendent

Summary of the February 1947 monthly narrative report for YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WEATHER: | Severe snow of month, maximum depth over 4 feet. Average maximum 34°, minimum -27°, mean 3°. Yellowstone -42°. Temperature snow. Lodge. | 1 |
| SPECIAL ACTIVITIES: | Supt. reports to Washington during month. Director returned from [illegible] Lamont. Administration School attended by Gardner. Upgrade 5 lumber. Order observed at Tomsett. | |
| | Staff meeting. Assembly in Washington. T. G. Tomsett to. Art Sun to Cooke. Was returned [illegible] signature. Various volunteer. | 2 |
| INSPECTIONS: | Walter Robinson, U. S. Service, 1-27. | 1 |
| FIRES, ALARMS AND EMERGENCIES: | Between every half month. Ashore [illegible] (Civil) [illegible]. Show equipment on store emergency line. [illegible] a after airplane equipment. | 1 |
| PUBLICITY: | Yellowstone story in Chapter Yellow Journal. Pictures orders filled. 1,000 brochures on hand. | |
| MAINTENANCE: | Officially with snow removal [illegible] Yellowstone and much equipment on hand. Snow problem. Considerable breakup of road surface [illegible]. | 1 |
| NEW CONSTRUCTION: | Work on building plans for community room. | 1 |
| CONCESSIONER: | T. F. Co. [illegible] Joe Jay Hill and Mr. Lunde visit park. | 1 |
| IN-SERVICE TRAINING: | 163 man-hours by Protection Division. | 1 |
| | Sand box constructed. Daily rain letter. | 1 |
| INTERPRETIVE SERVICE: | Condon gave talks at Missoula and Great Falls Museum Naturalist Senior Ranger at Pocatello, Idaho. | 1 |
| MUSEUM ACTIVITIES AND EXHIBITS: | Checking of museum accession records. | 1 |

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone National Park
Yellowstone Park, Wyoming

Office of the Superintendent

March 8, 1949.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of February 1949.

Weather Conditions. The weather was characterized by high gale-like winds accompanied by considerable snow during the forepart of the month which caused the snow to become drifted in the valleys and leeward side of the hills, while the exposed areas were largely blown bare of snow. Temperatures were about normal the first half of the month while the latter half experienced above normal temperatures. Warm, spring-like days prevailed the last week with weather resembling April or early May. The maximum temperature of 44° was recorded on the 20th and 28th with a minimum temperature of -27° occurring on the 13th. The minimum temperature of -44° for the park was recorded at West Yellowstone on the 13th. The total precipitation at Mammoth was 1.76" as compared with the mean of 1.22" for February.

Comparative snow depths from various locations in the park are reflected in the following table:

| | 1949 | 1948 | 1947 | 1946 | 1945 | 1944 | 1943 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cascade | 112" | 85" | 65" | 80" | 52" | 36" | -- |
| Gallatin | 18 | 21 | 25 | 26 | 14 | 10 | 34" |
| Lamar | 20 | 13 | 10 | 16 | 10.5 | 4 | 30 |
| Mammoth | 14 | 10.5 | 9 | 22.5 | 5 | 5 | 36 |
| Northeast Entrance | 48 | 36 | 37 | 46 | 20.7 | 13.9 | 54 |
| Snake River | 63 | 59 | 46 | 52 | 35 | 25 | -- |
| Tower Falls | 32 | 26 | 20 | 21.5 | 13.5 | 11 | 36 |
| West Yellowstone | 54 | 38 | 40 | 37 | 22 | 12 | 83 |

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers spent the entire month in Washington on assignment in the Concessioners Division in the Director's Office. Assistant Superintendent Johnston was Acting Superintendent during Superintendent Rogers' absence from the Yellowstone.

Acting Superintendent Johnston returned on February 2 from Missoula where he addressed the opening meeting of the School of Public and Private Administration sponsored by Montana University. Park Naturalist Condon and District Park Rangers Nyquist and Kowski attended the school on annual leave, returning to the park on the night of the 26th.

Messrs. Johnston, Wohlbrandt and Robinson went to Bozeman on February 24 to observe the operations of an Adams grader which was being demonstrated.

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Yellowstone National Park
Yellowstone Park, Wyoming

Office of the Superintendent

Park R. Ada,

Superintendent.

To the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of February 1940.

Weather Conditions. The weather was characterized by high pole-line winds accompanied by considerable snow during the remainder of the month which caused the snow to become drifted in the valleys and leeward sides of the hills, while the exposed areas were largely bare of snow. Temperatures were about normal during the first half of the month with the latter half experienced above normal temperatures. Some precipitation was experienced in the last week with weather predicting fair to partly cloudy. The maximum temperature of 42° was recorded on the 20th and 21st and a minimum temperature of -22° occurring on the 12th. The average temperature of -4° for the month was recorded at West Yellowstone on the 12th. The total precipitation for the month was 1.76" as compared with the year of 1.90" for February.

Comparative snow depths from various locations in the park are reflected in the following table:

| | 1940 | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 | 1936 | 1935 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Canyon | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Lake | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Lake | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Mammoth | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Northeast Entrance | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Snake River | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Tower Falls | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| West Yellowstone | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |

Special Activities. Superintendent began work on the annual report of Yellowstone on assignment in the Superintendent's Office in the Interior Office. Assistant Superintendent, Director and Acting Superintendent Lemon's absence from the Yellowstone.

Acting Superintendent Lemon returned on February [illegible] where he discussed the coming meeting of the School of Fish in the Service Administration Office and by Bureau officials. Also met [illegible] Commissioner and District Park Rangers regarding and forest standards and supply of [illegible] returning to the park on the 26th of the month.

Meets, Inspects, Delivered and Conducted meet in connection of [illegible] to observe the operations of an [illegible] that were being [illegible].

Staff meetings for all division heads were held in the Superintendent's Office on February 1, 8, 15 and 23 to discuss matters pertaining to the park.

Chief Electrician Seasholtz left the park on February 4 for Washington, D. C. where he was assigned to inspecting surplus equipment for possible use in the Yellowstone, Glacier and other National Park Service areas. He returned on the 18th.

The Northern Pacific Transport Company at Billings, Montana, brought a busload of skiers through the park on February 5 en route to Cooke for skiing in that area. They returned through the park the following afternoon.

Master Mechanic Robinson, Automotive Mechanic Foreman Miller and Mixed Gang Foremen Elmer Armstrong and Stebbins, who left by train on January 31 for Hammond, Indiana, to receive some surplus equipment for the Yellowstone, departed from Hammond on February 10 and reached the Yellowstone on the 20th.

Resident Landscape Architect Mattson, who left the park January 27 for Eveleth, Minnesota, to attend the funeral of his mother who died in Minneapolis on January 26, returned to the park on February 16. He spent a week in Omaha on assignment in the Region Two Office and returned by way of Denver.

Inspections. Weldon B. Robinson, Predatory Animal Officer, Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, who arrived in the park January 13 to continue studies on coyote migrations, departed on February 3.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. Resident Landscape Architect Mattson was absent from the park until the 16th, having spent a week on assignment in the Region Two Office.

On February 28 Mr. Robert S. Hursh, Engineer (Civil) P&S-3, reported for duty by transfer from the Department of the Army in Sacramento, California. The park has been somewhat handicapped in its planning operations by the lack of an assistant this winter.

Two of our rotary snowplows were on loan to the Bureau of Land Management for the entire month and a third one for about two weeks in connection with "Operations Snowbound" in Wyoming and Montana. Our D-6 tractor and dozer were also on loan for about two weeks on the emergency snowplowing operations. One rotary and the dozer are still on this assignment.

Two of our permanent maintenance foremen, together with the Master Mechanic and Foreman Mechanic, were absent most of the month securing surplus property at Chicago.

Publicity. The Annual Wyoming Edition of the Casper Tribune Herald contained a special story on the Yellowstone. Several requests for pictures of the park for use in connection with forthcoming articles were filled.

A total of 47,800 Yellowstone broadsides for 1947 remained on hand at the end of the month.

Maintenance. This is one month which will not be forgotten very soon and it will go down as one of the worst Februarys of record. There was considerable snow and extremely high winds together with much cold weather. For several days the park experienced blizzards and conditions similar to those which were in eastern Wyoming and western Nebraska. With much of our snow equipment on loan and our more experienced operators also gone we were barely able to keep the roads open in the Mammoth area. The road to Cooke was closed on two different occasions for from 24 to 46 hours. The drifting snow blew in almost as quickly as it was plowed out. Our one remaining Snoge broke down beyond Tower Falls and it was necessary to ask the return of one of our rotary plows which was working a short distance north of Gardiner under the Bureau of Land Management in order to open the roads to the broken plow. The last few days of the month were warm and clear and it was possible to put the roads in fair condition again. However, with warm weather the snow crust on the pavement is from 4 to 12 inches thick and the graders are busy cutting away this crust.

From observations on our road between Gardiner and Cooke and adjoining state highways the spring breakup of the road surface is going to be extremely heavy this year, due mostly to excessive moisture and frost action.

New Construction. There was no work on Major Road Construction during the month.

Some work on extending the heating pipes to the community room was all that was accomplished during the month under Job 201-23, Account 410, Major Repair and Rehabilitation.

Concessioners. The Yellowstone Park Company package tour rates for the 1949 season were approved on February 17.

Huntley Child of the Yellowstone Park Company and Dr. Alfred M. Lueck visited the park on February 25.

The complete Yellowstone Park Company rates for 1949 were approved February 25.

In-Service Training. A total of 164 man-hours were devoted to training sessions for all available Protection Division personnel on the following subjects: building fire inspections; Safety Program (Lifting, snow-removal, climbing, household and station and horses; Safety Program (Vehicles, winter travel on skis and tools; Accidents - preparation of forms and proper procedure. All subjects under safety are combined under one master outline.

A sand box was constructed for use in training seasonal personnel. The Yellowstone Weekly News Letter was published regularly.

Interpretive Service. Chief Park Naturalist Condon while in attendance at school at Montana State University gave a number of talks to interested groups at Missoula.

Former Park Ranger Naturalist George D. Marler presented programs using Yellowstone Park illustrative materials for people in attendance at Ricks College Leadership Week in Rexburg, Idaho. Mr. Marler gave three talks to large audiences.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. Park Naturalist Alcorn devoted seven days time to checking museum accession records during February, but the job is partially done. This inventory is disclosing cumulative errors in the accession program. A great deal of care and considerable time has to be given over to this work in order to bring these materials up to date.

Research and Observation. Park Naturalists Alcorn and Watson made a trip to the Northeast Entrance for the purpose of observing wildlife and making winter pictures on February 24. The study of statistical information on the interpretive program was continued into the first of the month and final tabulation of this program was made and sent to Mr. Wilson F. Clark of Cornell University. This tabulated statistical information will be of value in interpreting the significance of the naturalist program.

The Yellowstone National Park place names file was packaged and shipped to the Director's Office for duplication. This shipment consisted of 13 packages containing a total of 3014 5 x 8 cards.

Natural History Association. The Yellowstone Nature Notes were published the first week of the month and 323 copies were mailed and 90 copies were distributed locally. The Association has been investigating the possibility of purchasing a tape recorder and reproducer for use in training work.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. The high winds which occurred during the first part of the month closed the North Entrance - Cooke road on the following days; 9th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 18th, and 19th. However, in spite of the bad weather and high winds, the travel showed an increase over the same month last year. A total of 651 people entered the park in 261 vehicles as compared with 484 in 270 vehicles during February 1948. In view of the severity of the weather, the increase in travel over the same month last year seems incongruous, but two factors account for this. One bus load of skiers was brought to Cooke through the North Entrance and on the 20th the weather moderated very sharply. Approximately one half of the first entry travel through the North Entrance occurred on the 27th, the first bright warm Sunday of the winter. Another contributing factor was the snowplane travel through the West Entrance. Eighty-one cars drove to the East Entrance from Cody, Wyoming, during the month. The operation of the ski lift three miles east of the park entrance has promoted considerable winter use of this area. People drove to the ski area, then continued to the park entrance, parked their cars and many made short ski trips up in the park.

Ranger Service. Census of big game animals required the time of all available rangers for a few days during the month. An antelope count was conducted on the 1st with a bison census occurring on the 8th and 9th and Bighorn sheep count started on the 28th but will not be completed until the first part of next month. Plans were being completed for the elk census on March 8 and 9 including the preparation of maps indicating the counting areas and coordinating the plans with outside agencies. The final plans were completed for the shipping of 30 elk to Monterrey, Mexico, and on the 5th the elk were loaded in a car at Gardiner and shipped that day.

Building fire inspections of all Government and some operators' buildings in the Mammoth and Gardiner area was started on the 15th and largely completed by the end of the month. In this connection a revised inspection form, check-off list and fire extinguisher inspection and record form were used and proved very successful. The forms were revised to fit our needs from those demonstrated at the Yosemite school in October. It is intended to use the forms and check list throughout the park this year.

Preliminary plans were being prepared for the ranger conference and fire school to be held in April. In this connection, training aids were prepared including sand tables and charts.

Twenty-eight 45 caliber revolvers which included one delivered here from Devils Tower National Monument, which were excess to our needs, were shipped to the War Department Arsenal at Rock Island, Illinois.

Extended ski patrols were made from the Snake River and West Yellowstone stations throughout the southern and western areas of the park and many short patrols were made of the northern area of the park in connection with game census, running snow courses and for game observations.

Other activities included repair of Protection Division equipment, entrance station duties and preparation of motor vehicle accident analysis charts, fish planting record cards, wildlife index record cards, In-Service Training outlines and reports and correspondence.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. ANTELOPE. A successful census of the pronghorn on the northern winter range was taken on February 1. Weather and other conditions were unusually favorable and contributed to accurate and complete counting.

The area from the park boundary north to Cinnabar Mountain yielded 387 animals and 23 were counted in the park from Stevens Creek to Reese Creek. All other known pronghorn winter range was covered but no animals were found outside the small areas described. The total of 410 pronghorn is very close to our previous estimate of 400. Most of the pronghorns continued to use the restricted lower range, much of which is seriously over-used by domestic stock, during the entire month so some losses may be expected.

BUFFALO. A census of the buffalo in the Lamar and lower Yellowstone River areas was conducted on February 7. Locations where the animals were found is shown: Lower Lamar River Valley, 347; Above Cache Creek, 10; Slough Creek, 27; Little Buffalo Creek, 7; Goode Creek, 5; Total 396. Five old bulls were found on Eagle Creek, about two miles north of the park boundary on Feburary 21.

A period of warm weather, which began on February 18 and continued through the end of the month, settled the snow on the winter range of the buffalo and left a thick hard surface crust which made foraging very difficult. At Lamar headquarters, this icy crust overlaid about twenty inches of loose granular snow. In the Horseshoe area where most of the buffalo were congregated the snow averaged about sixteen inches in depth and was covered with crust which prevented unrestricted foraging such as had preceded the warm period of weather. No feeding was done on the open range but the animals were exhibiting a tendency to leave the Horseshoe in small bunches as the month ended.

COYOTES. Weldon B. Robinson, Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, left the park on February 3 after completing his winter work in connection with the coyote migration studies. Severe weather conditions seriously hampered his work and coyotes sustained frozen feet if not released from the traps very soon after being captured. Recovery of tags will be attempted again in April, May and June to secure data on animals returning to summer ranges.

ELK. Extreme cold of early February was followed by continued severe blizzard conditions which forced the elk to seek shelter in forested areas. The snow remained loose until after the 18th so that the animals successfully foraged where depths ranged up to 30 inches. Higher temperatures and clear days after that date settled the snow and produced a hard surface crust which forced the elk to forage on windswept and exposed ridges. Winter losses began to appear by the end of the month but these were light to moderate. Weather and snow conditions of March will largely determine the extent and severity of the winter mortality of the elk herd.

On February 7, 30 elk were shipped by express to Humberto Garza Dominguez at Monterrey, N. L., Mexico. This carload shipment consisted of 3 male calves, 10 female calves, three yearling (spike) males and 14 mature females. The elk arrived at their destination in good condition except for one mature female which sustained a broken leg and had to be destroyed.

BIGHORN. Adverse weather conditions forced postponement of a census and investigation of the bighorns on the northern winter range.

Forest Fire Protection. The status of Forest Protection and Fire Prevention balances were checked and reported to the Region along with a statement regarding additional needs for the balance of the fiscal year.

Work was done on a revision of present Form No. 10-400, Individual Fire Report. A proposed revision has been set up for presentation at the Grand Canyon Conference.

Several days were spent rehandling pulaski tools and axe sheaths were made for use by fire control aids.

Blister Rust Control. Fifty-five gallons of 2, 4, 5T Chemical Weed Killer was ordered through the U. S. Forest Service for use during the coming season's blister rust control operations.

Inquiries were sent to satisfactory workers who were employed on blister rust work during 1948 to see how many can be expected to return in 1949.

Wood Cutting. A possible source of cordwood has been located on the Gallatin National Forest and this information has been passed on to the Yellowstone Park Company in an attempt to solve the present problem of securing cordwood for concessioner use.

Accidents. One motor vehicle accident involving a private car and a Yellowstone Park Company truck occurred on the 23rd. No injuries occurred but the damage to the car amounted to about $150.00 while the truck escaped undamaged. The accident was caused by the drivers attempting to pass on a super-elevated curve with the road surface being covered by slippery ice. The truck skidded into the car.

Personnel. Assistant Chief Park Rangers W. Leon Evans and William S. Chapman were promoted from CPS-10 to CAF-9 effective February 2.

District Park Ranger John W. Jay, CAF-7, was promoted to Assistant Chief Park Ranger, CAF-9, effective February 6. Park Ranger Thomas F. Ela was promoted to the position of District Park Ranger, CAF-7, effective February 9. On the same date Dennis E. Hess, Dan S. Nelson, Harvey B. Reynolds and Ruben O. Hart received promotions from Park Ranger, CAF-5 to the four newly established positions of Park Ranger, CAF-6.

On February 20 Robert S. Hursh entered on duty as Engineer (Civil), P&S-3 by transfer from the Department of the Army, Sacramento, California, and on February 24 Breynton R. Finch entered on duty as Assistant Chief Park Ranger, CAF-9, by transfer from the position of Superintendent, Colorado National Monument.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union, No. 465, was held in the Canteen on February 7. Thomas F. Ela provided the entertainment for the evening with a showing of some of his best kodachromes of the park. On February 12 the Federal Employees Union sponsored a Valentine Day dance in the Canteen.

Joseph Joffe,
Acting Superintendent.

cc: Region Two, in quintuple.
File (2)
JJ/ekm

File (2)