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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 207-02.3

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

MARCH 1951

	ROGERS	
✓	JOHNSTON	
✓	JOFFE	
✓	ANDERSON	
	STANTON	
	FULLER	
✓	MATTSON	
✓	CONDON	
✓	SKINNER	
	EVANS	
	CHAPMAN	
	FINCH	
	JAY	
✓	KITTAMS	
✓	WOLFBRANDT	
	ROBINSON	
	WIGGINS	
	McMULLIN	

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

ICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Summary of the March 1951 Monthly Narrative Report for
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

ICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

April 6, 1951

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Monthly Report for March 1951

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of March 1951.

Weather Conditions. Precipitation during the month more closely approached the normal than the 0.55 inch during the month of February. Total precipitation for the headquarters area was above the past four-year average with 1.85" for 1951 as compared with 1.60" for 1950; 0.87" for 1949; 1.46" for 1948; and 1.35" for 1947. Severe blizzards during the first ten days of the month accounted for most of the snowfall.

Minimum temperatures over the park were recorded during the blizzard on the 11th and read as follows: West Yellowstone, -35°; Northeast Entrance, -25°; Lamar, -17°; and Mammoth -12°.

Comparative snow depths from various locations in the park at the close of the month are listed as follows:

	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Gallatin	22	25	21	28	-	43
Lamar	7	5	18	22	8	10
Mammoth	5	5	11	8	4	12
Northeast Entrance	38	33	47	38	33	25
Tower Fall	23	18	28	28	13	18
West Yellowstone	45	49	42	40	38	39

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers left Denver on March 8 to return to the park, arriving here on the evening of the 9th. He made trips to Bozeman on the 20th and 29th to visit the library there in connection with his project covering the legislative history of National Park Service areas and to confer with Mr. J. E. Haynes regarding various park matters. While in Bozeman on the 29th he also attended a portion of the meeting of the Montana Rural Firefighters Service.

Assistant Superintendent Johnston started on annual leave on March 16 for a visit to Utah and California, expecting to return April 4.

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Park Naturalist Condon returned to the park on March 2 from Vernal, Utah, where he was called due to the death of his father-in-law. He was on annual leave from the 13th to the 29th on a vacation trip to California.

Chief Ranger Skinner was on annual leave from March 5 to 22 during which he visited in California.

On March 7 Assistant Secretary Doty approved a request from the Gardiner School Board for the National Park Service to contribute funds on a prorata basis toward construction of the Gardiner High School which funds were not to exceed 19% of the total construction cost or approximately $53,881, payment to be made from first revenue collections available.

The Local Civil Service Board held an examination for Typist on March 8 with one competitor.

Assistant Chief Ranger Evans attended the regular annual meeting of the Southwestern Sportsmen's Association in Bozeman on March 11. On March 19 he attended a Federal Cooperation meeting with the Montana State Fish and Game Commission in Helena.

The annual report for the park for the fiscal year 1950 was issued in final form during the month and copies were distributed on March 23.

Resident Landscape Architect Mattson departed on March 28 on annual leave, to be gone until April 4.

The Red Cross drive conducted in the park during the month resulted in the collection of $175.44 which was turned over to the Park County Chapter, Livingston, Montana. Park Naturalist Robert F. Upton was in charge of the drive in the park.

Inspections. Mr. William Cummings of the U. S. Geological Survey, Boise, Idaho, in March 8 to inspect water gauges.

Barnes MacDonald, Highway Engineer, Region Two, in Gardiner March 5 to assist with preparation of 1952 Roads and Trails Maintenance Plans and Estimates; departed March 15.

In-Service Training. The Weekly Newsletter was issued each Thursday during the month to keep employees, concessioners and others currently informed on park happenings.

Publicity. No press releases were issued from the park during the month.

A total of 160,000 Yellowstone broadsides for 1950 remained on hand at the end of the month.

Park Naturalist Gordon returned to the park on March 1 from Vernal, Utah, where he was called due to the death of [illegible]-in-law. He was on annual leave from the [illegible] to take part in a vacation trip to California.

Chief Ranger Skinner was on annual leave from March 5 to 23 during which he vacated in California.

On March 7 Assistant Secretary Dale approved a request from the Gardiner School Board for the national park service to contribute funds on a prorata basis toward construction of the Gardiner High School which funds were not to exceed 10% of the total construction cost or approximately $22,000, payment to be made from first revenue collections available.

The Local Civil Service Board held an examination for Ranger on March 8 with one competitor.

Assistant Chief Ranger Evans attended the regular annual meeting of the Southwestern Sportsmen's Association in Bozeman on March 11. On March 19 he attended a Federal Cooperation meeting with the Montana State Fish and Game Commission in Helena.

The annual report for the park for the fiscal year 1939 was issued in final form during the month and copies were distributed on March 23.

Resident Landscape Architect Gildner departed on March 24 on annual leave, to be gone until April 4.

The Red Cross drive conducted in the park during the month resulted in the collection of $172.44 which was turned over to the Park County Chapter, Livingston, Montana. Park Naturalist Robert F. Upton was in charge of the drive in the park.

Inspections. Mr. Hillis Overhiser of the U. S. Geological Survey, Boise, Idaho, in March 6 to inspect water sources.

Bruce McDonald, Highway Engineer, Region Two, in Cheyenne March 9 to district with preservation of 1932 Roads and Trails Maintenance Plans and Estimates; departed March 14.

In-Service Training. The Monthly Newsletter was issued each Thursday during the month to keep employees, concessionaires and others currently informed on park happenings.

Publicity. No press releases were issued from the park during the month.

A total of 165,000 Yellowstone broadsides for [illegible] were on hand at the end of the month.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. Preliminary drawings of the Lake main sewer, dosing tank and filter bed were sent to the U. S. Public Health Service Office in Denver for comments before making final drawings. The proposed sewer line extensions to serve the new Fishing Bridge campground were also sent to the Public Health Service for comments before final drawing.

Assistant Engineer Robert Hursh has accepted an appointment at Crater Lake National Park and will leave for that area the latter part of April. Both assistant engineers, Hursh and Rowe, were on annual leave at the end of the month.

Park Engineer Wohlbrandt was absent from the park from March 11 to 18 due to the death of his father in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mr. Barnes MacDonald, Engineer from the Region Two Office, spent two weeks in the park assisting in writing up the annual road estimates and he was of considerable help.

Maintenance. Snow plowing continued the major operation during the month. It was necessary to use the rotary plow to open the road between Mammoth and Tower Fall after unusually high winds on the 6th and 7th. During the latter part of the month, graders were used to remove the accumulation of hard packed snow from the road around Mammoth and Cooke. By the end of the month the road surface was nearly all bare of snow.

A small maintenance crew was started on the Mammoth section March 19 and was used to open drains and clean up debris around the area.

Two additional snow plows were given the standard highway yellow paint treatment and a number of road warning signs repaired and painted.

As soon as the roads dry a little more the regular spring patching program will get underway. Frost boils and temperature cracks are much worse than last year.

Snow plowing operations are scheduled to start April 9. Latest reports indicate an above-normal amount of snow in most areas but the icy condition of last season is not expected.

During the month the park received the new TD-18 Dozer. Word was also received of the awarding of the contract for a new Adams grader and a new rotary snow plow.

The maintenance crew consists of three permanent employees and five temporary at the present time, all located at Mammoth.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. Preliminary drawings of the main sewer, sewage tank and filter bed were sent to the U. S. Public Health Service Office in Denver for comment before making final drawings. The proposed sewer line extensions to serve the [illegible] bridge campground were also sent to the Public Health Service for comment before final drawing.

Assistant Engineer Robert Burnl was assigned to [illegible] at Grater Lake National Park and will leave for that area the latter part of April. Both assistant engineers, Burnl and [illegible], were on [illegible] leave at the end of the month.

Park Engineer Wohlfarnant was absent from the park from [illegible] to 16 due to the death of his father in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mr. Barnes McDonald, engineer from the Region Two Office, spent two weeks in the park assisting in writing up the annual [illegible] estimates and he was of considerable help.

Maintenance. Snow plowing continued the regular operations during the month. It was necessary to use the rotary plow to open the road between Mammoth and Tower Fall after unusually high winds on the 6th and 7th. During the latter part of the month, prisoners were used to remove the accumulation of land packed snow from the road around Mammoth and Cooke. By the end of the month the road surface was nearly all bare of snow.

A small maintenance crew was started on the Mammoth project March 19 and was used to open drains and clean up debris around the area.

Two additional snow plows were given the standard lightning yellow paint treatment and a number of road warning signs repaired and painted.

As soon as the roads dry a little more the regular mudding patching program will get underway. Front halls are temperatures already are much worse than last year.

Snow plowing operations are scheduled to start April 1. Park reports indicate an above-normal amount of snow in most areas but the icy condition of last season is not expected.

During the month the park received the new TU-1 tower. Work was also received of the awarding of the contract for a new house trailer and a new rotary snow plow.

The maintenance crew consists of three permanent employees and five temporary at the present time, all located at Mammoth.

New Construction. The two going road construction grading and base surfacing projects on the South Approach Road were dormant during the month. Construction projects active during the month consisted of the following:

Account 231.01, Repair heating plant, Building 34.--This job was accomplished by contract and is complete except for some backfill to be placed over the fuel lines when weather permits.

Account 231.02, Repair heating plant, Building 13.--Under contract and awaiting warm weather before starting.

Account 231.03, Re-roof Building No. 20, Storage Shed.--Work 95% complete. Will finish as soon as weather warms up.

Account 231.04, Re-roof Building No. 21, Storage Shed.--Material on hand. Will complete as soon as weather warms up.

Account 231.05, Reroof Building No. 22, Plumbing Shop.--Work 95% complete. Will finish as soon as weather warms up.

Account 323.08 and 323.10, Walks, Barriers, Gratings and Signs in Thermal Areas.--Project about 80% complete. Will finish as soon as roads out in the park are opened.

Account 333.01, Campground Extension, Fishing Bridge and Old Faithful.--Project 75% complete; tables and fireplaces will be placed when roads out into park are open.

Concessioners. The Yellowstone Park Company re-opened its shops at Gardiner on March 1, they having been shut down on December 1, 1950, due to uncertainty of operating conditions for the 1951 season.

Mr. J. E. Haynes and his niece, Winifred Arnold, of Hawaii, a former employee of the park, visited at Mammoth on March 3. Mr. Haynes made another visit to the park on the 14th and 15th to confer with the Superintendent on the renewal of his contract, and on March 28 Mr. and Mrs. Haynes and their daughter Lida paid a visit to Mammoth.

On March 9 advice was received of the approval of the hotel and cabin rates for 1951 for the Yellowstone Park Company. They were approved February 27, 1951.

The Yellowstone Park Company's "A" and "B" folders were reviewed during the month and sent to the printer for publication. The "Accommodations and Services" leaflet for 1951 was also reviewed and copies were to be made available on April 2. This publication is printed in the Company's print shop at Mammoth.

On March 19 Assistant Secretary Doty approved the extension of the Hamilton Stores, Inc. Contract I-lp-627 for one year from December 31, 1950.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. Regular Sunday School services were held each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. with the exception of Easter Sunday. These services have been well attended by the children of the community and more adults are participating. Park Naturalist Upton has instigated an adult Bible class which has been well attended.

The Rev. E. A. Syms of Livingston, Montana, conducted non-denominational Protestant services on the 11th and 25th of March. He provided the sermon for the special Easter services in the Yellowstone Park Chapel at 6:00 a.m. on the 25th. This service was under the direction of the Yellowstone Park Sunday School organization, was very inspirational in character and was well attended by the residents of the community and adjacent areas.

The community conducted in the Yellowstone Park Chapel on the evening of Good Friday a special service.

The Mammoth Community Sunday School held their annual picnic at the Lamar Unit on Saturday the 3rd. The day was a delightful one and all those participating in the picnic had an unusually interesting time.

Mr. Milford Franks, Professor of Education and Psychology at the Montana State College presented a lecture in the Yellowstone Park Chapel on "How Children Learn". This was part of the regular Library Board lecture series, and was held on the 27th.

Interpretive Services. Park Naturalist Upton during the month spent some time working on self-guiding nature trail signs and labels.

A program was laid out for the proper publicizing of the interpretive services for the 1951 season through the appropriate placement of informational signs announcing the program activities which will be available to the park visitor. A total of 76 such sign announcements are planned to be mounted, framed and placed at strategic points.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. Considerable work was accomplished on the preparation of museum survey cards for submission to the Director's office and mimeographed copies of these forms were made so that records could be retained in the Yellowstone Park files.

Research and Observation. Former Park Ranger Naturalist Wallace Hennessy is preparing as his masters thesis the treatment of an analysis of the interpretive program and services of Yellowstone National Park. Mr. Hennessy was in Yellowstone on the 14th, 15th and 16th using our library to get additional data for inclusion in this paper. At that time he was given assistance by members of the local staff.

Park Naturalists Watson and Upton made one field trip over the Mammoth Hot Spring Terraces on March 23, and at that time observed a number of changes of special significance in the distribution of the hot springs there. One change of pronounced significance was the development of four new vents near the road between Cheops Mound and the Buttress. This area has been dormant for many years although there is physical evidence of former hot spring activity. In conjunction with this change, or increase in activity, there has been a marked decrease in activities along the Narrow Gauge Terrace which at the present time is almost dormant. This particular terrace was very active during the year 1950.

The majority of the bull elk and buck deer in the vicinity of Mammoth have shed their antlers by the close of the month and many were going around the community with rather defected looks due to their apparent embarrassment because of the loss of the magnificent appendages which once adorned their brows.

Natural History Association. The Executive Secretary of the Association by the close of the month has ordered book stocks for sale at information desks from many of the publishers and shipments of these books have been received. Other orders are expected to be filled during the month of April.

The Association's multilith was used in the preparation of reports, the printing of the cover for the Superintendent's annual report and for other purposes. In addition to this, supplies in the form of paper, ink and ribbons were purchased for this machine.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Travel was slightly ahead of last month with a March recording of 427 vehicles and 1,270 passengers as compared with 390 vehicles and 1,221 passengers for February. However, March travel for this year was 31.0% behind the 670 vehicles and 1,846 passengers of March 1950. The severe storms of the first ten days of the month undoubtedly contributed to the decrease of March 1951 travel.

Visitors. Judge B. K. Mankiewicz, U. S. Board of Parole, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., with Mrs. Mankiewicz, in March 21 for trip along north side of park.

Ranger Service. Considerable work was accomplished on the revision of the park trail map and the preparation of the trail maintenance estimates during the month. The traffic accident analysis of the 1950 season was completed and a good start was made on cataloguing the dead files for previous years.

The elk trapping activity for the purpose of live animal transplant was terminated on March 2. A bison census of the northern winter range was conducted on the 1st and an elk census north of the park boundary was conducted on the 27th.

Building fire hazard inspections were completed in the headquarters area during the month. The Lost and Found Property system for the park was re-organized and the 1950 law enforcement card index was completed. Work on the new forest fire training charts was completed during the month.

Ski patrols were made of the Lamar, Mammoth, West Yellowstone and Bechler Districts and roofs were shoveled on all buildings in the Districts. Snow course readings were obtained during the last few days of the month.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. ELK. Elk trapping operations were discontinued in the park on March 2. The Montana Fish and Game Department received 294 elk during the winter and other applicants received 18.

A total of 2,300 elk was removed from the northern Yellowstone herd during the winter of 1950-51, as follows:

Hunting in Park County, Montana	1,265
Direct control within the park.	476
Killed for scientific specimens	5
Accidentally killed at traps or removed by miscellaneous causes.	25
Estimated mortalities including losses from starvation, old age, etc.	217
Shipped alive for transplanting or exhibition . .	312
Total	2,300

A severe blizzard started on March 4 and continued through March 9. Generally stormy conditions prevailed during the first three weeks of the month and comparatively deep snow covered the winter range areas which had light snow until that time. Forage available to elk and other native grazing animals was seriously reduced and elk moved down country in search of food. On March 28, the District Forest Ranger and three District Park Rangers counted 1,595 elk on National Forest lands just north of the park. It was estimated that at least 2,000 elk were outside the park at that time.

BISON. On March 7, efforts were started to get bison to move from Horseshoe area to the Lamar Unit where they could be fed. These efforts were successful as 60 bison were being fed on March 11 and up to 160 after March 19. All of the bison left the feeding area on March 24 during a short period of warm weather. The feeding operation was carried on as a necessary preliminary to baiting the animals into the corrals next winter.

BEARS. On March 20 park rangers observed a bear in the vicinity of Fawn Creek. The distance was too great to determine the species of the animal.

The Mechanical Division commenced building four two-wheel axle trailers for the bear traps. One trap and trailer was complete by the end of the month and it is anticipated that four improved outfits will be ready for use next summer. The four-wheel trailers, in use previously, were considered unsafe for further use on park roads.

Forest Fire Protection. During the first ten days of March Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman in charge of Forest Management was at the Regional Office in Omaha on detail for the purpose of assisting in the preparation of training aids to be used in training fire protection personnel. Drawings were made for fire boss, camp boss and compass plans. The Army Engineer's Office in Omaha cooperated in the duplication of material submitted to them.

Offers of employment were sent to 20 fire control aid applicants during the month and acceptances were received from 8 of them.

Details concerning the smokejumper unit for West Yellowstone were worked on. Information concerning position descriptions and payment of contract plane service was obtained from the U. S. Forest Service at Missoula.

The Civilian Defense Report for the protection of wild lands was resubmitted to the Regional Office and work was done on the preparation of a Bulldozer Zone Map.

Blister Rust Control. Replacement parts for the Hi-Fog applicators were ordered. Jobs were offered to 10 blister rust men during the month.

A roadside exhibit concerning the blister rust program was suggested to the Regional Office. This plan was favorably received and details of the plan are being worked out.

Trails. The final estimates for fiscal years 1952 and 1953 were prepared for all horseback trails in the park. The estimates this year were broken down into routine and special items. A priority number was assigned to each trail depending upon its importance and the condition of the trail. The park trail map showing the location of all horseback trails has been revised and brought up to date insofar as possible. It is planned to correct the location of the trails on the map even more this summer when field work permits and the completed trail location map will be submitted to the Park Engineer and the Region Two Office for final printing. Accurate trail mileages, as far as possible, will also be obtained.

Grounds and Horse Equipment. Two horse trailers have been rebuilt and the other horse trailers repaired for use this summer. Most of the riding and pack saddles and other equipment have been oiled and repaired. Considerable maintenance has been accomplished on the headquarters grounds equipment in preparation for the summer season.

Building Fire Protection. All fire inspections of Government buildings at park headquarters were completed during the month. In this connection, a careful inspection was made of all extinguishers and defective ones were replaced with extinguishers in good condition. A large number of minor hazards which were noted at the time of the inspection were corrected immediately. Other hazards were noted and steps will be taken to correct as many of these as possible depending on the availability of personnel and funds. Before the submission of the annual building fire inspection report a follow-up inspection will be made to determine what hazards still remain. All hazards corrected will not be included in the annual report.

A comparatively large number of 1-quart and 1½-quart carbon tetrachloride plunger type extinguishers were found to be defective and inoperative and beyond repair. Apparently the cause of breakdown of this type of extinguisher was due to the corrosive action of the chemical in the extinguisher itself and to a lesser extent to corrosive action of the air on the outside. The chemicals in the air around many sections of the park originating from the thermal areas rapidly tarnish and corrode the extinguishers and seal up the opening where the fluid is expelled. For this reason it is believed that the plunger type of extinguisher with a metal case will never be too effective and dependable. The cost of replacing these plunger type carbon tetrachloride extinguishers with new ones is also prohibitive. Thirty-five extinguishers of this type are now on hand to be surveyed.

Accidents and Public Safety. One Class "B" automobile accident occurred during the month. Two tourist cars collided in a snow storm on Highway No. 191 in the Gallatin area. There were no personal injuries.

Law Enforcement. There were no law enforcement cases during the month. U. S. Commissioner T. Paul Wilcox is still away from the park due to illness but expects to return to the park about the middle of May.

Deaths. Frederick A. Olson, Yellowstone Park Company employee, Gardiner, committed suicide on March 2 at the Yellowstone Park Company's bunkhouse at Gardiner, inside the park, by hanging. Mr. Olson was 60 years of age, had been a resident of Gardiner since 1930 and had been employed by the Company as a carpenter. He was buried in Mountain View Cemetery in Livingston.

Personnel. Eldon Tyson, Payroll Clerk, GS-4, resigned at the close of business March 2 to accept employment with the Yellowstone Park Company.

Elmer F. Armstrong, Mixed Gang Foreman, Ungraded, departed on March 5 for Mount Rainier National Park where he was to be employed as Construction and Maintenance Supervisor, CPC-9, effective at the close of business March 3, 1951.

Lucinda May Dore returned to duty from furlough as Clerk-Stenographer, GS-3, on March 5.

The reassignment and transfer of Robert S. Hursh, Engineer (Civil), GS-9, to the position of Civil Engineer, GS-9, Crater Lake National Park, was approved March 7. He expects to leave for Crater Lake about April 25.

Robert H. Robinson, Supervisory Park Ranger, GS-6, was separated on March 16 due to indefinite appointment with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Dennis E. Hess, Supervisory Park Ranger, GS-6, was transferred to the Bureau of Land Management, Medford, Oregon, at the close of business March 15.

Lloyd R. Winkle, Operator General (Mobile Power Equipment), Ungraded, was promoted to the position of Mixed Gang Foreman, Ungraded, vice Elmer Armstrong, on March 18.

Betty Jane Thomas and Marjorie C. Proper entered on duty as Seasonal Clerk-Typist, GS-3 on March 19.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the National Federation of Federal Employees No. 465 was held in the Canteen March 5. The Local sponsored a bingo party in the Canteen on the night of March 2.

The regular monthly meeting of the American Federation of Government Employees local was held in the Canteen on the 19th.

Edmund B. Rogers
Superintendent

cc Region Two, in quintuple
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