10-23
May 1929)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

	ROGERS
✓	EMMERT
✓	JOFFE
✓	NEILSON
	BUSSEY
	LARSEN
	SHOREY
	A. HARRIS
✓	LANOUE
	SKINNER
	SCHWEITZER
✓	BAUER
	OBERHANSLEY
✓	LORD
	ROBINSON

FILE NO.

MONTHLY REPORT

February, 1940

IMPORTANT

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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

March 5, 1940

Memorandum for the Director:

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

000 - General

010 - Precipitation for the month of February was considerably above normal as was the case in January but the shortage of precipitation during the months of October, November and December left the park short of moisture. All roads in the interior of the park were closed to travel with the exception of the road from Mammoth to Tower Junction to the Northeast Entrance and Cooke which road was kept open for the convenience of the Cooke residents, for the hauling of mail in and out of Cooke and for the winter visitors who desired to view the wildlife and to participate in the skiing and other winter activities in this area. The road from Mammoth to Biscuit Basin was cleared of snow on two occasions as an experiment in getting costs of winter opening but no travel was permitted over this section of highway.

For the second year a special day, Sunday, February 11, was designated as "Montana Day" on which persons residing in the vicinity of the park were invited to come to the Yellowstone to enjoy the winter activities consisting of skiing and skating, and to view and photograph the wildlife in the area along the north side of the park. The Gardiner Commercial Club provided a free feed consisting of sandwiches and coffee in the mess house at Tower Falls. A special ski game stalk conducted by members of the protection department was made from about a mile west of Tower Junction through the Yancey meadows. A new feature was the installation of two telescopes some five miles west of Tower Junction which afforded an opportunity for park visitors to view large herds of elk on the Hellroaring slopes. This feature proved very popular and there was much favorable comment on this new activity. Because of a severe blizzard on the day preceding "Montana Day" the number of visitors did not come up to expectations, there being but 212 cars and 764 persons registering in at the north gate. Those who did come to the park were rewarded with pleasant weather and from the comments received all thoroughly enjoyed their winter visit.

Postmaster Claude Anthony, who succeeded Chester A. Lindsley in July, 1935, was relieved from his duties on February 10. Inspector John M.

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YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
Yellowstone Park, Wyoming

Knudson of the Post Office Department arrived in the park on February 10 to take over the duties of the Yellowstone Postmaster pending the appointment of an Acting Postmaster to succeed Mr. Anthony. Joseph F. Kurtz of Cody, Wyoming, a CCC Foreman employed in the Yellowstone camps since 1934, was appointed as Acting Postmaster to succeed Mr. Anthony and he will enter on duty on his appointment on March 1. Mr. Anthony departed from the Yellowstone with his family on the nineteenth.

Considerable pressure was brought to bear in Washington by Congressional representatives from the State of Wyoming to secure appropriations to keep open the roads in the park the year-around. The press of the various states surrounding the park joined the movement while a number of civic organizations, particularly the Cody Club of Cody, Wyoming, were very emphatic in their desire to make the Yellowstone a year-around park. A special meeting of the Tri-State Yellowstone Park Civic Association, comprising the states of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, was held in Livingston on February 17 to discuss this matter. While no representatives from Wyoming and Idaho were present, despite the fact that they had promised representation, the members present appeared opposed to the movement and went on record as opposing the year-around opening of the park at this time because of its economic unsoundness and because there did not appear to be sufficient travel to warrant such an expenditure. The opposition of the Tri-State Yellowstone Park Civic Association will no doubt cause this matter to become dormant for awhile. Messrs. Emert, Joffe and LaNoue represented the Yellowstone at the Tri-State meeting and presented the park's viewpoint on the matter and justified the estimates which had previously been submitted on the year-around road opening and which had been criticized by the Cody Club and Wyoming representatives in Congress.

Brock Moran, Editor of the Cody, Wyoming Enterprise and one of the leading proponents of the movement to have the park roads open the year around skied through the park alone from Pahaska expecting to get first hand knowledge of snow conditions so as to be prepared in the fight to make the Yellowstone a year-around park. Mr. Moran left Pahaska on the morning of the fifteenth and reached Cub Creek late that night. The following day he skied from Cub Creek to Canyon, which point he reached about 11:00 PM. The following morning he started toward Tower Falls and a car was sent five miles toward Dunraven Pass to meet him in order to get him to Livingston in time for the meeting. However, he did not get to Livingston until about an hour after the meeting adjourned so was not able to present the views of the Cody organization.

On February 20 advice was received that the Acting Secretary on February 7 had approved a fee of $1.00 for power boats used on the waters of Yellowstone Park and a fishing license fee of $5.00 per season or $1.00 per week. Upon the release of a press item on these new fees a storm of protest arose from civic organizations, sportsmen's clubs, dude ranchers, newspapers and others and from the Congressional delegations from Montana and Wyoming. Because of the unpopularity of these new fees and the pro-

test sent in to Washington the Secretary announced on February 27 that the order invoking these fees had been rescinded.

020 - General Weather Conditions

February, 1940 was an unusually mild month; the temperature average was 3.7° above the normal for the month. The last few days were remarkably mild with the temperature continuously above 32° both day and night from the twenty-fifth to twenty-eighth inclusive. In the last 37 years of record there have been only 21 days in February in which the temperature stayed higher than 32° for the whole day, midnight to midnight. Only once before has such a mild period lasted as long as four days (in 1930); however, this time the warm days were a result of rain.

Precipitation was rather heavy, being the second largest amount for February in the last decade. Rain showers on the twenty-eighth settled the upper layers of the permanent snow cover to form a thick ice crust over snowfields. Rain in February is very unusual. The water content of snowfields in the park is well below normal, particularly at the higher elevations, due to the drought in October, November and December, months in which snow normally accumulates on the ground above 7500 feet elevation.

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

	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Buffalo Ranch	14	24	24	5	11	27	20	13	14	17
Hechler River	32	64	79	43	42	87	78	51	82	64
Cooke	21	30	41	31	20	36	40	35	39	34
Gallatin	21	27	38	20	25	36	30	32	26	18
Lake	15	32	38	20	20	38	20	42	26	31
Mammoth	8.1	12.4	12.4	*	6.7	20	8	7	6	8.6
Old Faithful	14	46	64	31	24	56	—	—	42	40
Snake River	28	43	70	41	38	76	58	44	68	40
Tower Falls	18	23	24	4	18	30	21	22	14	13
West Yellowstone	16	38	45	23	31	55	50	39	40	32

* Drifts only.

100 - Administrative

110 - Superintendent's Special Activities

Superintendent Rogers was in Washington all during the month on special assignment as Acting Superintendent of the National Capital Parks. It is expected that he will return to the Yellowstone early in April. Assistant Superintendent Emmert was Acting in Mr. Rogers' absence.

Acting Superintendent Emmert made trips outside the park as follows:

February 2 - To Billings to attend a meeting of the Water Resources Board, returned February 3.

February 17 - To Livingston with Messrs. Joffe and LaFoue to attend meeting of Tri-State Yellowstone Park Civic Association; returned Mammoth same evening.

February 21 - Took Inspector Harry Dunham to Livingston, returned same afternoon.

120 - Park Inspections

Harry Dunham, Inspector CCC and TVA, NPS, arrived February 18; out 21.

Charles R. Baldwin, Regional Fiscal Supervisor, Region II, in February 20, remained rest of month.

140 - Status of Private Lands

No noticeable progress was made in the acquisition of the private lands as an addition to the winter range for the wildlife of the park, the matter now being in the hands of the U. S. Attorney's office in Billings who is negotiating for the obtaining of those lands by condemnation.

150 - Plans, Maps and Surveys

A topographical survey was started along the Mammoth service road, slope stakes set, and the drawing of a special box culvert for this road completed. Drawings were made on the proposed Canyon sewer system and the "As Constructed" Lake-Fishing Bridge water system.

160 - General Publicity

Several news releases with regard to a fish-catching coyote, the arrest of a poacher in the park, the "Montana Day" celebration, the appointment of Joseph D. Kurtz as Acting Postmaster, the new fishing and boating fees and the killing of a buffalo for the Crow Indian Agency, were sent out to the press and they all received wide publicity. The Gardiner Commercial Club also sent out several articles which received publicity in the adjoining states. A number of pictures were furnished from the park for use in illustrating articles and stories. Copy was edited and prepared for the forthcoming issue of Nature Notes.

200 - Maintenance, New Construction and Improvements

210 - Maintenance

Principal activities were centered on clearing snow from roadways, culverts, and ditches for the runoff accompanying thawing weather. Work

started on the opening of culverts along the Mammoth-Cooke road.

230 - Special Improvement Activities

ERA - The ERA continued the renovation of buildings around Mammoth and made good progress on the sloping of numerous points along the Gardiner-Mammoth road.

CCC - High company strength and favorable weather conditions resulted in a decided increase in progress on all CCC jobs. The principal jobs for the two Mammoth camps were nursery work at the Game Ranch; preparation of material, Mammoth; minor road and portable elk corral, Mammoth and the Game Ranch; garage, Buffalo Ranch; power and telephone lines, Mammoth. During the month the 19-man side camp at the Buffalo Ranch worked on the garage and preparation of material. No jobs were shown completed during the month.

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.

The schedules of approved rates for the 1940 season for the Hamilton Stores, Inc. and the Yellowstone Park Company were received in the park on the sixteenth while the approved rates for the C. A. Hamilton bathhouse were received on the nineteenth.

Due to a reduction in the price of gasoline in Montana the price in the park was reduced on February 28 to 23½¢ for regular and 25½¢ for ethyl at Mammoth and Old Faithful, and 24½¢ for regular and 26½¢ for ethyl at other points in the park. Unless changes occur before the opening of the season these same prices will remain in effect when the park is open to summer visitors.

400 - Interpretation

410 - Lecture and Guide Service

Two illustrated lecture trips were made by members of the Naturalist Department during the month. One trip extended from February 1 to 17 and covered the Snake River Valley of Idaho. During this trip 13,196 people were contacted, including school children, service clubs, rod and gun groups, and the Ricks College Leadership Program at Rexburg, Idaho. The second lecture trip extended from February 19 to March 1 and took in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming and Casper, Wyoming. During this trip 37 lectures were given and 10,225 people contacted. A lecture was also given in Mammoth on February 10 for the benefit of the visitors attending Montana Day activities.

430 - Research and Observation

432 - Zoology

Bighorn. A total of 87 bighorns were counted in the Mt. Everts area and it is estimated that 100 head are wintering in that vicinity. Due to the open winter these animals are not suffering from competition with elk and other animals as much as has been the case during normal winters.

Buffalo. On February 27 there were 500 buffalo on the feed ground, the largest number during the winter. However, the following day approximately 300 left the feed ground and grazed in the Horseshoe for the balance of the month.

Coyotes. From 32 to 34 coyotes have been observed daily at the Buffalo Ranch dump. A similar concentration exists in the Mammoth area.

Elk. The open season on elk in Park County, Montana closed March 1 with only 122 being taken as compared with 3066 taken last year. Elk remain widely scattered and rangers report large bands in areas which usually support only small bunches at this season. Conditions for securing the annual count appear most unfavorable. Trapping operations to secure elk for live shipments were carried on all month with little success. Sixteen head were secured on February 18 and these were shipped to Brown's Gulch near Butte, Montana by the Rocky Mountain Sportsmen's Association. The shipment consisted of 2 spikes, 4 calves and 10 cows.

500 - Use of Park Facilities by the Public

510 - Increase or Decrease in Travel

The Montana Day travel and a continued interest in winter sports account for a steady increase in travel over the open sections of highways in the northern section of the park. Improved skiing conditions are a regular attraction for weekend visitors. (See attached report.)

Entrance	1st Entry		Re-entry		Motorcycle		Other Transport.		Totals	
	Cars	Pass.	Cars	Pass.	No.	Pass.	No.	People	Veh.	Pass.
Northeast			77	240					77	240
North	233	739	262	664					495	1403
Totals	233	739	339	904	0	0	0	0	572	1643

600 - Protection

610 - Ranger Service

The usual intensive ski patrols were continued during February and all sections of the park were thoroughly covered. Snow depth readings, observations of game conditions and protection against poachers were the principal objects of these extensive winter patrols. One trapper was apprehended during the patrols. Trapping of live elk and counts of deer, antelope and bighorn required much effort in addition to the regular hunting patrols maintained in that section adjacent to Park County, Montana.

where the hunting season on elk remained open until the close of the month.

620 - Police Protection

Simon Barney Meyers, age 59, of West Yellowstone, Montana, was apprehended as he was operating a trap line inside the park near Grayling Creek. He was unable to pay a fine of $100 assessed against him by U. S. Commissioner Wilcox and was remanded to the Yellowstone jail for a period of 30 days.

900 - Miscellaneous

The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union was held in the Canteen on February 5. Following the meeting the members and residents of the community enjoyed several reels of motion pictures and partook of a dutch lunch served by the local union.

A new safety committee for the park consisting of Assistant Superintendent Emmert, Chief Ranger LaFoue and Junior Radio Engineer Elliott was appointed on February 1.

On February 5 the Local Civil Service Board received an announcement of an examination for the position of automotive mechanic for filling vacancies in the Yellowstone, the closing date for the filing of applications for which was February 26.

On february 19 word was received of the transfer to Boulder Dam National Recreational Area of Motor Truck Driver James D. Wilt. Mr. Wilt will leave for Boulder Dam about the tenth of March.

Joseph Joffe,
Acting Superintendent.

AMD

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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TRAVEL REPORT

Yellowstone National Park for the month of February, 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	233	3814	267	2430	1384	56.95
ars reentry	339	3842	113	1286	2556	198.75
otorcycles						
Total motor vehicles . . .	572	7656	380	3716	3940	106.03
ersons entering via motor vehicles	1643	21730	1315	10819	10911	100.85
ersons entering via other private transportation . .						
Total persons entering via private transportation .	1643	21730	1315	10819	10911	100.85
THER TRANSPORTATION:						
ersons entering via stages .						
ersons entering via trains .						
ersons entering otherwise . .						
Total other transportation .						
RAND TOTAL ALL VISITORS . .	1643	21730	1315	10819	10911	100.85

	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

_____ National Park for the month of _____

	This Month	This Travel Year To Date	This Month Last Year	Last Travel Year To Date	Increase or Decrease	
					Number	Percent
TRANSPORTATION:						
First class	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Second class	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Buses						
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 in private transportation .	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TRANSPORTATION:						
Persons entering via stages .						
Persons entering via trains .						
Persons entering otherwise . .						
Total other transportation .						
TOTAL ALL VISITORS . .	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

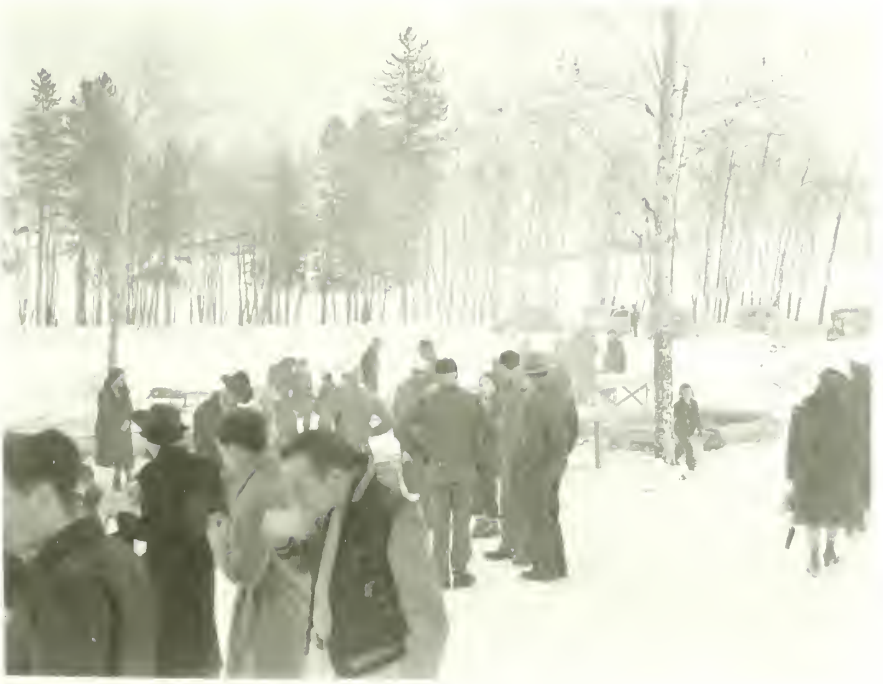
	This Year	Last Year	Increase	
			Number	Percent
Tables in public camps during month				
Persons in public camps during month				

Ski game stalk of February 11, led by Curtis K. Skinner.

Photos by J. W. Emmert.

Groups having lunch at Tower Falls in Montana Day.

Photos by J. W. Emmert.



Two telescopes, one a 20-power, Bausch and Lomb, the other a 12-power Battery Commander were set up along the road overlooking Hell Roaring region. 235 visitors stopped to see the elk through these telescopes.

Photo by Easton, 2-11-40