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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

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MONTHLY REPORT

March, 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

April 4, 1940

Memorandum for the Director:

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

000 - General

010 - The snow plows started out to open the roads the earliest in the park history to fulfill a promise made by the Superintendent at the Billings meeting on November 3 of the Tri-State Yellowstone Park Civic Association and to meet the demands from the neighboring states for a longer Yellowstone season. The snow plows began operations on March 11, more than two weeks earlier than the previous starting date, and by the end of the month had opened the roads to West Yellowstone and Old Faithful on the west side of the park, and from Norris to Canyon and Lake and Thumb and about six miles of the east entrance road on the east side. Also, the road to the hairpin turn on the Tower Falls-Dunraven Pass road had been opened to permit skiing on the slopes of Mount Washburn. The Mammoth-Northeast Entrance road had been kept open throughout the winter. Travel was permitted between Mammoth and West Yellowstone as soon as this road became passable and there was no time during the month following its opening when it was blocked by later snows. Travel was permitted over the road from Madison Junction to Old Faithful beginning March 23 and will continue unless blocked by snow. No travel was permitted to Canyon or Lake and the east side roads of the park are expected to be kept closed until about May 1.

Despite the early opening of the roads very few motorists availed themselves of the opportunity of visiting Old Faithful and there was very little travel between Mammoth and West Yellowstone, except locals. The park received considerable rain and snow during the last week of the month and precipitation was more than twice normal. The unusually mild weather during the month removed the snow around Mammoth and the lower elevations and golfing was started on the Antelope Golf Course at Gardiner on March 23. The first train arrived at West Yellowstone on March 8.

For the second year Easter Sunrise Services were held on the travertine terraces at Mammoth Hot Springs on Easter Sunday, March 24. The location was identical with last year and the weather was in direct contrast. While last year the services were conducted throughout a blinding snowstorm the weather this year was ideal with a bright warm sun shining and no better day could have been picked throughout the year for the occasion. Easter this

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year was some two weeks ahead of last year when it fell on April 9. A chorus of approximately 100 mixed voices composed of residents of Mammoth and Gardiner and enrollees of CCC Company 544 under the direction of Mrs. Clifford Collins, school teacher of Gardiner, provided the vocal numbers while the music was furnished from an electric Orgatron donated for the occasion by the Barber Music House of Great Falls, Montana. Dr. Robert W. Stevens, well-known organist from Chicago and Great Falls rendered several selections on the Orgatron and accompanied the chorus. The services were broadcast over Station KWYO, Sheridan, Wyoming. Three hundred three cars and 1049 people checked in at the north and west entrances and with the Mammoth residents, CCC enrollees and ERA employees living at Mammoth, the crowd was estimated at 1500 which was more than twice the number at last year's services. The affair proved very successful and there was much favorable comment regarding it.

Joseph D. Kurtz of Cody, Wyoming entered on duty as Acting Postmaster of the Yellowstone Post Office on March 1, succeeding Claude Anthony who was relieved from his duties on February 10. Mr. Anthony succeeded Chester A. Lindsley in July, 1935 following the latter's retirement. An open competitive Civil Service examination for filling the postmaster vacancy (second class) was announced by the Civil Service Commission in Washington on March 14, the closing date for the filing of applications for which was set for April 2. Local residents only are eligible and several employees have filed their applications.

On March 1 a wire was received from Washington to the effect that the Secretary had rescinded the order requiring a fishing license for the park and deferred action on the application of a fee for the use of power boats on the waters of the park. Fees of $3.00 per season or $1.00 per week for fishing and $1.00 for the use of power boats were approved by the Secretary's office on February 7 and immediately upon their announcement there was considerable protest from civic organizations, individuals, wildlife clubs, Izaak Walton League chapters and others. The unpopularity and untimeliness of the fees resulted in their cancellation by the Department.

020 - General Weather Conditions

The average daily temperature for March was 4.8° warmer than normal. Precipitation was 2.00 inches and just double the normal amount, most of this excess coming as rain in the last week of March. The last half of March was unusually mild and caused a rapid reduction and disappearance of the accumulated snow cover of the winter at Mammoth. At higher elevations considerable melting has occurred but much of the melt water has been going into the soil rather than the streams. The snow is disappearing 2 to 4 weeks earlier than usual.

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

	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Buffalo Ranch	10	24	20	0	68	24	19	20	6	8
Bechler River	44	85	71	15	61	84.1	68	91.4	49	56
Cooke	24	36	36	30	34	40	42	32	25	23.4
Gallatin	23	40	36	18	36	36	-	-	12	10
Lake	19	38	28	16	36	53	35	62	27	28
Lewis River Divide	53	132	106	-	-	-	92	104	89	87
Mammoth	Drifts	12	-	-	6.8	10.9	1.0	2.0	Drifts	-
Old Faithful	12	56	46	20	52	72.5	-	51	21	28
Snake River	40	78	59	26	54	80	54	69	46	36
Tower Falls	6	18	20	-	12	28	17	21	10	6
West Yellowstone	14	47	42	7	41	52	39	51	23	24

100 - Administrative

110 - Superintendent's Special Activities

Superintendent Rogers was in Washington throughout the month on special assignment as acting superintendent of the National Capital Parks. Assistant Superintendent Emmert was acting and during his absence Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe was acting.

Mr. Emmert left for Denver on the evening of March 4 to attend a meeting regarding Yellowstone road matters with officials of the Public Roads Administration, Regional Landscape Architect Baker and Resident Landscape Architect Sanford Hill from the Omaha office and Landscape Architect Thomas F. Carpenter of the Western Roads and Trails Division, San Francisco. He returned by car with Mr. Hill on the ninth.

Mr. Joffe left on the ninth for Pocatello and Salt Lake to assist with the holding of oral examinations for rangers with J. M. Hatcher, examiner for the U. S. Civil Service Commission in Washington. At the oral examination held in Pocatello on the eleventh five eligibles were examined, and six eligibles were examined at Salt Lake on the twelfth. Mr. Joffe returned to the park on the fourteenth.

Mr. Joffe and Chief Ranger LaNoue attended a meeting of the Northern Pacific officials and ticket agents in Livingston on the seventeenth.

120 - Park Inspections

John M. Knudsen, Inspector for the Post Office Department, Cheyenne, who arrived in the park on February 10 to assume the duties of Acting Postmaster until the appointment of a successor to former Postmaster Claude Anthony, departed on the second.

Resident Landscape Architect Sanford Hill arrived March 9; departed on the sixteenth.

Charles R. Baldwin, Regional Fiscal Supervisor, Region II, who arrived

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

on February 20, departed via the north gate March 10.

L. J. Snell, U. S. Geological Survey, Boise, Idaho, arrived March 9 to take water gauge readings.

Harry Dunham, Inspector CCC and FRA, Region II, arrived March 18; departed twentieth.

Brad Seeley, WPA Inspector, Butte, arrived March 18; departed nineteenth.

Lt. Col. Earl Landreth, Commanding Officer, Missoula, CCC District, in nineteenth.

O. F. Fredericks, Special Agent, Division of Investigation, Department of Interior, Billings, arrived in park on March 26 to confer with Dr. Bauer and David Condon in connection with the bill to eliminate certain lands from the park along the north boundary. He left the same day for Provo, Utah and returned again on the twenty-ninth, leaving the following day.

140 - Status of Private Lands

On March 6 condemnation proceedings were started in Helena to acquire 222 acres along the north line of the park including the properties of the Child Estate, Roy Armstrong, Anton Sternitz and Lena Bassett Ross, valued at $11,647.00. On March 4 Special Assistant to United States Attorney Thomas C. Colton filed with the District Court of the United States for the District of Montana, declarations of taking on these four properties and deposited check in amount of $11,647.00 with the court. District Judge Baldwin signed an order giving the Government possession of the lands on March 13, 1940 and set the hearings for June 13, 1940 in the District Court at Helena. On March 25 a communication was received from the Washington Office, dated March 19, advising that title and fee simple to the four parcels of land with right to possession on or before March 13, 1940 was vested in the United States on March 5.

150 - Plans, Maps and Surveys

Topographical mapping continued along the Mammoth service road and stakes were set for sewer cesspools at the Buffalo Ranch. Revisions on the Master Plan sheets were drawn and information was gathered for correcting the road system shuttle cards.

160 - General Publicity

Several news stories regarding Easter sunrise services, CCC open house and wildlife week, as well as a number of pictures, were distributed for publicity purposes.

The mimeographing of the 1939 annual report was completed and distributed on March 6.

200 - Maintenance, New Construction and Improvements

210 - Maintenance

In preparation for the earlier opening of the park, snow removal started over two weeks earlier than in prior years, and the opening and widening has been completed from Mammoth to Old Faithful, Madison to West Yellowstone, and Norris to West Thumb. A small travelling crew followed up this work opening critical points along the road for melting snow runoff and cleaning out culverts, and another crew opened culverts on the Mammoth-Cooke road and removed rock on several minor slides near Mammoth.

220 - New Construction

A notice of bids to be opened by the Public Roads Administration in Denver on April 4 for constructing and improving Project 3-A4, grading and bridge on the northeast entrance road, Tower Junction to Lamar Canyon, 5.576 miles, was issued under date of March 20.

230 - Special Improvement Activities

ERA - The ERA continued road bank sloping on the Mammoth-Gardiner road and started similar activity on the Yellowstone River approaches near Tower Junction. ERA employees also prepared a narrative report on the waters covered in 1939 in connection with the stream survey project.

CCC - The average company strengths of Camps YNP 1 and 7 were reduced from 190 to approximately 124 on March 9 when a number of enrollees left after serving their enrollment period. This decrease in company strength and the unfavorable weather conditions during March retarded progress on most of the jobs.

The main jobs for the two camps were Minor Road, Power Lines, Telephone Lines and Miscellaneous Structures in Mammoth; Preparation of Material at Mammoth and the Gardiner Pit; Nursery Work at the Game Ranch; and Garage at the Buffalo Ranch. On March 13 Camp YNP 1 was placed under a three-weeks' working quarantine for scarlet fever and it was necessary to work all crews on the obliteration of the old Gardiner gravel pit and the crushing of rock at this point.

During the month the sixteen-man side camp maintained at the Buffalo Ranch worked on the new garage and preparation of material. The Miscellaneous Structure job, the only job shown complete this month, covered the necessary work in connection with the Easter Sunrise Services which were held on March 24.

Officials from the Regional Office inspecting equipment, jobs and the camps during the month were Traveling Mechanic H. F. Dygert, Resident

Landscape Architect Sanford Hill and Supervising Inspector Harry L. Dunham.

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 NRA.

Joe Bill, Printer for the Yellowstone Park Company, arrived in the park on March 5 and opened the Mammoth Print Shop.

The schedule of rates for the 1940 season for Haynes, Incorporated, approved March 1, was received on the eleventh.

The transportation garage at Gardiner opened for the season on the eighteenth in charge of F. F. Kammermeyer.

400 - Interpretation

410 - Lecture and Guide Service

The Park Naturalist gave two illustrated lectures during the month, one before an audience of 550 at a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Sportsmen's Club in Butte, Montana and the other before the Yellowstone Women's Club with an audience of 28 people in attendance.

430 - Research and Observation

432 - Zoology

Bighorn. The condition of the Mt. Everts band was much improved over other years according to Dr. Hadleigh March of the Montana Veterinary Research Laboratory, who inspected the animals on March 17 and commented favorably on their condition. At this time only one young ram was coughing and in poor flesh, although one or two lambs also coughed upon rising from the bed ground. There were 103 bighorns in the Mt. Everts band during the month including 21 rams, 62 ewes, 11 lambs and 9 yearlings.

Bison. The main herd left the feed grounds at the Buffalo Ranch on March 18 and ranged in the Horseshoe and Hellroaring areas for the remainder of the month. On March 11 the show herd of 30 animals was segregated and held after 78 had been enticed into the corrals.

Coyotes. While the uncrusted snow condition was favorable to grazing animals it was equally unfavorable for coyotes as they could not travel and the animals they usually prey upon were able to avoid their attacks without difficulty. As the winter was unfavorable to the coyotes, large concentrations gathered on all the dumps where food could be obtained. Many of these animals were decrepit and half-starved, while others were observed trying and actually catching fish in the streams

and attempting to obtain food in other unusual ways. At the Buffalo Ranch as many as 34 coyotes were observed feeding on the dump and many of these animals would wait for the garbage to be hauled away and would follow the sled from the ranch houses to the dump. A number of coyotes were found which had apparently died of starvation.

Elk. Unsuccessful attempts were made to trap elk for shipments until March 10, when this operation was terminated. Only 16 were captured and shipped during the winter.

Trumpeter Swan. On March 21 a pair of swans were observed on Beaver Lake near Obsidian Cliff and on the same day another pair were seen on Slough Creek. Both of these placed are near nesting sites where the ice has not melted.

433 - Geology

A geological paper on the Southern Margin of the Absaroka Range in Montana and Wyoming, prepared by J. D. Love and containing considerable geological information relating to the park, was reviewed by the Park Naturalist in a paper submitted to the Journal of Geology.

435 - History

"The Early History of Yellowstone National Park" by W. Turrentine Jackson was reviewed by members of the Naturalist Department. This bound manuscript copy, which is on file in the Yellowstone Library, contains the most complete historical account of the Yellowstone Park region from 1800 to 1872 in existence at the present time.

500 - Use of Park Facilities by the Public

510 - Increase or Decrease in Travel

The excellent skiing conditions of early March, the second Easter Sunrise Service and the open road to Old Faithful were the most important factors which contributed to a continued increase in travel. (See attached report.)

ENTRANCE	1st Entry		Re-entry		TOTALS	
	Cars	Pass.	Cars	Pass.	Vehicles	Pass.
South	--		--		--	
East	--		--		--	
North	362	1135	379	1009	741	2144
West	147	491	35	98	182	589
Northeast			76	206	76	206
TOTALS	509	1626	490	1313	999	2939

(No entries under "Motorcycles" or "Other Transportation".)

600 - Protection

610 - Ranger Service

Rangers covered practically all sections of the park on regular ski patrols for general protection purposes and to take snow depth readings and make observations of the condition of the park's wildlife. The annual census of Pronghorns, Bighorns and Deer was made and counts of the buffalo near Mountain and Fery Mountain were very successful.

Winter sports and special events, such as the Easter Sunrise Service, required special supervision to handle visitors. Weekend highway patrols were also necessary and rangers were required to handle travel at the West Entrance after March 15.

The headquarters staff spent considerable time on the land acquisition program and in making preparation for the fire protection training school to be held April 8 to 20, inclusive.

620 - Police Protection

On March 20, Duane R. Taylor, an ERA employee, was convicted of petty larceny and sentenced to pay a fine of $25.00 and to be confined for 30 days in the Laramie County jail at Cheyenne, Wyoming.

680 - Accidents

On March 6, 1940 between Mammoth and the CCC Camps an Army ambulance driven by a CCC enrollee and towing an Army G.I. truck steered by an enrollee, ran into a Chevrolet coupe driven and owned by Delmer J. Logeland, employed by the NPS in Yellowstone. Mr. Logeland's car was slightly damaged but no one was injured.

900 - Miscellaneous

The regular monthly meeting of Local 465, Federal Employees Union was held at the Canteen on March 4. The members heard a talk by Judge T. Paul Wilcox on legal residence and retirement, and following the business meeting a special feature sound motion picture was shown.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. R. A. Whitlock, Jr. in the Park Hospital in Livingston on March 6. Mr. Whitlock is employed as night watchman for the National Park Service.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Almon Dewing at the Park Hospital in Livingston on March 12. Mr. Dewing is employed as Chief Mechanic with the CCC in the park.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Williams at the Park Hospital in Livingston on March 21. Mr. Williams is employed as a clerk

in the Government warehouse.

Members of the community were surprised on March 23 with the announcement of the marriage of Mary Capes and Russell Lambert in Livingston on November 18, 1939. The newlyweds kept the secret of their marriage until it was revealed by Mrs. Lambert at a party which she gave on the twenty-third. Mrs. Lambert is employed as a clerk in the Mammoth Post Office while her husband is a temporary rodman in the Park Engineer's office.

A dance sponsored by the local Federal Employees Union was held in the Canteen on March 9.

A meeting of Department Heads and the Yellowstone Safety Committee was held on March 22 to discuss safety matters and the 1942 estimates.

J. W. Emmert,
Acting Superintendent.

AMD

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TRAVEL REPORT

Yellowstone National Park for the month of [illegible]

	This Month	This Travel Year To Date	This Month Last Year	Last Travel Year To Date	Increase for Travel Year	
					Number	Percent
IVATE TRANSPORTATION:						
rs first entry, ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
rs reentry, ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
orcycles, ...						
Total motor vehicles, ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
sons entering via motor icles, ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
sons entering via other vate transportation.						
otal persons entering via rivate transportation, . . .	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ER TRANSPORTATION:						
sons entering via stages, .						
sons entering via trains, .						
sons entering otherwise, . .						
otal other transportation, .	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ND TOTAL ALL VISITORS, . . .						

	This Year	Last Year	Increase	
			Number	Percent
omobiles in public camps during month, ...				
pers in public camps during month, ...				

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TRAVEL REPORT

National Park for the month of

	This Month	This Year To Date	This Month Last Year	This Year To Date Last Year	Increase or Decrease	Percent
TRANSPORTATION						
First entry						
Reentry						
Vehicles						
Of motor vehicles						
Persons entering via motor vehicles						
Persons entering via other transportation						
Total persons entering via other transportation						
TRANSPORTATION						
Persons entering via airplane						
Persons entering via train						
Persons entering afoot						
Persons other transportation						
TOTAL ALL VISITORS						

	This Year	Last Year	Increase	Decrease
Vehicles in public camps during month				
Persons in public camps during month				

Easter Sunrise Services March 24, 1940
Mixed chorus composed of residents of Gardiner and Mammoth and CCC Camp 544 marching in at the beginning of the services.

Easter Sunrise Song Services March 24, 1940
Part of crowd of some 1500 visitors gathering on the highway to view the Services. The chorus and electric organ in the foreground.

Easter Sunrise Services March 24, 1940.
Dr. Robert W. Stevens, well known organist of Chicago at the electric orgatron. The Services were broadcast by station KWYO, Sheridan, Wyoming.

Easter Sunrise Services March 24, 1940.
Chorus of 100 mixed voices under the direction of Mrs. Clifford Collins of Gardiner with Dr. Robert W. Stevens at the electric orgatron.