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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 1952

	ROGERS
✓	HAMILTON
✓	JOFFE
✓	ANDERSON
	STANTON
	GARRETT
	PROCTOR
	HOTTINGER
✓	MATTHEWS
✓	COLDOCK
✓	BROWN
	EVANS
	CHAPMAN
✓	JAY
	McCOMAS
✓	KITTAMS
✓	WOHLBRANDT
	ROBINSON
	WIGGINS
	McMULLIN

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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, WYO.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Summary of the March 1952 Monthly Narrative Report for
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

April 7, 1952

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Monthly Report for March 1952

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of March 1952:

Weather Conditions. March was characterized by erratic weather varying from brilliantly clear days to dull days with heavy snowfall. Total precipitation of 1.69 inches was 0.22 inch higher than a six-year average, but 0.16 of an inch less than March, 1951. These figures pertain to the headquarters snow depths only and are not necessarily reflected for the rest of the park. Temperatures ranged from a minimum of -14° on the 3rd to 46° on the 28th. There were 11 cloudy days, 9 partly cloudy, and 11 clear days this month.

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

	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Mammoth	20.6	5	5	11	8	4	12
Tower Fall	36	23	18	28	28	13	18
West Yellowstone	58	45	49	42	40	38	39
Northeast Entrance	42.6	38	33	47	38	33	25
Lamar	24	7	5	18	22	8	10
Gallatin	47	22	25	21	28	-	43

Comparative snow depths from snow courses read by the Bureau of Reclamation. Parenthetical figures are considered to be normal by the Bureau.

	Snow Depth	Water Content
Snake River Ranger Station	75" depth (60)	24.7" (19.7)
Colter Creek Meadows	80" depth (62)	26.3" (22.2)
Lewis River Divide	129" depth (111)	52.8" (42.6)
Aster Creek	102" depth (83)	41.3" (31.0)
Continental Divide (Thumb)	81" depth	28.9"
Grassy Lake (Cascade)	121" depth	45.6"

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers was in Denver until March 11 on work in connection with his project covering the legislative history of the areas administered by the National Park Service, on which date he left for the park, arriving here the afternoon of March 12. A trip was made to Bozeman on March 18 to continue work in the library there on his legislative history project and to confer with Mr. J. E. Haynes.

Assistant Superintendent Johnston returned from Omaha on March 2 where he had been in attendance at the Region Two Superintendents Conference. He departed from the park on March 19 for Lassen Volcanic National Park where he was to take over the duties of Superintendent of that area. His successor, Warren F. Hamilton, Assistant Superintendent, Natchez Trace Parkway, was expected to arrive in Yellowstone on April 3.

Resident Landscape Architect Mattson returned to the park on March 3 from Omaha where he had been on assignment throughout the month of February.

Assistant Chief Ranger Evans went to Helena on March 10 to confer with State and Forest Service officials on wildlife matters and to meet with Montana Fish and Game Commission. He returned on the 11th.

On March 13 Superintendent Rogers appointed Mrs. Alice Quist as a member of the Yellowstone Park School Board to succeed Mrs. Deate T. White, making the Board consist of W. Verde Watson, Chairman; Mrs. Quist, Member and William G. Proper, Secretary-Treasurer.

In accordance with Field Order 1-52, January 2, 1952, and Disposal Authority, General Schedule No. 1 (June 1951 revision) approved by Congress, by House Report 716, 82nd Congress, 1st Session, and promulgated by Federal Records Regulation No. 1, dated November 2, 1951, the personnel files of all seasonal employees other than those who served during the 1950 or 1951 seasons and all permanent personnel with service prior to one year before March 1952 were forwarded on March 21 to the Federal Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri.

Park Engineer Wohlbrandt and Shop Foreman Miller went to Livingston and Billings on March 27 in connection with a wage board survey. They returned on the 28th. Mr. Miller also made a trip to Riverton, Wyoming, on March 12 to inspect surplus equipment. He returned on the 13th.

The Yellowstone Park residents again contributed generously during the Red Cross drive which was under way during March. A total of $179.55 was collected in the park and turned over to the Park County Montana Chapter of the Red Cross as their contribution in the drive. William A. Wright was Chairman of the local committee.

Nine persons from Swan Valley, Idaho, traveling in four snoplanes entered the park at West Yellowstone March 27 and made a

trip to Old Faithful and returned on that date. This trip has now become an annual event for owners of snowplanes of Swan Valley.

In-Service Training. A first aid training course sponsored by the Protection Division was conducted by American Red Cross Representative Robert H. Smith of San Francisco from March 17 to 21. Fifteen park rangers, one smoke jumper-squad leader, one truck driver and one storekeeper-truck driver qualified as first aid instructors. One park ranger, buffalo keeper, packer foreman, and one plumber completed the advanced course and six employees of the mechanical division completed the standard course. Other employees who were unable to attend regularly at training sessions received 108 hours of training and other persons in the Mammoth community received 120 hours of training.

Seven park rangers received three hours each of enforcement training on March 27.

In-Service Training charts were made during the month for use during the spring Protection Division Training Conference.

A staff meeting including division heads and other officials of the park was held on March 3, at which meeting Acting Superintendent Johnston announced his pending transfer to the position of Superintendent, Lassen National Park and that of Chief Ranger Skinner to Assistant Superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park

On March 27 a memorandum was issued, prepared by Personnel Assistant Proper, containing information for use of seasonal personnel in connection with their indoctrination into the Service entitled "Your Job". The material contained in this memorandum should be extremely valuable to new seasonal employees as well as to those who have served here in former years.

Publicity. The Annual Report covering the 1951 fiscal year was ready for mailing on March 5 and copies were furnished the Yellowstone Park Library, various division heads, the Washington and Regional Offices, and collectors of Yellowstone literature.

Special articles on the park's elk and buffalo reduction programs and one on the activities of George Marler in connection with his studies of geyser activities were furnished the Northern Pacific Railway for release through that railroad.

A press release was issued by the Washington Office on March 13 regarding the transfers of Fred T. Johnston to Lassen Volcanic National Park and Curtis K. Skinner to Mount Rainier National Park and the transfer of Mr. Johnston's successor, Warren F. Hamilton, from Natchez Trace Parkway to Yellowstone.

The "A" and "B" Folders issued by the Yellowstone Park Company as well as the proofs thereof were reviewed during the month and forwarded to Mr. M. M. Goodsill of the Northern Pacific Railway, St. Paul, Minnesota, for transmittal to the printer.

Mr. Carl E. Hayden of Idaho Falls, Idaho, representative of the Salt Lake Tribune, released several park winter stories with pictures through the Salt Lake Tribune.

A total of 83,000 broadsides for 1951 remained on hand at the end of the month.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. The Park Engineer made two trips away from the park during the month for the purpose of collecting wage board data and to check on surplus property. One trip was made to Livingston and Billings in connection with the wage board survey and the other to Idaho Falls and Pocatello to inspect surplus property. No property of value to the park was located.

Assistant Engineers Thuring and Rowe were busy all month on plans for the Lake and Canyon areas.

Another proposal has been made by the Post Office Department for building post offices at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge by contract.

Several master plan sheets from the Regional Office were routed to the park staff and returned to the Regional Office with recommendations for approval.

Resident Landscape Architect Mattson prepared plans for campground fireplaces, YEL-2379, 3/19, Final, and Parking Area, Museum-Administration Building, Custer Preliminary, CUS-2053, 3/26. About a week was used to detail sign diagrams for Canyon.

Maintenance. Snowfall was about normal for the month and snow plowing operations kept the permanent organization busy most of the time.

Water held back by the deep snow caused a temporary lake to cover about 200 yards of the Gallatin road. It was necessary to send a crew from Mammoth via Livingston and Bozeman with powder to blast out a channel through the snow in order to drain the lake.

Two plows (rotary) started from Mammoth on the regular spring opening of roads on March 31. Plowing will now be continuous until completed about the middle of June. Snow depths are considerably above normal.

Three old pieces of equipment were given a new coat of highway yellow paint. Nearly all our regular road equipment now has this standard color.

Highways in both Montana and Idaho are breaking up quite badly and it is expected that park roads will do the same. A small maintenance crew will be organized for Mammoth early in April.

Signs. A small crew has been working on signs intermittently during the winter. A total of 215 concrete blocks were made and metal signs mounted on them. Five large rustic wooden signs for the Canyon area have been routed out.

New Construction. All road construction projects were closed down for the winter.

All other projects except the following were inactive due to winter closing down of work:

Account 233.01, Campground Rehabilitation throughout park.--A total of 125 campground tables and 90 fireplaces have been prefabricated. Steel for 40 additional fireplaces has been cut.

Account 332.10, Fire Meter, Mammoth.--Job is 99% complete. Cleanup is all that remains.

Account 234, Mammoth Museum Rehabilitation.--Job about 80% complete. Partitions have been moved, cupboard built and work shop completed. One file cabinet unfinished.

Concessioners. The Yellowstone Park Company reopened its shops at Gardiner on March 3.

Walter Stuart and "Whitey" Reed, snoplane operators at West Yellowstone, made trips in two snoplanes on March 5 from West Yellowstone to Old Faithful to remove Mrs. Ray Riley, wife of the Old Faithful winterkeeper, from Old Faithful to West Yellowstone due to illness. Mrs. Riley was taken back to Old Faithful on the 7th.

Supplemental rates for the Yellowstone Park Company's cafeterias, Mammoth Grill and lodge dining rooms were received on March 14, reviewed and transmitted to the Regional and Washington Offices with our recommendations on March 17.

A copy of the supplemental approved rates for the Yellowstone Park Company for 1952 was received here March 17.

Jack Haynes made a trip to the park on March 17 from his winter headquarters at Bozeman and on March 30 he and his daughter Lida paid a visit to the park.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. The regular Yellowstone Park Sunday School services were conducted each Sunday in the Chapel at 10:30 a.m. In addition to these activities the Yellowstone Park Sunday School held its annual Sunday School picnic on Saturday, March 15, at the Lamar Unit in the Lamar Valley.

On March 9 the Rev. L. L. Ortmayer conducted the regular inter-denominational Protestant services at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

Planning for the Easter services to be held in the Yellowstone Park Chapel on Easter Sunday, April 13, is being carried through by the joint Yellowstone Park-Gardiner church group.

Interpretive Services. Several days were spent during the month of March editing and assembling the manuscripts on wild animals of Yellowstone and the birds of Yellowstone which were originally prepared by Park Naturalist Harold Brodrick. By the month's close these manuscripts had been retyped, edited, reviewed, covers selected for the publications and were in general ready for submission to a publisher.

An article, accompanied by illustrations, on vandalism was sent by Chief Park Naturalist Condon to a popular magazine in hopes that it might gain publication, but it is anticipated that it will be returned without receiving favorable consideration.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. The revision of the Mammoth basement storage facilities progressed during the month and the cabinet work on a number of built-in units was completed. In addition, a new negative file cabinet of 15 drawers was added to the photo file storage units. In connection with the addition of this unit it was necessary to rearrange and make an entirely new floor arrangement in the basement back room. The Carpenter Shop is completing construction of an additional herbarium case which when finished will provide adequate space for the expansion of this part of our museum storage.

Research and Observation. Park Naturalist Watson has devoted a great deal of time during the month of March to library research on the Norris Geyser Basin and has converted much of the information gained into a manuscript on this section of Yellowstone Park. He expects to have a completed manuscript ready some time in April. Efforts are being made at the present time to obtain suitable illustrative materials.

A small weasel has created considerable interest in the residential area below the hill where he has frequently visited the back porches of residents and is reported to have spent a good portion of his time under the Dwight Richards house.

A great deal of time was devoted to the completion of an index to the Yellowstone Park Nature Notes for the period from 1936 to the present. This index was completed and checked and plans call for the multilithing of 100 copies for distribution to people holding complete issues of this publication.

On the 21st the first reports were received of a large bull bison having taken up residence in the Mammoth area and he has stayed in the vicinity throughout the balance of the month.

The Richardson's grouse which adopted the community as his home last fall is still around and has been visiting the bird feeding stations. Robins, Brewer's blackbirds and one red-winged blackbird were all observed before the close of March.

George Marler in the Old Faithful area reports a number of interesting geyser observations. Ones which probably have the greatest significance are that the Giant Geyser during the month of March erupted twelve times, and that the average interval between eruptions of this geyser for the month was 2 days and 19 hours, the shortest interval between eruptions was 47 hours and the longest 4 days and 14 hours. This average for the Giant Geyser is about one-half that of last summer's period of activity and as near as can be determined the Giant has erupted more times in March of this year than it has for any other recorded period that we know of.

Natural History Association. The Association has carried on correspondence with the Edwards Brothers, Lithoprinters, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, concerning the possibility of printing a series of handbooks on key Yellowstone areas and subjects. Chief Park Naturalist Condon devoted a great deal of time during March to the assembling, reviewing and editing of two manuscripts, one on birds and the other on animals, for submission to the Edwards Brothers for printing. At month's close these manuscripts were about ready to be sent to the Regional Director's office for review and if satisfactory they were to be sent to the printers.

The Association continued to employ George D. Marler at Old Faithful on geyser observation and research and they employed Mrs. Alice Quist as Association clerk on three afternoons per week.

The Association's multilith was used for the preparation of the cover for the Superintendent's Annual Report. Yellowstone Park Nature Notes were completed and in the mail on March 7. The new zinc masters for Nature Notes covers were received from the Multilith Corporation on March 6 and one of these was used on the January-February issue.

The Association purchased a Lott print dryer for use in the darkroom.

The publication Yellowstone Park Fishes will have to be reprinted soon and correspondence was carried on with Mr. James Simon, author of this publication, with regard to any desired revisions which should be made before it is printed.

The Association plans to sell at least four new publications this coming season. One is a pamphlet on moose, one a pamphlet on wapiti, one a pamphlet on the unvanquished buffalo and the fourth item will be a small book entitled Tommy Trout.

Inquiries were sent out by the Executive Secretary of the Association to several Bell and Howell distributors in an attempt to obtain a sales discount on the new Bell and Howell model 202 magnetic sound 16mm motion picture projector. At the close of the month no replies had been received from these establishments. It is hoped that one of these machines can be obtained and that through it we can prepare our own sound motion pictures interpreting Yellowstone.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. This March a total of 1,344 people entered the park as compared to 1,270 in March of 1951. This increase is probably due in part to the excellent skiing conditions coincident with each weekend.

Visitors. Dr. Norman C. Carlson, who was resident physician in the park during 1949 and 1950, arrived in the park on March 30 with his family en route from Minnesota to California to renew acquaintances with his many friends here.

A group of students of wildlife from the Montana State College, Bozeman, under the leadership of Professor Don Quimby, visited the park on March 8 and was conducted on their tour over the winter range by Biologist Kittams.

Ranger Service. Elk trapping activities were terminated on the 7th and all men scheduled for trapping operations were placed on regular tours of duty to facilitate the accomplishment of other duties.

Field Representative Robert H. Smith, American Red Cross, conducted a 35-hour course in First Aid during the week of March 16-22. Instructor cards were earned by 18 men, 16 of whom were Protection Division personnel. Advanced Course cards were earned by 3 men of the Protection Division and an additional 442 man-hours of First Aid training were given to other National Park Service personnel in Mammoth. Total of all man-hours of training amounted to 1113.

Ski patrols were made into the upper Lamar River area, along the North Boundary, West Boundary, South Boundary, and Bechler River. No evidence of violations was discovered on any of these trips. The Gallatin area was largely patrolled by personnel in automobiles.

The Protection Division offices in the Administration Building were rearranged to facilitate the operations and increase the efficiency of the division. The administrative assistant in the Chief Ranger's Office will occupy the office space of the former Chief Ranger and a new office has been prepared for the incoming Chief Ranger adjacent to the office of the Assistant Superintendent. New linoleum was placed on the floors and a general spring housecleaning was effected. The Statistical Office was moved from the building to the mimeograph room of the Fiscal Office, but will function under the supervision of the Chief Ranger as before.

During the latter part of the month, the park rangers in the field were instructed to make careful records of all winter-killed animals.

In-Service Training charts were made during the month and rangers were also making metal trail markers for installation on poorly-marked trails this summer. The museum relics from Big Hole Battlefield National Monument were also in the process of restoration.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. BISON. Park rangers counted 61 bison in the Lamar River drainage during March and 81 others were held in the corrals at the Lamar Unit. The total of 142 appears to represent the total Lamar herd at this time. Two large bulls appeared at Mammoth near the end of the month and one remained in or near the residential area.

An aerial census of the interior bison herds was planned, but frequent storms made it necessary to defer this project.

ELK. Reduction operations in the park were terminated for the season on March 7, when elk were loaded from the traps to fill the last approved request for live animals. Only two shipments were made during the month: 16 to E. J. Schowalter, Jackson, Michigan, March 1-3, 1952, and 12 to John Pettera, Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, March 7, 1952.

A total of 563 live elk was furnished applicants during the winter of 1951-52. The Montana Department of Fish and Game received 316 animals and other applicants received 247. The five traps yielded 1,355 elk during the winter and 1,192 were shipped out of the park in trucks. Records show that the largest number previously shipped was 551. The elk reduction progress report submitted on March 7, showed that 3,813 elk had been removed from the northern Yellowstone herd through that date.

Severe weather continued through March and forage available to elk and other grazing animals was drastically reduced. Many of the animals are in a weakened condition and natural mortalities are expected to effect a substantial addition to the elk reduction for the winter.

Forest Fire Protection. Forest fire protection activities for the month consisted mainly of selecting suitable applicants for the fire control aid positions for the coming season. The quality of the applicants seems to be a little higher than last year.

Smokejumper Squadleader Gorsuch accomplished considerable pre-suppression work in the fire cache such as rehandling shovels, axes, Pulaskis and other small tools as well as generally cleaning up the building in preparation for the coming season.

Arrangements were made with Bowler's Air Service which has the contract to furnish airplane service for the park to come to Yellowstone for the purpose of making flights in connection with game observations.

These flights are to be made as soon as weather conditions permit.

Blister Rust Control. A liquid gas range was ordered. This stove will be used in the pack camp on Carnelian Creek and is supposedly capable of economically preparing food for a camp of that size.

Wood Utilization. Messrs. Child, Roseborough, Evans, Mattson and Chapman met with Superintendent Rogers on March 31 and details regarding a supply of cordwood for use by the Yellowstone Park Company were worked out. The main sources of supply during 1952 are to be the Lewis River burn and the mature timber in the Fishing Bridge campground area.

Building Fire Control. Inspection of government buildings for fire hazards was completed in the Gardiner area during the month. Inspection of concessioner buildings will follow as soon as convenient.

Thirteen new fire extinguishers were installed in various buildings in the Mammoth area. These were recommended as a result of the recent inspection for building fire hazards. Three extinguishers were replaced due to faulty operation and four extinguishers were moved to more strategic locations. Most of the buildings in the Mammoth area are now adequately equipped with first aid fire appliances.

All foam, protexite and soda acid extinguishers in the headquarters area were cleaned and recharged.

Trails. Many applications for trail crew positions are being received, but as usual, very few of the applicants are qualified for this type of work. Due to the remote areas in which this type of work is carried on, trail crew men are required to be more or less self-sustaining and should have some experience in taking care of themselves under rough conditions.

Letters of acceptance were sent out to six of the most promising applicants but to date no qualified leaders or foreman applications have been received. It is hoped that the promise of a 48-hour work week will be an inducement to more qualified men.

Accidents and Public Safety. One Class A motor vehicle accident was reported this month and also one Class B accident. The injuries sustained in the latter case were minor in nature.

Law Enforcement. No cases were reported this month. No. U. S. Commissioner is yet in residence in Mammoth.

Deaths. Mrs. Joseph Targus, of Pe Ell, Washington, mother of the wife of Chief Clerk Anderson, died at her home on March 3 after a lingering illness.

Morris K. Musser, who was Mayor of Livingston from 1937 to 1939 and who was an employee of the Yellowstone Park Company from 1909 to 1924 as Winterkeeper and Transportation Agent, died at Victorville, California, on March 12 from a heart attack.

Personnel. Biologist Kittams was on military leave from March 17 to 31, inclusive for two weeks training duty for the U. S. Naval Reserve at the Naval Air Station in Denver.

Assistant Superintendent Johnston departed on March 19 for Mineral, California, where he was to assume the Superintendency, GS-12, of Lassen Volcanic National Park by Reassignment (Indefinite) and Change of Headquarters. He entered on duty at Lassen on March 29.

Chief Ranger Skinner departed on March 19 for Longmire, Washington, where he was to assume the duties of Assistant Superintendent, GS-11, of Mt. Rainier National Park by Reassignment (Indefinite) and Change of Headquarters. He entered on duty at Mt. Rainier on March 29.

The Reassignment (Indefinite) and Change of Headquarters for Warren F. Hamilton, Assistant Superintendent, GS-12, Natchez Trace Parkway, to Assistant Superintendent, GS-12, Yellowstone, vice Fred T. Johnston, became effective March 30. Mr. Hamilton expected to arrive in Yellowstone April 3.

Otto M. Brown, Chief Ranger, GS-10, of Olympic National Park, was recommended for transfer and promotion to Chief Ranger of Yellowstone, GS-11, vice Curtis K. Skinner, on March 13. Mr. Brown expects to arrive in Yellowstone about April 15.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of Local 465 of the Federal Employees Union was held in the Canteen on March 3.

The regular monthly meeting of the American Federation of Government Employees Local was held in the Canteen on March 17.

Edmund B. Rogers
Superintendent

In duplicate
cc Region Two, in quintuple
Files (2)
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