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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

NOVEMBER 1951

✓	ROGERS	
✓	JOHNSTON	
✓	JOFFE	
✓	ANDERSON	
	STANTON	
	FULLER	
	PROPST	
	HOTCHKIS	
✓	MATTSON	
✓	COMER	
✓	SKIN[illegible]	
	EVE[illegible]	
	CHA[illegible]	
	JAY	
	McComas	
✓	KITTA[illegible]	
✓	WOHL[illegible]	
	ROBINSON	
	WIGGINS	
	McMULLIN	

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

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Report 1ml

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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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

Report 1ml

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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

December 5, 1951

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Monthly Report for November 1951

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of November 1951:

Weather Conditions. Temperatures averaged considerably above normal for the month with a maximum of 50° being recorded on the 10th and a minimum of -4° on the 2nd. Below zero temperature occurred on only one day while 13 days showed a reading of 40° or higher.

Precipitation was well below normal with only .59" being recorded for the month as compared with a seven-year average of 1.44". The precipitation was well-distributed throughout the month and the snow depth remained about the same. All park weather stations reported about the same percent of decrease in precipitation for the month as compared with previous years. Representative snow depths in the park are shown:

Mammoth	1"	Tower Falls	4"
Northeast Entrance	20"	Lake	14"
Snake River	16"	East Entrance	10"
West Yellowstone	19"	Gallatin	15"

Special Activities. On November 1 Superintendent Rogers returned from Jackson where he had been in attendance at the Dude Ranchers Association meeting. On November 8 and 20 he visited the library in Bozeman in connection with his project covering the legislative history of National Park Service areas. On November 13 he and Assistant Superintendent Johnston went to Billings where they attended on the next day the Inter-Agency Basin Committee meeting and Mr. Rogers also visited Custer Battlefield National Monument. They returned on the 15th and brought back to the park with them Administrative Officer Stanley Joseph whom they met in Billings. Mr. Rogers left for Denver on November 24 where he expects to remain most of the winter on annual leave and on work in connection with his legislative history project. Assistant Superintendent Johnston was designated Acting Superintendent in his absence. Upon reaching Denver, Mr. Rogers made a trip to Omaha on the 26th to discuss personnel and other matters, returning to Denver on the 29th.

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Mechanical Supervisor Robinson and Mixed Gang Foreman Winkle left on November 13 for Missoula, Spokane and Grangeville, Idaho, to pick up surplus equipment. They returned to the park on the 21st. Mechanic Howard S. Kocher went to Highland Park, Michigan, on November 18 to pick up a Ford dump truck and drive it back to the park. He returned on the 26th.

Park Naturalist Condon returned to the park November 17 from Washington where he had been on assignment in the Director's Office since late in September.

Chief Ranger Skinner and Biologist Kittams went to Cut Bank, Montana, on November 23 to consult with Forest Service and Montana Fish and Game Department officials on Yellowstone wildlife problems and to attend the meeting of the Montana Wildlife Federation. They returned on the 26th.

Administrative Assistant Joffe and Chief Ranger Skinner went to Butte on November 29 to confer with Forest Service and Montana Fish and Game Department officials on the Yellowstone elk reduction program and to attend a meeting of the Big Game Committee of the Rocky Mountain Sportsmen's Association. They returned on the 30th.

On November 9 Yellowstone employees under the Classification Act received retroactive pay from July 8, 1951, under the provisions of Public Law 201, 82nd Congress, approved October 24, 1951.

On November 14 the Secretary of the Interior announced the promotion of Elbert Cox, Assistant Regional Director, Region One, to the position of Regional Director, Region One, vice Thomas J. Allen, who is being promoted to the position of Assistant Director effective December 8, 1951.

Administrative Officer Stanley Joseph and Fred G. Bussey, Neal G. Guse and Charles L. Peterson, Chief Clerks of Glacier, Grand Teton and Rocky Mountain National Parks, respectively, arrived in the park November 15 for a discussion on budget and personnel matters. Messrs. Guse and Peterson departed on the 19th and Messrs. Joseph and Bussey on the 20th.

On November 16 the park received advise that Administrative Assistant Joffe, Personnel Assistant Proper, Purchasing Assistant Stanton and Supervisory Park Ranger Estey had been selected from Yellowstone to attend the Personnel Instruction Course to be conducted in the Region Two Office in Omaha from January 7 to 17, 1952.

The Local Civil Service Board held a special examination for Junior Agricultural Assistant on November 19 for which there was one competitor. Mr. Proper conducted the examination.

A Staff Meeting of division heads was held in the Superintendent's Office on November 23 prior to the departure of Superintendent Rogers for Denver.

Inspections. James Urquhart, Supervisor of the Absaroka National Forest, Bozeman, and his assistant, Elmer Luer, visited the park November 7. Mr. Leonard Koski, U. S. Geological Survey, Boise, Idaho, in November 13 to check stream gauges. Stanley Joseph, Administrative Officer, Region Two, Fred G. Bussey, Chief Clerk, Glacier, Neal G. Guse, Chief Clerk, Grand Teton, and Charles L. Peterson, Chief Clerk, Rocky Mountain, in November 15. Guse and Peterson departed November 19; Joseph and Bussey November 20. Chester L. Brooks, Historian, Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, and Russell Reid, Superintendent, North Dakota State Historical Society, in November 16, out 18.

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

Publicity. No press releases were sent out from the park for the month.

A total of 86,500 broadsides remained on hand at the end of the month.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. Most of the time of the Resident Landscape Architect and his assistant was devoted to Master Plan work for the Canyon area and for the entrance areas, both plans and the development outline, and also the grading plans for the Canyon area. The Park Engineer and his assistants also spent considerable time on the preparation of plans for the Canyon area and in revising the Project Construction Program.

Maintenance. November was about normal for weather conditions. Snow fall was light but some high winds occurred.

All buildings were prepared and all snow fences and snow stakes set. Several trips were made to Cooke with push plows and the hills around Mammoth were sanded a number of times.

At the end of the month all roads were closed with the exception of the section from Gardiner to Mammoth and Cooke. The Mammoth West Yellowstone road was officially closed to travel on the 21st.

Some road signs are being repaired and repainted.

About one-fourth mile of new road was constructed at the Lamar elk trap and some improvements made at the Crystal Creek trap.

New Construction. Very little if any work was done on Units One and Two of the Moran to Yellowstone Approach Road. These jobs have now closed down for the winter.

Other construction projects active during the month were:

Account 331.10, Elk Trap, Mammoth.--This job was completed during the month.

Account 331.11, Elk Trap, Gardiner.--This job was completed during the month.

Account 233.01, Campground Rehabilitation throughout Park.--60 fireplaces prefabricated.

Concessioners. Mr. J. E. Haynes moved on November 3 to his winter headquarters in Bozeman, Montana.

On November 7 the Yellowstone Park Company advised us that they have received denial from the NPA to build laundry and bath facilities at both Fishing Bridge and Old Faithful tourist cabins for the first quarter of 1952.

Mr. W. M. Nichols, President of the Yellowstone Park Company, who was on an extended trip in the East throughout the month of November, paid a visit to the Washington Office during this stay to discuss Yellowstone matters.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. The Chapel was used each Sunday for the regular Sunday School services at 10:30 a.m. These services are well attended with attendance approaching 75 persons.

The regular monthly non-denominational Protestant service was held in the Chapel at 7:30 p.m. on November 18 by Reverend Andrew Roukema. The regular monthly Lutheran service was held on Monday night the 26th at 7:30 p.m.

The Chapel was used on November 24 for the wedding ceremony for Miss Marilyn Arnold and John S. Adams. The Reverend E. A. Syms of Livingston, Montana, performed the rites. Miss Arnold is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carr, Yellowstone National Park Service employees.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. Park Naturalist Upton completed the inventories of the physical property in all museums, checked all for winter security, covered exhibits and specimens, and all museums are closed.

Chief Park Naturalist Condon worked on plans for new exhibits at the Old Faithful Museum and for the complete change over of the

Beaver Exhibit at Willow Park to a Moose Exhibit. These plans have yet to be completed in final form and submitted to the museum branch for review and to complete the exhibit preparation.

No extensive museum accessions were acquired. Photostatic copies of one old map by P. W. Norris were obtained from S. Stillman Berry.

Research and Observation. Mr. George D. Marler, at present an employee of the Yellowstone Park Library and Museum Association, is stationed at Old Faithful for the winter and is making detailed observations of the behavior of certain types of hydrothermal features under the atmospheric conditions prevalent during the winter months. Mr. Marler is making several regular daily observations of the physical reaction of geysers, pools and springs. It is expected that from his observations will come information which will lead to a more accurate prediction of activities which can be expected from certain inter-related thermal groups under given atmospheric changes. In addition, it is expected that much other valuable data on geyser activity will be forthcoming.

Park Naturalist Watson visited the Norris Geyser Basin on the 9th and again on the 16th and made some interesting observations of the Black Growler steam vent which have been included in the Park Naturalist report for the month.

Natural History Association. The Yellowstone Nature Notes for November-December were completed and 332 copies placed in the mails and others delivered to locals.

Mr. George D. Marler was employed November 1 by the Association pending employment by the National Park Service.

Book sales of the Association during November were: Yellowstone National Park, $36.53; Custer Battlefield National Monument, $18.10.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. A total of 469 vehicles carrying 1,505 people entered the park during the month as compared with 667 vehicles and 2,084 people during November in 1950, or a decrease of 27.3%. The decrease in travel is accounted for by the park roads being largely closed to park visitor travel during the month with the exception of the road between the north and northeast entrances. On the 14th, three Northern Pacific buses carrying 68 physicians and doctors and members of their families made a trip to Old Faithful and return. The group apparently enjoyed their winter trip through the park and their visit to Old Faithful as indicated by their comments on an inquiry form passed out by officials of the Northern Pacific Railway Company.

Visitors. Teppo Lampio, Biologist, Game Research Laboratory, Helsinki, Finland, who arrived in the park October 26, departed November 10.

A group of 68 persons returning from attendance at the American College of Surgeons Convention in San Francisco, arrived in the park November 14 for a trip to Old Faithful. This is one of few groups ever to visit Old Faithful under winter conditions.

Ranger Service. The Bechler River Ranger Station was closed on the 3rd, the Lake Ranger Station on the 4th and the Old Faithful Ranger Station on the 6th.

Hunting patrols have been consistently carried out along the northern and western boundaries of the park and the Grayling Creek Game Checking Station between West Yellowstone and Gallatin has been manned most of the month, as personnel was available. Highway patrols are regularly made along the West Yellowstone and Gallatin road to check on possible poaching activities and to assist travelers over this road.

The regular park checking station at West Entrance was manned to the limit of personnel until it closed on the 22nd. The north and northeast checking stations have also been manned when personnel was available.

The old Upper Slough Creek Ranger Station, barns and corrals were sold to Warren D. Hutchings, Silver Tip Ranch for $5 for salvageable materials upon the agreement that all buildings and corrals will be removed and the area returned to as natural condition as possible. Mr. Hutchings has one year to complete the job starting November 9, 1951.

The chief ranger and assistants made numerous inspections of the field work being carried on including the construction of the two new elk traps. A few rangers were occupied making building fire inspections around park headquarters.

Maintenance work was started repairing the saddle and riding equipment and other related work in connection with the barns and grounds supervision.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. HUNTING SEASON. The elk hunting season in the upper Gallatin River area was closed by action of the Montana Fish and Game Commission at midnight on November 9, 1951. A total of 870 elk was checked through the Squaw Creek and Grayling Creek stations. The district warden supervisor estimated that elk not reported at the stations or wounded and lost would bring

the total reduction to 900 animals or 200 more than the harvest recommended by the Upper Gallatin Conservation Committee. Wardens reported that 233 deer, 11 moose and 10 bear were taken in the same area during the 1951 season.

It was reported that hunters in the area east of the park took elk as follows: North Fork 504, Meeteetse 171, South Fork 78, and Calrk's Fork 222.

Approximately 30 elk have been taken by hunters in Southern Park County, Montana. Practically all of the northern Yellowstone elk herd was on the winter range by the end of October, but much of the area has been covered by only light snow and at lower elevations this melted leaving the ground bare at the end of November. Only a few scattered animals drifted out of the park into the hunting area.

ELK TRAPPING. The new elk trap constructed near Mammoth was completed on November 3, and the second trap built this fall was completed at a site near the north entrance on November 17. Hay was put out to attract elk at the Blacktail, Mammoth and Gardiner traps on November 26, but there was only a light snow cover at the first trap and the ground was bare at the other two. Trapping efforts are not expected to yield results until there is a substantial cover of snow on the winter range. All arrangements have been completed to furnish 229 elk to applicants in addition to those to be furnished the Montana Fish and Game Department for restocking. A great many inquiries regarding the availability of live elk have been received and it is probable that additional applications will be received.

BISON REDUCTION - LAMAR AREA. Bids for butchering bison at Lamar this winter were distributed on November 29 and will open on December 12. Early feeding at the Lamar Unit to attract and hold the bison was not possible due to a lack of snow. Hay cannot be put out at the Lamar and Crystal Creek elk traps until most of the bison have been gathered in the vicinity of the unit corrals.

Forest Fire Protection. Portions of the "Annual Forestry Report" were written, and photographs which will be used in the report were processed.

District Ranger Stevens spent some time in preparing the maps and weather chart for inclusion in the "Fire Atlas".

Blister Rust Control. Blister Rust Control Expenditures in Yellowstone for the calendar year 1951 were assembled by the fiscal division and were transmitted to the Bureau of Entomology at Spokane for inclusion in their annual report.

The Information Sheet for Prospective Blister Rust Control Employees was rewritten and mimeographed.

The Gardiner Propane Company was contacted in order to locate gas cylinders of a size and weight suitable for transportation by packhorse. It is planned to use a portable liquid petroleum gas range in the pack camp on Carnelian Creek next season.

B. R. C. Estimates for next fiscal year were prepared and transmitted in memorandum form to the Region Two Office.

Building Fire Protection. Inspection of Government buildings for fire hazards was started on November 6, and by November 29 the Mammoth area was completed. On the whole, conditions in most buildings were found satisfactory. A few on the spot corrections were made, and several minor hazards were noted and recommended for correction by maintenance this winter.

The maintenance of carbon tetrachloride hand type extinguishers still remains a problem. It was necessary to replace 15 that were found in an unsatisfactory condition and approximately 12 more will have to be replaced as soon as replacements are available.

Seventy-five defective extinguishers that have accumulated in the past two years were carefully examined and 47 have been found unserviceable. These were recommended for survey. It is believed the balance can be economically repaired, so they have been returned to the manufacturers.

A completed Individual Fire Report on the Yellowstone Park Company gasoline truck, which burned July 30, 1951, was submitted to the Director's Office as requested.

The Mammoth fire brigade was revised and a new personnel list issued.

Inventory was made of all building fire control equipment and supplies.

Trails. The Project Construction Program for trails was revised, and a new list of projects with their priority was submitted to the Park Engineer for approval. A number of old projects which have been carried for years in the program and which are no longer desirable or necessary, were dropped. Five new proposals were submitted for consideration.

A new trail map and a revised list of trails, with corrected locations and mileages, was made for the use of the Park Engineer during the winter roads and trails meeting in Denver, Colorado.

Work on the 1953 estimates is still static due to the lack of proper forms. These forms have been ordered, however, and a supply should be received in the near future.

Accidents and Public Safety. Seven motor vehicle accidents occurred during the month, five being Class "A" and two Class "B". Minor injuries occurred to one Government employee and two park visitors. Five of the accidents involved park visitors and two involved Government vehicles and employees. Lack of proper driver caution on snowy and slippery roads was a contributing factor in causing the accidents.

A Special Memorandum was issued by the Chief Ranger cautioning all Protection Division personnel and others to drive with utmost caution during the winter months, use tire chains when needed for additional safety and to make sure the vehicle is properly equipped with tire chains, anti-freeze and tow rope or cable.

Deaths. Presley Jay, 77, Salida, Colorado, uncle of Assistant Chief Ranger John Jay, died suddenly in Salida, November 4 of a heart attack. Mr. Jay for a number of years was a seasonal employee in Yellowstone. Funeral services were held in Salida on November 5, which John Jay attended.

Elsie Mardis, 55, wife of Carpenter William Mardis, died suddenly early Sunday morning November 18 in Livingston of a heart attack. Funeral services were held in Livingston November 21 and burial was in the Mountain View Cemetery in Livingston.

Marriages. Marilyn Arnold, a former Yellowstone employee, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carr, Yellowstone permanent employees, was married at the Mammoth Chapel on the afternoon of November 24 to John S. Adams, a Landscape Architect from the Region Four Office of the National Park Service. Rev. E. A. Syms of the Livingston Episcopal Church performed the ceremony. The couple will make their home in Berkeley, California.

Elizabeth J. McGinnis, seasonal Clerk-Stenographer, and Douglas D. Olsen, seasonal Truck Driver, and brother of Mrs. George McMullin, were married at Elko, Nevada, November 5.

Personnel. Robert F. Upton, Park Naturalist, GS-7, departed on November 5 for Rapid City, South Dakota, where he was to assume his new duties as Park Naturalist, GS-9, with the Black Hills Areas.

Betty Lee Proznick, Clerk-Stenographer in the Naturalist Division, departed on the 8th for extended annual leave and leave without pay. She expects to be gone until about the middle of April.

The transfer and indefinite promotion of William D. Keller, Clerk-Stenographer, GS-3, Omaha, to the position of Clerk-Stenographer, GS-4, Yellowstone, vice Bernice R. Upton, was approved November 16 to be effective 8:00 a.m. November 25. Mr. Keller arrived in the park November 27.

Marjorie C. Proper entered on duty as seasonal Clerk-Typist, GS-3 on November 28 and Mrs. Valjher Jacobson was terminated as seasonal Statistical Clerk, GS-3 on the same date.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union No. 465 was held in the Canteen November 5.

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

Fred T. Johnston
Acting Superintendent

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