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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

FOR

JANUARY 1947

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371

SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY 1947 MONTHLY NARRATIVE

REPORT FOR YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

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February 7, 1947.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of January 1947:

Weather Conditions. Frequent high wind storms with light snowfall, about normal temperatures, below normal precipitation and snowfall were recorded during January. At Mammoth 5 days were clear, 14 partly cloudy and 12 cloudy. Total precipitation at this station was .63 of an inch as compared to 3.39 inches in 1944, 3.46 inches in 1945 and 1.13 inches in 1946. The maximum temperature was 37 degrees on the 25th and the minimum of -20 degrees was recorded on the 15th. The prevailing wind direction was southwest, and a snow depth of 9 inches was recorded at the end of the month.

The lowest temperature in the park was -41°, and was recorded at West Yellowstone Ranger Station on the 15th.

Snow depths reported from various areas in the park this month are as follows: East Entrance 30 inches; Slough Creek at park boundary 33 inches; South Riverside patrol cabin 48 inches on January 6; Bacon Rind Road Camp 35 inches; Old Faithful 45 inches on January 17; Nez Perce 25 inches on January 16; and some comparative measurements are given below:

	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943
Cascade Creek	65"	80"	52"	36"	-
Gallatin	25"	26"	14"	10"	34"
Lamar	10"	16"	10.5"	4"	30"
Madison Junction	20"	20"	16"	13"	30"
Mammoth	9"	22.5"	5"	5"	36"
Northeast Entrance	37"	46"	20.7"	13.9"	34"
Snake River	46"	52"	35"	25"	-
Tower Falls	20"	21.5"	13.5"	11"	36"
West Yellowstone	40"	37"	22"	12"	33"

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers was away from the park all during the month on assignment to the Branch of Concessions in the Director's Office.

On January 3, Assistant Superintendent Johnston made a trip to Billings to secure wage survey data from various construction companies, employment offices, and labor unions. On January 9-10 Mr. Johnston and Park Engineer Wohlbrandt traveled to Missoula, Helena, and Bozeman to secure more wage rate data.

On January 4 Chief Ranger Maynard Barrows left for the Region Two Office, Omaha, where he was transferred to a P-4 Forester position, entering on duty there January 7. Clerk-Stenographer Edna Mae Allison left the park on January 13, for transfer to Crater Lake National Park. She remained in a training position and on the Yellowstone payroll throughout the month.

Mrs. Alice H. Quist, Accounting Clerk, CAF-6, resigned effective January 15. Mrs. Quist had been a permanent employee in the Yellowstone since November 3, 1936.

Mr. Dennis E. Hess entered on duty as Park Ranger on January 15, by transfer from the Grazing Service, Burely, Idaho.

Mr. W. Verde Watson was promoted from Park Ranger to Park Naturalist, P-2, effective January 12.

The new quarters rental rate was put into effect January 12.

Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe and Mrs. Joffe left the park on January 15 for a five week vacation in California and Arizona.

On January 17, Asst. Supt. Johnston, U. S. Commissioner Wilcox, Chief Park Engineer Wohlbrandt, and Chief Park Naturalist Condon attended the annual meeting and banquet of the Livingston Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. J.M.S. DuBois, Fox Movietone News Cameraman, Denver, arrived at Gardiner on January 17 to film antelope trapping activities. He will also film other wildlife scenes and the buffalo vaccination project for a newsreel to be narrated by Lowell Thomas. A permit was issued in the Superintendent's Office and written information concerning purposes of the projects was furnished. Details of the projects will be covered under "Wildlife Activities." Mr. DuBois was still working in the Park at the end of January.

Inspections. Mr. William A. Dunn, Superintendent, Yellowstone Lake Fisheries Station, F&WS, Bozeman, Montana, in January 8 to go over 1947 fish planting program. Mr. Mathew Oulette, Maintenanceman, Custer Battlefield National Monument, arrived in the Park Jan. 13 for assignment to the Garage in connection with repair of Monument equipment. Dr. Don R. Coburn, In Charge, Wildlife Disease Investigations, F&WS, Bowie, Maryland, and R. J. Hervey, Asst. Bacteriologist, Bear River Disease Control Station, Brigham, Utah, arrived January 28 to conduct buffalo vaccination project.

General Publicity. Chief Park Naturalist Condon prepared an article on vandalism to thermal areas at the request of the Billings Gazette which was printed in the January 27 (Sunday) edition. He prepared a similar article for the National Parks Magazine. Newspapers in nearby towns carried a number of articles on the elk hunting season and on the proposal of the Gardiner Commercial Club to keep the Gardiner-West Yellowstone road open all winter.

The National Park Service information folder on Yellowstone National Park was revised and submitted for printing. The Big Hole Battlefield NM leaflet was reviewed by Chief Park Naturalist Condon and submitted for reprinting.

Yellowstone Park Wyoming

Free publications on hand at the end of January numbered 20,250 Yellowstone 1946 folders in the CRO storeroom and 3,750 in the Museum storeroom, and 3,600 NPS Location Map #5 at the Museum. A breakdown of sales publications by title and number was attached to the Report of the Naturalist Division submitted to your office and Region Two.

Road and Trail Maintenance. Considerable time was spent by the entire engineering force in assembling data for the roads and trails maintenance report. The report is nearly ready for submission.

Snow fall during the month was relatively light, but strong winds kept the snow drifting and plowing was about normal. It has been necessary to wing the drifts back in the Cooke City area.

Three men were used during the month in building a dike at Opal Spring and in peeling logs for guard rail. We now have on hand 2,600 lineal feet of rail ready for placement in the spring. All temporary employees were laid off at the end of January.

Surplus road equipment received during the month was one 2-wheel trailer type pressure distributor, about 200-gallon capacity, for use in patching with emulsified asphalt. This distributor was from Army surplus, Fort Warren, Wyoming.

New Construction. Work on projects 201.2, 401.3 and 401.4 all temporary houses at Mammoth continued throughout the month. The walls and roofs are up on all three buildings and most of the partitions are placed. Footings for a temporary garage south of the power house were poured. This building will be constructed from one of the CCC storage sheds that was located at Lake.

MAJOR REPAIR AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM. Work was continued on project 207-15, Grounds, Mammoth. This work consisted of removal of the tennis court near Opal Spring and the building of a dike to control the water. The dike is complete, but the construction of a small bridge and replacing of sod remains to be done in the spring. Work was also continued on project 103-2, Renovation of Museum Specimens.

Concessioners. On January 10 we received the approved schedule of 1947 rates for the packet tour conducted by the Yellowstone Park Company.

Mr. Huntley Child, Manager of the Lodge and Camp Division, and Mr. B. O. Hallin, Engineer, for the Yellowstone Park Company were in the Park on January 15 for conference with NPS officials regarding proposed plans for bath and shower facilities at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge, and the cafeteria building and other construction work at West Thumb.

Interpretive Service. A motion picture on brucellosis was presented twice to employees of Yellowstone National Park with a total attendance for the two programs of about 26 people.

Park Naturalist Harold Brodrick presented a program to a group of 22 adults in Gardiner on January 23.

On January 7, a collection of 25 typical kodaslides were loaned to Associate Regional Director E. T. Scoyen for use in presenting a talk in that area.

On January 8, an 800-foot colored motion picture of Yellowstone wildlife was loaned to Mr. George Belshaw for use in presenting a program to the Montana State College of Bozeman, Montana.

On January 17, a 400-foot reel of colored movies on Trumpeter Swan and a special paper on Trumpeter Swan by Park Naturalist Condon were loaned to Mr. Ferdinand Kleinschnitz of Denver, Colorado, for use in presenting a story to the Colorado Bird Club in Denver.

A special 150-foot reel of movies on the coyote was assembled and sent to the Director's Office for use in a presentation of information about predators by the NPS biologist, Mr. Victor Cahalane.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. Work on cleaning and renovation of museum cases in the Mammoth museum was completed on January 31. During the month, in addition to this work, the field exhibits from Artist Point, Firehole Canyon, and the Beaver exhibit were all cleaned, painted, new monks cloth placed in them, new labels prepared where needed, and made ready for return to their proper places in the park.

The miniature geyser which for years was used in the Old Faithful Museum and has not been in use for some time was completely overhauled, painted, and made ready for display during the coming season.

During January 300 feet of 16 mm. kodachrome movies were exposed on the antelope trapping and buffalo vaccinating projects. These film have not yet been returned from the Eastman Kodak Company and it is questionable whether they will be very good pictures due to adverse weather conditions existing at the time they were taken.

On January 31 the mountain lion specimen in the Mammoth Museum was taken out into the hills near Mammoth where some rather realistic photographs were secured in 35 mm. kodachrome for use in better portraying this particular species of animal in educational work.

Research and Observations. Mr. John McMillan's appointment as a research collaborator was approved during the month and it is anticipated that he will report to Yellowstone in early April to commence his research work on the moose.

One bighorn ram drowned in the canal at Gardiner, Montana, and the animal was brought to the Mammoth Museum by Chief Park Naturalist Condon where it was skinned and the hide prepared for tanning by Park Naturalists Brodrick and Watson. It is anticipated that this hide will be tanned at Lentfer Bros. Taxidermy Shop in Livingston, Montana, and held until sufficient funds are available to make a life-size mount of it. The specimen is an exceptionally fine one.

Field trips were made by Chief Park Naturalist Condon and Park Naturalist Brodrick to the Game Ranch area on Jan. 27 at which time observations were made on the trapping operations carried on by park rangers and the Montana Fish and Game Department. Black and white photographs and motion pictures were made.

Field trips were made on January 29 and 31 by Chief Park Naturalist London and Park Naturalist Watson to Lamar to photograph and observe the buffalo vaccination project.

One red fox skin, one badger skin, and two beaver skins were sent to Lentfer Bros. Taxidermy Shop in Livingston for tanning.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Travel during January was possible only over the road between north and northeast entrances, which is kept open all winter. A total of 607 visitors entered the park in 235 vehicles as compared to 1,832 visitors in 369 vehicles for the same month last year.

Ranger Service. The Protection Division carried on a larger than usual number of activities during January although three to four ranger positions were vacant.

The elk hunting season in Park County, Montana, required intensive patrols of the north boundary through January 16 when the season closed. Opening of the special closure area on Jan. 11 brought unusually large numbers of hunters into the Gardiner area, but patrols were effective in preventing any encroachment on the park.

The annual waterfowl census, conducted in cooperation with F&WS from Jan. 7 to 17, required that rangers visit the principal open waters in the park between those dates. Regular protection patrols visited most of the interior areas where snow was removed from Government buildings, telephone lines were repaired, wildlife conditions observed and snow depths taken and recorded.

Trapping and shipment of surplus pronghorns from the Game Ranch area and testing and vaccination of bison at Lamar kept the rangers on the north side of the park very busy. Elk trapping was started near the end of the month. Law enforcement activities and traffic accidents of the past year were summarized for the records and work on revision of rangers' manuals was continued.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. ANTELOPE. In accordance with a plan worked out between this Service and the Wildlife Restoration Division of Montana, an antelope trap furnished by Montana was set up alongside the forest nursery on Stevens Creek. On January 23 a group of ten rangers and the Acting Superintendent, mounted on horses, made the first attempt to corral the animals. This attempt was unsuccessful, but on the afternoon of the same day a herd of more than 250 antelope was rounded up and pressed down the wings of the trap by the riders. Had it not been for one old buck becoming hung up in the fencing (where he created such a frantic disturbance that the bulk of the herd became frightened and turned back) it is a practical certainty that the entire herd would have been captured. Due to this mishap, only 37 were driven into the enclosure. However, this is said to be an all-time record roundup of antelope by horseback, the number being more than three times that of a previous similar capture in Texas when a total of 11 antelope was corralled by horsemen.

Since the Montana Wildlife Restoration Division men, cooperating on the project, desired to try a roundup by airplane (which they had available on contact, horses were dispensed with, and on January 27 the plane method was tried. The

small plane was skillfully piloted by an elderly World War I pilot who has had extensive experience in wild animal roundups in Montana. Within less than ten minutes after he started to bunch the animals by almost ground level flying, he brought 203 antelope into the fence wings. With aid from a ground crew, these were readily penned up in the trap enclosure.

All antelope were allotted to the State of Montana for restocking purposes and were removed from the park by State trucks.

A summary of the Antelope reduction is given below:

Montana Transplant Area	Mature Male	Mature Female	Fawns Male	Fawns Female	Total
Ringling	13	16	2	2	33
Ringling	13	17	5	8	43
Mission Creek	20*	28*			48
Wilsall	22	21		1	44
Goat Creek	22	23			45
Total Transplanted:	90	105	7	11	213
*Age classification not made					
Died in Trapping					16
Died in Transit					6
Total Reduction from Park					235

Escaped at Trap - 5; Total Handled - 240.

BUFFALO. Buffalo in the Lamar Valley were lured into the corrals by use of hay and on January 29 the task of vaccinating 1946 calves and blood-testing 1945 calves was begun. About 300 buffalo were corralled, including 78 calves (1946) and 62 coming two-year-olds. Blood tests were made by Dr. Don R. Coburn and his assistant, R. J. Harvey, both of the Fish and Wildlife Service. They also did the vaccinating. Part of the work remained to be done in February, and a more complete report of this operation will be included in the annual buffalo report.

COYOTE. Collection of tagged coyotes was begun on Jan. 1, in accordance with request of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and seven animals were collected during the period. Although nearly a hundred coyotes have been identified with ear tags within the park, the marked animals are not frequently seen and collections to date are not as great as might be expected. Efforts will be continued, however, throughout the winter to secure as many of the marked animals as possible.

ELK. Elk hunting in Montana adjacent to the park did not result in any marked reduction of these animals until January 11, when the special administrative closure area embracing drainages from Pole Creek, near Jardine, to Bassett Creek, near Corwin Hot Springs, was opened to elk hunting. On this opening day (January 11) approximately 2000 hunters were on hand and about 1000 elk were killed. Two hunters were wounded from gunshot, one dying in a Livingston hospital a few days later. Daily kills were so great that the Montana Fish and Game Commission ordered the season closed at 5:00 p.m. on January 16. The Commission's estimate of the total elk kill for the season is 3,232. This figure, however, has not yet been verified and some slight correction may be made.

Forest Fire Protection. Some work was accomplished in the fire tool cache including rehandling of small tools, recoupling of fire hose, packing hose into sacks, building tool racks and sharpening tools.

Binoculars used in fire detection work were shipped to the factory for repair, but quotations for this work were prohibitive and we must therefore depend upon obtaining some binoculars from either surplus property lists or the regular market for use on lookouts during the coming season.

Forty lensatic military compasses were ordered from AAA surplus for use by fire control personnel.

We wrote to the Forest Service at Missoula asking them to pack fire control aide rations for our use during the coming season. These will be bought in the spring and stocked for sale to fire control aides.

Accidents. One motor vehicle accident was reported during the month. This accident, which was not of a serious nature, occurred on the highway between the Northeast Entrance and the Lamar Ranger Station.

Miscellaneous. The annual meeting of the National Federation of Federal Employees, Local 465, was held in the Canteen on January 6. New officers for 1947 were elected as follows: Francis P. Roylance, President; Ladd S. Shorey, Vice President; Aubrey L. Haines, Secretary-Treasurer; W. Verde Watson, Guardian; and the Board of Directors consisted of Earl M. Semingsen, David de L. Condon, Lester C. Abbie, and Wayne B. Alcorn. A Dutch lunch was enjoyed after the business meeting. The Federation also sponsored a Hard Times dance at the Canteen on January 24.

News was received of the death of Burton A. Lacombe, former Chief Buffalo Keeper, on January 30. Mr. Lacombe was employed in Yellowstone from October 1916 to July 1930, when he transferred to Craters of the Moon National Monument.

A daughter, Arlene Elizabeth, was born to Assistant Postmaster and Mrs. Alfred A. Bowman, at the Park Hospital, Livingston, Montana, January 17.

Fred T. Johnston,
Acting Superintendent.

Enclosures (5 photos).
In quintuple.

cc: Region Two (in dupl.)
File (2)
FTJ/wsh

File (2)
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Closeup of antelope in trap at the Game Ranch. January 27, 1947. By Brodrick.

Trap containing over 200 antelope, January 27, 1947. By Brodrick.

Placing canvas control around trap after capturing antelope. January 27, 1947. By Brodrick.

Antelope trap setup Game Ranch. January 27, 1947. By Brodrick.

Dr. Don R. Coburn taking blood sample from bison.
Lamar Ranger Station - January 31, 1947. By Condon.