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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

APRIL 1948

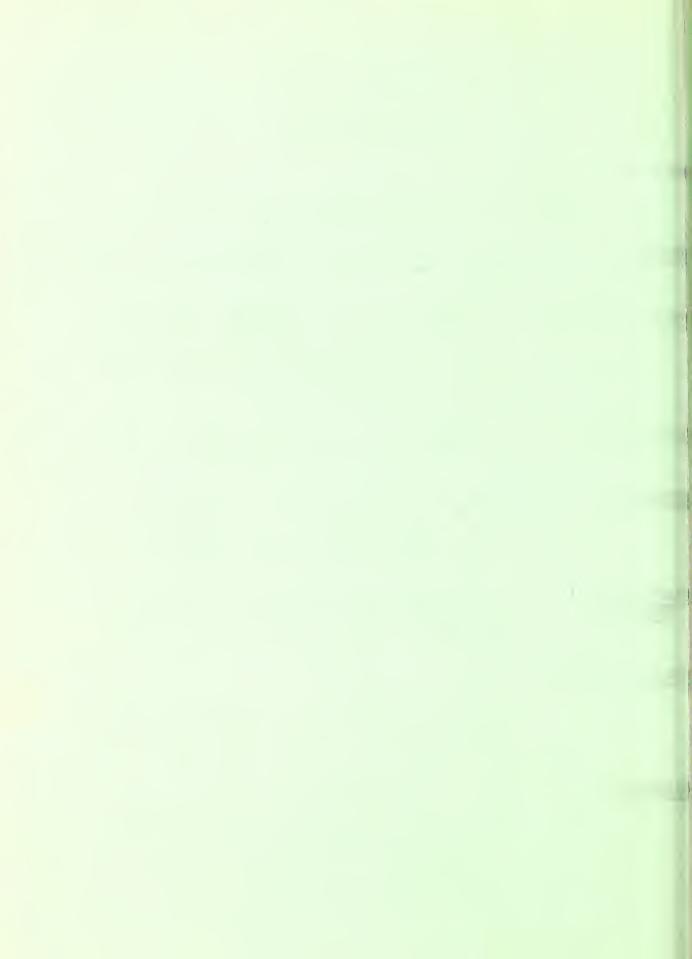
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IMPORTANT

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge. All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room. Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

NEWTON B. DRURY, Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-22371



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UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Yellowstone National Park Yellowstone Park, Wyoming

ffice of the Superintendent

Summary of the April 1948 Monthly Narrative Report for YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

NEATHER: Below normal temperatures accompanied by frequent snow flurries and high winds prevailed. Maximum 65°, minimum 11°.

- SPECIAL ACTIVITIES: Supt. Rogers made 4 trips to Bozeman. Joffe attends Cooperative Day Dinner in Billings. Commissioner Wilcox on annual leave. Park friends saddened at death of Halsey Davidson. Road from Mammoth to 0. F. and W. Y. opened April 30. East entrance opens May 20, south May 25, northeast June 18.
- IN-SERVICE TRAINING: In-Service training for Protection Division personnel undertaken during Protection Conference. Training outline on "Sound Driving Practices" completed.
- INSPECTIONS: Following visited park during month: Charles D. Monteith, William A. Dunn, Chester Brown, A. R. Henry, George Grant, Merrill J. Mattes, Edwin C. Kenner, J. R. Spofford, Frank W. Childs, James C. Evenden, Victor Sandberg, Robert Kirkpatrick, Harry W. Schultz and Franklin J. Neubauer. 2
- PLANS, MAPS AND
 Mattson engaged on concessioner projects and drafting

 SURVEYS:
 work. Drawing YEL-2197 completed. Kenner assisted in preparation plans for propane and oil installations and expedited their approval.

GENERAL PUBLICITY: Folders A and B received.

R. S. Gibbs, Colliers writer visitor. No publicity director to be employed for summar. Publicity work to be handled by Joffe. 112,000 broadsides on hand. Park still inconvenienced by curtailment franking privilege.

MAINTENANCE: Snow plowing continues throughout month. Spring opening roads started April 26. New deck placed on first bridge Gardiner to Manmoth. Concrete diversion dike at Gardiner Oil Plant constructed. Log crib replaced on east approach bridge over Yellowstone near Tower Falls. Restricted load limit in effect. Maintenance erew placed on Gallatin section. Rock and snow slides reported on Red Lodge-Cooke road. Coleman truck shovel repaired. 3 ______ sh &_____

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NEW CONSTRUCTION:	No action on road construction work. Residences at	Page
NEW CONSTRUCTIONS	Mammoth practically completed. Fourth of temporary houses at Mammoth practically complete.	4
CONCESSIONERS:	Rates for O. F. swimming pool, hospital and medical service for public and Haynes rates approved. Haynes Mammoth Shop opened April 19. R. H. Buck, Trevor Povah, Gar Helppie and Mrs. Pryor arrived. Huntley Child moved office to Gardiner.	4
INTERPRETIVE SER- VICES:	Condon talks before Livingston Kiwanis. Watson con- tinued Tuesday night movies.	4
MUSEUM ACTIVITIES AND EXHIBITS:	Considerable work done on rehabilitation museum ex- hibit material. Case lights in Mammoth Museum re- placed and museum cases prepared for summer. Work tables and benches in museum recovered.	4
	Exhibit case for displaying fungi in 0. F. court repaired and repainted. Court exhibit of forest trees improved.	5
RESEARCH AND OB- SERVATIONS;	Great gray owl attracts considerable attention at Mammoth. Field trips made to O. F. and observations made of thermal phenomena. Considerable progress made on place name cards.	5
NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION:	Large portion of books for museums received. Com- plete series of price labels for sales publications prepared. March-April Nature Notes material assembled and dummy completed. "Fur Traders and Trappers of Old West" assembled.	5
	"The History of Man in Yellowstone" probably not available until July. No success in obtaining librarian. Book stock for Custer purchased by Library & Museum Asen. Duplicates of Yellowstone best kodaslides purchased. Also \$40 in stamped envelopes to meet present mailing crisis.	6
INCREASE OR DE- CREASE IN TRAVEL:	Road to Mt. Washburn ski slopes opened. Road to W. Y. and O. F. opened April 30. 613 vehicles with 1301 passengers entered park during month.	6
RANGER SERVICE:	Protection Conference held Apr. 21-28. Ranger activi- ties during month varied. Observation made of winter losses of large native animals, condition of surviving animals and vegetative range cover. Considerable time spent in revising park ranger Administrative, Report and Checking Station Manuals. Detailed report on accidents prepared.	6
ANTELOPE:	During last of month scattered groups migrated to higher elevations. First antelope in Lamar Valley seen Apr. 29.	6

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BEARS :	Bear tracks observed in various areas. 4 grizzlies	Page
	seen in Midway Geyser Basin.	7
BISON: Bison appear to have survived rather difficult winter without excessive losses. First calf of Apr. 15; 13 seen in northern area by end month		7
COYOTES :	S: F&WL Service discontinued coyote poisoning in Tepee Creek area. No current information on coyote poison- ing program along Yellowstone River valley.	
DEER :	Many deer in poor flesh. Some general migration toward higher elevations occurred.	7
ELK :	Substantial herds remained in lower sections winter range. Many elk in poor flesh but winter losses less than anticipated. About 700 have moved into park in Gallatin area. Meeting Upper Gallatin Conservation Committee scheduled May 8-9. Meeting with Forest Service officials on northern elk planned May 12, to be followed by Absaroka Conservation Committee meeting.	7
TRUMPETER SWAN:	Trumpeter swan observed at several locations.	8
SANDHILL CRANES :	Cranes reported at several locations.	8
OS PREY :	Osprey seen at Canyon April 28 and 29.	8
FOREST FIRE PROPEC- TION:	Forest fire conference and school held in conjunction Protection Conference. Two days devoted to fire sup- pression subjects including field demonstrations.	8
TRAILS :	Packer and 2 laborers hired for trail work.	8
BUILDING FIRE PRO- TECTION	Routine inspections made at Mammeth. Fire occurred in Kittams quarters April 25. One day ranger confer- ence devoted to building fire protection.	8
WHITE PINE BLISTER RUST CONTROL 1	Mostly men from last year's crews will fill forces this year. Some excellent leaders and supervisors developed last year.	8
FOREST INSECTS:	Evenden discussed forest insects at Conference.	9
ACCIDENTS :	Two automobile accidents occurred during month.	9
PERSONNEL:	Joffe promoted to Administrative Assistant; Proper to Personnel Clerk, CAF-5. Lueck transfer to Zion and Harry Reynolds transfer to Blue Ridge Parkway approved. Coy and Bartee resigned. Muriel P. Baker, James L. Collins and Geraldime V. Elliott employed.	9
MISCELLANEOUS :	Monthly meeting NFFE held; card party in Canteen; FEU sponsored rangers dance.	9
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UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone National Park Yellowstone Park, Wyoming

office of the Superintendent

May 6, 1948.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of April 1948.

Meather Conditions. Below normal temperatures accompanied by frequent snow flurries and high winds prevailed throughout most of the month. Because of the low temperatures, the snow cover in the northern portion of the park did not break up until the middle of the month, and a snow cover of unseasonably great depth remained in the interior and southern portions of the park at the end of April. Precipitation for the period was near normal and amounted to 1.17 inches. The maximum temperature of 65 degrees was recorded on the 28th at Mammoth, and the minimum temperature of 11 degrees was recorded on the lst. Only 3 clear days were observed; 19 were partly cloudy and 8 were cloudy.

Special Activities. Superintendent Hogers made several trips to Bozeman during the month to confer with Mr. J. E. Haynes on the renewal of his contract, to obtain information from the library, to discuss plans with the architect for the Yellowstone Park Company and to discuss with efficials of the Montana Power Company the possibility of their bringing power to Mammoth. Trips were made on April 1, 6, 16 and 28. Messrs. Kenner, Monteith and Mattson accompanied him on the April 16th trip.

Administrative Assistant Joffe represented the park at the Cooperative Day Dinner held in Billings on April 21, sponsored by the Billings Commercial Club. This is an annual affair and 750 persons from Billings and the Midland Empire attended the dinner.

U. S. Commissioner Wilcox was on annual leave from April 10. He expects to return early in May.

Friends of Halsey M. Davidson, Architest, Region Two, were saddened to learn of his passing in Omaha on April 10. Halsey had visited the Yellowstone on numerous occasions and had been very helpful to this park in its many problems. He made two visits to the Yellowstone last year, one from July 8 to 12 and another from September 1 to 7.

The read from Mammoth to Old Faithful and West Yellowstone was opened to the public on April 30. The east entrance road is expected to be open on May 20 and the south entrance on May 25. The northeast entrance road from Red Lodge to Cooke should be open by June 18.

UNITED STATES

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Administrative Assistant dates rates and the park at the momentate Bay Minner held in Billings on put 21, standed by the off the Ocean site. Olds. This is an annual affair a the partons from Allina and the Standard amples attached the dimer.

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Private of Balasy M. Davidson, Architect, Popula No, ware saidanes to learn of his passing in Andra on spril 10. Helsey N 6 visits' the Vello stone on numercus constants and had been very beigful to this part in its many problems. He wis two visits to the Vellowstane let ye . and her JU-3 to 12 and anchor from Sevienber 1 to 7.

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Inspections. Charles D. Monteith, Chief, Electrical Division, NPS, Washington, D. C., in April 2 to review public utility rates and agreements. Remained throughout month. William A. Dunn, FaWL Service, Bozeman, in April 2 to discuss fish planting. Chester Brown, Landscape Division, A. R. Henry, Engineer, George Grant, Photographer, and Merrill J. Mattes, Region Two, in for short visit April 10 and 11. Edwin C. Kenner, Assistant Chief, Safety Division, NPS, Washington, D. C., in April 11 to assist with concessioner safety problems; out 27. J. R. Spofford, USGS, Boise, Idaho, in April 10 to read water gauges. Frank W. Childs, Regional Forester, Region Two, in April 20 for Protection Conference; out 28. James C. Evenden, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and Victor Sandberg, Training and Supply Officer, Region I, U. S. Forest Service, Missoula, Montana, in April 23 for Protection Conference; out 24. Robert Kirkpatrick, Fire Weather Meteorologist and Harry W. Schultz, Fire Weather Assistant, Boise, Idaho, in April 26 for Protection Conference; out 27. Franklin J. Neubauer, Landscape Architect, Region Two, in April 26 for three weeks to assist in preparing drawings.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. Resident Landscape Architect Mattson spent considerable time on concessioner projects and drafting work, including Master Plan drafting. The only Service drawing completed during the month was drawing YEL-2197, West Thumb Development Study. This is one of a set of two or three sheets for the area.

Mr. Edwin C. Kenner, Assistant Chief, Safety Division, arrived in the park April 11 to assist in the preparation of adequate plans for propane and eil installations and expedite their approval during his stay in the park. Every proposed site for boiler installations and boiler house installations was visited if it was possible to drive to the area even though the ground was covered to about four feet of snow in most places. Lake and Fishing Bridge roads had not been opened. The automatic sprinkler installations were reviewed also. Mr. Kenner approved the following plans for the Director while he was in the park: YEL-8079-B, 8099, 8096 and 8051. Messrs. Rogers, Kenner, Mattson and Messrs. Child and Hallin of the Yellowstone Park Company visited the company's architect in Bozeman on April 16 to review details of construction plans.

General Publicity. The first supply of "A" folders issued by the Yellowstone Park Company was received on April 21. The "B" folders were received on the 22nd. Re-Service Training. In-Lorvice training or the Protecting Sivision for the month covered the follo day subjects: Protoction Sivision administrative volicies; firs equipment demonstration; forest fire soutrol; bilater rues control; inside infortations; building fire hererd inspection; workfor forecesting; traffic recident investigation; of to recours; and rublic relations. A total of 1570 man hours was devised to In-Service training in April, 1460 of which took place at the Protection Trvision conference hold to reconstrate in Sock place at the Protection Trvision conference hold completed during the month of April and will be used in subsequent rouths.

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Plane. "In and Surveys. Pesidont Lenneraps Architect Latsin spont considerable blue of concessioner projects and drafting work, including Easter Flan deafting. The only Service drawing completed during the month was drawing file-2197, test Thumb Development Fildy. This is one of e set of two or three shouts for the area.

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General Mellolby. The first supply of "A" folders incused by the Yollowstone Fark Company was received on April 21. The 'C' folders wore received on the 22ml.

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R. S. Gibbs, free lance writer for Colliers Magazine, was a visitor to the park on April 21 and 22 gathering material for a Yellowstone story to be released during the summer.

The Yellowstone Park Company does not propose to employ a publicity director for the 1948 season but such publicity as will be released from the park will be handled by Administrative Assistant Joffe. Spot news stories will be furnished the wire services either by telephone or telegraph.

A total of 112,000 Yellowstone broadsides were on hand at the end of the month. Despite the fact that the park was granted an additional allotment of 2400 free mailings during the month it was not possible to even take care of the regular run of correspondence and we were prevented from answering hundreds of requests for information and sending out literature.

Maintenance. Snow plowing was continuous throughout the month. Roads were kept open Gardiner to Cooke, Mammoth to Old Faithful and Mammoth to Canyon, as well as 8 miles on the Tower Falls to Canyon road for skiing. Plowing of the Gardiner to Cooke section was heavier than any previous April for many years.

Snow plows started the regular spring opening of roads on April 26 with four rotary plows, beginning at Canyon, and on April 30 were at Lake. The water content of the snow is very high and plowing slow.

The Marmoth Road Maintenance Crew was organized on April 6 and have been clearing up the Mammoth to Gardiner section and patching.

The special crew under Foreman Rerwick replaced the deck on the first bridge above Gardiner on the Gardiner to Mammoth road. They also constructed the concrete diversion dike at the Gardiner oil plant under plan NP/YEL 5659. At the end of the month this crew was working on replacing a log crib on the east approach to the bridge over the Yellowstone River at Tower Falls. Guard rail will also be placed at this location.

A restricted load limit is still in effect on all roads.

On April 12 a small maintenance crew was sent to the Gallatin section. It was necessary to go in by way of Livingston and Bozeman, as the road from Madison to West Entrance was not open.

Three large rock and snow slides are reported on the switchbacks on the Red Lodge to Gooke road.

Snow removal operations are on practically the same schedule as a year ago.

The Coleman truck showel secured from surplus has been completely repaired and is ready for use. R. S. (tobs, from a new writes for collisis agarbas and a viritor to the part on spril 21 and 22 pathorie, meanial for a fallows and a tory to be released during the summer.

The Yollowscon Firs Correr, does not precuse to a ploy a mulicity director for the 1948 season but such publicity as will be released from the park will be hardled by Administrative Assistant Jorfe. 1995 he a useries will be furnished the sirvices sither be telerhore or tele rach.

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Three large rook and and clide o are reported on the emitchacks on the Fed Lodge to Coole rood.

Snow record operations are un practically the arms achadule as a year ago.

The Coleman bruck shovel secured from surplus has been employed re-

New Construction. There was no action during the month on the only major construction project, the Moran to Yellowstone approach road, Section C. which was still snowbound.

On Accounts 431 and 432, Residences at Mammoth, the placing of supboard, kitchen lineleum, cutside siding and painting will complete these two residences. On Account 401, Temporary Houses at Mammoth, the fourth and last house under this job is complete with the exception of cupboard doors and outside painting. Two thousand feet of prefabricated wooden walks are now in place, 2,000 lineal feet are ready for placing and enough lumber is on hand for 2,000 feet additional.

Concessioners. The rates for the Old Faithful awimming pool were approved on April 1, the rates for hospital and medical service to the general public on March 26 and the rates for Haynes, Inc. on April 12.

Mr. J. E. Haynes visited the park on April 2. The Haynes Manmoth Shop was opened on April 19 and Mr. Haynes moved his offices to the park the following day, closing his offices in Bozeman for the summer.

Nr. R. H. Buck, Assistant Manager, Hotel Division, YP Company arrived in the park on April 5. Mr. Trever Povah, Vice President, Hamilton Stores, Inc., and Mr. Gar Helppie, Manager, arrived in the park on April 15 and opened the Hamilton operations at Old Faithful. Mr. Huntley Child, Secretary, YP Company, moved his offices from Helena to Gardiner on April 21. Mrs. Anna K. Pryor, Pryor Stores, Inc., arrived in the park on April 27.

Interpretive Services. On April 13 Chief Park Naturalist Condon gave a talk to the Livingston Kiwanis Club on Yellowstone Park. This program was well attended and received by the members of this organisation. Park Naturalist Watson continued to run the Tuesday night motion-pictures for the community program in the canteen.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. A great deal of work was accomplished during the month toward the rehabilitation of museum exhibit materials. Fourteen new Riker mounts were made up for the forest exhibit at Old Faithful and new labels prepared for these. All museum exhibit labels which are in positions where they are touched or might be handled by people, were covered with Thermium film. It has been found by us that this film works very satisfactorily under conditions where it is maintained at a more or less uniform temperature. Those labels which were covered with it last season and left in the museums where they were subject to subsero temperatures are all losing the Thermium film from their surface. Wherever such covered labels were used it would be nocessary that they be returned to the headquarters museum for storage during the winter months.

All case lights in the Mammoth Museum were replaced with new ones and the exhibit cases made ready for use during the summer. All work-tables and work-benches in the museum basement were recovered with oilcloth and heavy paper. New Construction. There was no sotien during the month on the only major construction project, the Moran to Yollowstone approach read, Section C. which was still approximat.

On Accounts 131 and 132, Realdences at Mammath, the placing of emphand, kitchen linchous, subside siding and painting will complete these two restdences. On Account 101, Temporary Houses at Mammath, the fourth and last house under this jeb is complete with the exception of ourboard doors and cutside painting. Two thousend feet of prefebriorted wooden walks are now in place. 2,000 lineal feet are ready for placing and enough lumber is on hand for 2,000 feet additional.

Concessioners. The retes for the Old Faithful swiming pool wore approved on April 1, the rates for hospital and modical service to the general public on March 26 and the rates for Esymps, Inc. on April 12.

Mr. J. 2. Haynes visited the park on April 2. The Haynes Mannoth Dhop was opened on April 19 and Mr. Neymes soved his offices to the park the following day, closing his offices in Bossman for the summer.

Mr. H. H. Buck, Assistant Managar, Notel Division, YF Company arrived in the park on April 5. Mr. Trever Feven, Vice Freeidant, Mauliton Stores, Inc., and Mr. Car Helppis, Manager, arrived in the park on April 15 and opened the Hamilton operations at Old Faithful. Mr. Luntley Child, Secretary, YF Company, moved his offices from Helena to Cardiner on April 21. Mrs. Anna K. Fryer, Fryer Stores, Inc., arrived in the park on April 27.

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Research and Observations. On March 31 a Great Gray Owl established itself in the visinity of the Manmoth Pest Office. This bird proved to be a source of interest to the members of the community until about April 10 when it disappeared. Up until that time it was observed sitting on the porch railing at the Post Office, on top of the steel posts and protective fences around shrubs, on the lamp posts and other convenient positions. On many occasions various people observed it catching mice and most of the local camera fans secured excellent photographs of it. It was possible to walk up to the bird, stroke its feathers and actually to raise its feet and get it to perch on your finger. We secured a number of very good 2"x 2"kodachrome slides and about 100 feet of movie pictures.

Field trips were made to Old Faithful on the 9th, 13th, 26th and 27th of the month. On these trips observations were made of the thermal phenomena in the Norris Geyser Basin, Lower, Midway, and Upper Geyser Basins. Some pictures were made of the Old Faithful and Grand geysers. The snow conditions along the Gibbon and Firehole Rivers were very interesting, especially the huge snow caps on the isolated boulders in the streams and some good pictures were secured of these.

There has been much accomplished toward the proper filing of all of the place names cards in the Yellowstone Park Place Names file.

Natural History Association. During the month a large portion of the books to be handled by the Library and Museum Association were received. These have been inventoried and allocated to the Mammoth, Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge Museums and all book sales stock placed in readiness for distribution to these stations.

There have been prepared a complete series of price label cards for use with sales publications. This was necessary due to the increase in price of almost every item which will be handled this season.

The material for Nature Notes which should have been published the first of April has been assembled and a dummy copy completed at the close of the month. It is anticipated that the March-April Nature Notes will be out by the 12th of May and that the May-June issue will be completed on time.

The Association's publication "Fur Traders and Trappers of the Old West" was assembled during the month and a total of 2,425 copies are available for sale.

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The book entitled "The History of Man in Yellowstone" by Dr. Merrill D. Beal which was to have been published by the Prairie Publishing Company of Casper, Wyoming, during the past winter apparently will not be available until July, if then.

There has been considerable correspondence in an attempt to secure the services of a librarian and to date one has not been secured. The Association has purchased the book stock for Custer Battlefield National Monument, and have also financed the purchasing of 2,100 2"x2" duplicates of Yellowstone's best Kodaslides for use by the Naturalist Division in interpreting park features. The Association has also purchased 340 worth of stamped envelopes for use by the National Park Service, meeting the present mailing orisis.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. The road from the North Gate through the park to Cooke, Montana, and the road from Tower Falls to the Mt. Washburn ski field were open to travel through the month. Many ski enthusiasts availed themselves of the good skiing on the Mt. Washburn slopes. The road from Mammoth to the West Entrance and Old Faithful was opened for travel on the 30th. Approximately 30 cars entered the West Gate on the opening day.

A total of 613 vehicles with 1301 passengers entered the park during the month as compared to 1216 visitors in 513 vehicles for April 1947. The total number of persons entering the park to date during the travel year is 20,222 as compared with 11,852 persons entering the park during the same period of the preceding year.

Ranger Service. The Protection Division Conference was held during the period April 21 through 28. A wide range of subjects dealing with such topics as Public Relations, Accident Investigations, Forest Fire Problems, Forest Insect Control, Fire Weather Forecasting and Building Fire Inspections was covered.

Ranger activities during the month were varied. The major portions of the winter range of the large native animals were covered for the purpose of determining the extent of the winter losses and to obtain information on the condition of the surviving animals and the vegetative range cover.

A considerable amount of work was accomplished in revising and bringing up to date the Park Ranger's Administrative, Report and Checking Station Manuals. A detailed report analyzing all automobile accidents that occurred during 1947 was prepared. Copies were submitted to the Director and to the Regional Director, Region Two.

Other Protection Division activities consisted of read patrols; measuring snow depths and taking water content of snow courses; snow removal from buildings; maintenance and repair of protection and fire fighting equipment; and inspection and servicing of fire extinguishers in the buildings of the Manmoth area.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. ANTELOPE. During the latter part of April scattered groups of these animals migrated to higher elevations. The first antelope was seen in the Lamar Valley on April 29, some 35 miles from the winter range. The host anthies "The Missory of Len in Howstons' by ". " artil . Feel which was to have hous sublished by the rainic Tablishing Company of Seeper, tyoming, sering the peat winner apparently will not be a witerly actil July. if then.

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Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. All 2007. Lorin, the latter fart of April stationed groups of these arimals at reted to higher clarations. In first antalogs - a seen it the Lamar Valley on april 89. and 55 alles for the wister reser. BEARS. Bear tracks were observed in various areas of the park throughout the latter part of the month. Tracks were first noted in the Canyon area on April 23. Four grizzlies were seen in the Midway Geyser Basin area, closely associating with a small herd of bison.

BISON. Bison in all areas where observed appeared to have survived a rather difficult forage winter without excessive losses. Some were in poor flesh. First calf of the season was observed near Slough Creek on April 15. One was seen near Blacktail Beer Creek on the 30th and two others were reported near Mammoth about the same time. By end of the month 13 newlyborn calves had been seen in the northern area.

COYOTES. The ^Fish and Wildlife Service discontinued poisoning of coyotes in the Tepee Creek area along the Gallatin River about April 10 and poisoned baits were removed. Two poisoned coyotes were observed near the park boundary during the month. No current information on a similar coyote poisoning program which was conducted earlier in the winter along the lower Yellowstone River valley was obtained.

DEER. Many of the deer were in poor flesh. Some general migration toward higher summer range occurred. About mid-April small beginning of new antler growth appeared on most of the bucks.

ELK. Although elk appeared in increasing numbers as far eastward as the Lamar River valley, substantial herds remained on the lower sections of their winter range, both inside and outside the park. Herds of 1,000 to 1,500 were foraging regularly at night and during the early morning hours in the Stevens Creek section. Considerable numbers have been seen outside the park.

Many of the elk are in poor flesh, but winter losses appear to have been somewhat less than was earlier anticipated. A survey of the northern winter range within the park revealed an actual count of 142 dead elk since date of the census on February 19. Estimates from the three northern districts place the probable winter loss within the park at 245. It is anticipated that winter losses outside the park will be estimated by the U.S. Forest Service after surveys in early May.

In the Gallatin area approximately 700 have moved into the park along Daly, Black Butte and Specimen creeks and along the upper Gallatin River, as compared with about 150 during the major portion of the winter. Many of these are reported to be in poor physical condition, especially the yearlings.

A meeting of the Upper Gallatin Conservation Committee is scheduled to be held at the Cinnamon Ranger Station on the Gallatin National Forest on May 8-9; problems affecting the Gallatin elk herd will be discussed.

On May \$2 a meeting with U. S. Forest Service officials is planned at Mammoth for discussion of problems relating to the northern Yellowstone Elk Herd. This will be followed by a meeting of the Absaroka Conservation Committee at Mammoth on May 15-16. BARES. No r tracks were choored is rerices areas of the part throughout the latter part of the mosts. Iracks were first noted in the Canyon are on April SJ. Four grisslins were soon in the lidwey bayeer design area, closely estecisting with a small herd of biscs.

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SANDHILL CRANES. These birds have been reported along the Yellowstone River near Trout Creek, Fountain Flats area, Roaring Mountain area and at several other locations.

OSFREY. Osprey were seen at Canyon on April 27 and 29.

Forest Fire Protection. The Yellowstone forest fire conference and school was held in conjunction with the regular Ranger Conference. A total of two days was devoted to fire suppression subjects and included field demonstrations of punpers, outboard motors, fire trucks and flame throwers. Beneral fire protection topics and a day's fire problem were taken up in the conference room. Seven members of the Yellowstone large fire organization units acted as chairmen in the fire problem, which was based on the Chipmunk Creek fire of 1931, and led discussions on the probable action of the smokechaser, fire boss, dispatcher, scout, sector boss and foreman.

Trails. A packer and two laborers were hired to report May 15 for trail work. This makes a total of five committments for trail crew members.

Building Fire Protection. Routine inspections were made of building fire protection facilities in Government buildings in the Mammoth area and some fire extinguishers were repaired and replaced.

A fire occurred in the attic of Residential Building No. 7 at Mammoth at about 9:00 a.m. on April 25. The fire was discovered before it had gained any appreciable headway and was extinguished by the village fire brigade with estimated damage amounting to not more than \$35.00. The exact cause of the fire is not known but it was definitely determined that it was not defective electrical wiring or appliances.

One full day of the Ranger Conference was devoted to building fire protection instruction and discussions. Mr. Kenner devoted half a day to discussion of propane gas and oil burning installations and inspections of large establishments. The other half day was devoted to the use, care and application of fire extinguishers.

White Pine Blister Rust Control. From the number of informal applications for employment which have been received to date, it appears that Blister Rust Control in Yellowstone has received quite a little publicity. It is anticipated that we will be able to fill our labor requirements on this project this season with men who were employed on the same project last year. Some excellent leaders and supervisors were developed in last year's operations and some of these men have been referred to other Service areas for strawboss and foreman positions.

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TOM: TIM SWARS. Two viragets: swars were observed on the Madison Niver rear dever's Hele on Spill P. Ca April 13 a pair was seen hear "Slide" Live between Memoria and Gardiner. Two were seen to the forse hes area along the Lasar River on April 19 and Su.

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Forest Insects. We were fortunate in having Senior Entomologist James C. Evenden available to devote one-half day of our ranger conference to a discussion of forest insects, their prevalence and improvements that have been recently made in effecting control measures.

Accidents. Two automobile accidents occurred in the park during the month. One was a collision of two vehicles on the West Yellowstone-Gallatin road. No one was injured and only moderate damage resulted. A new Chevrolet station wagon being driven from the Northeast Gate to the North Gate caught fire while descending the Yellowstone hill at the Yellowstone River bridge. The driver barely had time to drive off the road at the east end of the bridge and leave the vehicle before it burst into flame. The station wagon was entirely consumed and the cause of the fire was not determined.

Personnel. Joseph Joffe was promoted to the position of Administrative Assistant, CAF-9, effective March 25, 1948. Mr. Joffe has held the position of Assistant to the Superintendent since its creation in 1927.

William G. Proper was promoted to the position of Personnel Clerk, CAF-5, effective March 25, 1948.

The transfer of Park Ranger Rudolph F. Lueck to Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks was approved on April 6 but due to lack of funds in that area it is not likely that the transfer will be effective until after July 1.

Notice of the transfer of Park Ranger Harry V. Reynolds to Blue Ridge Parkway was received on April 30. Mr. Reynolds expects to leave for his new station May 4.

Ervin F. Coy, Guard, resigned at 7:00 a.m., April 7 and James M. Bartee, Electrician, resigned at the close of business April 16.

Seasonal employees entered on duty during the month included Muriel P. Baker, Stenographer-Comptometer Operator, CAF-3, April 7; James L. Collins, Clerk-Typist, CAF-3, April 19; Geraldine V. Elliott, Clerk-Stenographer, CAF-3, April 16.

Betty Lee Proznick entered on duty as a Clerk-Stenographer, CAF-4, in the Naturalist Division, vice LeRoy B. Van Cott, on April 20.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of Local No. 465, NFFE, was held in the Canteen on April 5. The Mammoth Library Association held a card party in the Canteen on April 16. The Federal Employees Union sponsored a dance during the Protection Conference, held in the Canteen on April 24.

> Edmund B. Rogers, Superintendent.

cc: Region Two, in quintuple. JJ/ekm

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ee: File (2) , in quintuple.

Némuni 3- Nogors, Superintendent.



The rotation method of instruction was used in field demonstration at the Ranger Conference and Fire School. The group in the foreground is receiving instruction in the operation of fire trucks, the center group at right learning to operate outboard motors and pacific pumpers while the background group is receiving training in the use of flame throwers.



Group receiving instruction in the operation of pacific pumpers and outboard motors.

Photos by Park Naturalist Cordon.





