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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 1949

	ROGERS	
✓	JOHNSTON	
✓	JOFFE	
✓	ANDERSON	
	STANTON	
	CHASE	
	FULLER	
✓	Mullen	
✓	CONDON	
✓	SKINNER	
	RYAN	
	CHAPMAN	
✓	WILLIAMS	
✓	WOHLBRANDT	
	ROBINSON	
	WILKINS	
	BERGHOLTZ	

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone National Park
Yellowstone Park, Wyoming

Report 1ml

Office of the Superintendent

April 8, 1949

Summary of the March 1949 Monthly Narrative Report for
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

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WEATHER:	Mild with below normal precipitation. Below zero last week of month. Maximum 50°, minimum -5°. New Weather Bureau forms being used. Comparative snow depths.	1
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Rogers in Washington until 12th; returned park 31st.	1
	Johnston to Laramie, Fort Collins, Denver and Rocky Mountain. To Billings on wage rate survey. Staff meetings. Open house for 100th anniversary Interior Dept. Sunday school picnic at Lamar. Train into N. Y. Red Cross Drive successful. Kittams to Moscow, Idaho and Helena. Yellowstone representatives to Personnel Instruction Course in Omaha. Wahlbrandt to Denver; also Bozeman and Idaho Falls and Pocatello.	2
	Chapman to Missoula on wage rates.	3
INSPECTIONS:	Daniel F. Burroughs visitor.	3
PLANS, MAPS AND SURVEYS:	Mattson on Glacier trip. Studies prepared of Lake area. New alphabet made for road wye signs. Preliminary work on roads Lake Hotel cabin area and O. F. campground.	3
PUBLICITY:	News story on 100th anniversary. Year-round opening Yellowstone stories carried. Ross Madden and Art Zion photographing in park. 15,300 broadsides on hand.	3
MAINTENANCE:	Snow plowing operations normal. Road to Mt. Washburn ski field opened. Rock slide at Overhanging Cliff. Heavy patching work on Gardiner-Tower Falls road. Road opened to Mammoth water intake. Additional funds requested for spring maintenance work. Bulldozer returned from Bureau Land Management.	4

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Report 1a1

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone National Park
Yellowstone Park, Wyoming

Office of the Superintendent

April 8, 1949

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of March 1949.

Weather Conditions. Mild weather with below normal precipitation characterized the weather for the month. The mild temperatures were interrupted during the last week of the month when the mercury dipped to well below zero over the entire park. The snow melted slowly during the month with no high run-off at any time. The maximum temperature of 50° was recorded on the 19th with a minimum temperature of- 5° on the 14th. The lowest temperature recorded in the park was -24° at Snake River Station on the 14th. The total precipitation at Mammoth was 0.87" as compared 1.46" in 1948, 1.35" in 1947 and 2.56" in 1946.

Effective March 1 new weekly Weather Bureau forms were put into effect at all stations in the park with the exception of the Northeast Entrance which will still report the weather on a monthly basis. Several changes were made in the new form and also simplified. It is no longer necessary to report the cloud condition, character of day or wind direction.

Comparative snow depths from various locations in the park are reflected in the following table:

	March 1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943
Cascade	124"	85"	65"	80"	52"	36"	---
Gallatin	21	28	--	48	10	22	---
Lake	53	48	41	51	29	33	60
Lamar	18	22	8	10	--	10	28
Lewis River Divide	132	99	120	116	84	75	135
Mammoth	11	8	4	12	--	12	19
Northeast Entrance	47	38	33	25	24	29	59
Old Faithful	63	48	51	55	37	30	70
Snake River	68	60	55	52	51	40	70
Tower Falls	28	28	13	18	4	22	35
West Yellowstone	42	40	38	39	27	29	36

Special Activities: Superintendent Rogers was on assignment in the Concessions Division in the Director's Office in Washington until March 12 when he left for Omaha to attend the Personnel Instruction Course. He left Omaha on the 16th, returning to Denver on the 17th to transact business in connection with Yellowstone matters. He left Denver on the 30th and returned to Mammoth on the 31st. Assistant Superintendent Johnston was Acting Superintendent in his absence.

Assistant Superintendent Johnston made a trip to Laramie, Wyoming, Fort Collins and Denver, Colorado and Rocky Mountain National Park with Chief Ranger Skinner from March 8 to 17 to interview applicants for park ranger and other positions, to discuss school matter, to discuss maintenance estimates with Public Roads Administration officials and an official from our Region Two Office, and civil service matters with the 13th Civil Service Region. On March 24 he went to Billings to make a survey in connection with the 1949 wage rates, returning on the 26th. During Mr. Johnston's absence Administrative Assistant Joffe was Acting Superintendent.

Staff meeting for all division heads were held in the superintendents office on March 1, 22 and 29 to discuss matters pertaining to the park.

The park held open house on March 3 commemorating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Department of the Interior. In view of the fact that sufficient time was not allowed to properly advertise the event and because it fell on a week day no visitors came to the park to participate in the celebration.

The regular annual Sunday School picnic was held at the Lamar Unit on March 5 and most of the Mammoth residents turned out for the affair. All of the children of the community enjoyed the event, as did also the grown-ups.

The first train into West Yellowstone arrived on March 10 and there will be regular weekly train service into the community.

As usual, the Yellowstone made an excellent showing in the Red Cross Drive held during the month. With Leon Evans as Chairman of the committee a total of $100.50 was collected, which was turned over to the Park County, Montana Chapter of the Red Cross.

Biologist Walter Kittams went to Moscow, Idaho, on March 26 to confer with State and Federal officials in connection with wildlife and range matters. He returned on the 30th. He and Assistant Chief Ranger Evans met with the Montana Fish and Game Commission in Helena on March 14.

Messrs. Condon, Nyquist, Ela, Koenki and Hirst attended the Personnel Instruction Course held in Omaha from March 14-23 and the Yellowstone representatives made an excellent showing in the examination held on the last day of the meeting. Mr. Condon did not attend all the sessions during the course but worked on other matters affecting Yellowstone, Custer and Big Hole.

Chief Engineer Wahlbrandt went to Denver by train on March 13 to attend a meeting with Public Roads Administration and Region Two officials in connection with road maintenance estimates for the Yellowstone. He returned with Messrs. Johnston and Skinner by government automobile on the 17th. In company with Automotive Mechanic Foreman Miller he made a trip to Bozeman, Idaho Falls and Pocatello from the 23rd to 25th making a survey of wage rates.

Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman made a similar survey in Missoula on the 29th and attended a meeting with Forest Service officials in connection with the wage rates for fire fighters.

Inspections. Daniel F. Burroughs, Recreational Planner, NPS, Billings, in March 11; out 12th.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. Resident Landscape Architect Mattson was on a trip to Ulmler from the 22nd to 29th on matters affecting that area. Aside from correspondence on the road system plans he carried on no activities on plans for construction projects. Studies were prepared for circulation within the Lake area and some review of the proposals was conducted with Region Two officials. A new alphabet was prepared for road wye signs because it was felt that the letters used at the present time were somewhat light in mass and needed to be heavier. Considerable preliminary work was done in connection with the entrance road to the Lake Hotel cabin area and Old Faithful campground roads.

Publicity. A news story regarding the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Department of the Interior was phoned the Associated Press on March 1.

Most of the newspapers in this part of the country carried stories in connection with a resolution adopted by the Big Horn Basin Clubs favoring the year-around opening of the Yellowstone roads. The story originated in Cody.

Ross Madden, photographer for Life Magazine, came into the park via West Yellowstone by snoplane on March 2 and 3 to obtain winter scenes of the areas around Old Faithful and West Thumb. Art Zion, photographer for the Montana Highway Department came into the park from West Yellowstone by snoplane on March 10 to obtain pictures in the Old Faithful area.

A total of 15,000 Yellowstone broadsides for 1947 remained on hand at the end of the month.

Maintenance. Snow plowing operations were about normal during the month with high winds causing much drifting. Some warm weather softened up the hard packed snow on the pavements and much of this was removed all the way to Cooke by the use of motor graders. Rotary plows were used to open the road to the ski field on Mount Washburn. The snow was crusted and unusually deep. The road was opened to traffic on March 19. It was closed again on March 25 by a rock slide (approximately 300 cubic yards) at Overhanging Cliff. The shovel was used to open a lane through this slide and the road again opened on March 29. The slide caused considerable damage to the road, causing it to settle approximately two feet. Indications point to additional slides, with some possibility of a major break-off of Overhanging Cliff.

Heavy patching of the road surface has been made from Gardiner to Tower Falls.

Near the end of the month it was necessary to open the road to the Mammoth water intake on the Gardiner river, 7 miles from Mammoth on the Mammoth-Norris road. The snow plowing was very hard, snow being from 4 to 6 feet deep and icy. This is about 2 feet deeper than is normal for this section and indicates spring plowing operations will be far above normal.

Additional funds have been requested for spring maintenance operations. If additional funds are not available maintenance will be very minor until after July 1 and roads will be in poor condition.

On March 9 the bulldozer that was loaned to the Bureau of Land Management for the Operation Snowbound was returned and this completed actual operations on this project. However, the work of reconditioning the equipment continued throughout the month.

New Construction. There was no work on major road construction during the month. The Canyon by-pass work will be continued by contract this spring and, aside from that, there will be no "major" road construction projects. The current road program for campground extension and West Thumb roads will require some plan preparation and these items are on the park's list.

There was no active construction projects on buildings underway during the month. The Resident Landscape Architect has been required to prepare sketches for the buildings now on the physical improvements list so that there will be some basis for discussion with the Regional Office.

Final delivery of all material has been made and all work completed on Job 201-23, School and Community Building, Account 410.

Concessioners. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Haynes visited the park on March 1 and Mr. Haynes was in Washington about the middle of the month to discuss negotiations for a new contract.

The medical and hospital rates for 1949 were approved by the Director March 1.

Huntley Child and John Q. Nichols of the Yellowstone Park Company were visitors at Mammoth on March 16.

The proofs of the Yellowstone Park Company's A and B folders and their Accommodations and Services leaflet were reviewed during the month. The first supply of the 1949 Accommodations and Services leaflet was received from the company on March 18 and they will be able to supply all copies needed by our Service here. These leaflets are printed in the company's print shop at Mammoth. The A and B folders are expected about May 1.

In-Service Training. Seventy six man hours of training were received by Protection Division personnel on Park Administration, Policy and other functions. The outline, comprising 35 pages, on Safety for Protection Personnel was completed. It will be mimeographed and used in training permanent and seasonal personnel in safety measures dealing with their work.

The Yellowstone Park Weekly News Letter was published each week on Thursday by the Naturalist Division and was distributed to park personnel, concessioners and interested parties elsewhere.

During the month a detailed log of information on the Geyser Hill thermal phenomena, which was prepared by Park Ranger Naturalist George D. Marler, was multilithed for use as an in-service training aid to park ranger naturalists who will conduct guide parties through this area. Copies of the log will be provided each man and it is anticipated that such information will be prepared on several other areas of the park and compiled into a training manual.

Interpretive Service. Chief Park Naturalist Condon was on special assignment in Omaha from the 11th through the 25th and was on active duty from the 14th through the 23rd, and at that time discussed museum and interpretive activities as they affect Big Hole Battlefield and Custer Battlefield National Monuments and the Yellowstone. On March 19 he presented a discussion at the Region Two Personnel Training Course on the subject "The Protection of the Preliminary Values in the National Parks."

On the evening of March 31 Mr. Condon presented a talk on the Yellowstone to the Montana Hereford Breeders Association at the Bozeman Hotel in Bozeman. One hundred and fifty people were in attendance and the talk lasted an hour.

As a part of the interpretation of the Yellowstone and other national parks several institutions were supplied with rocks requested for use in educational work. With these specimens was sent information which could be used by the institutions in helping them interpret the significance of the specimens themselves.

The next issue of Yellowstone Nature Notes has been edited but not yet published.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. Work continued in the Naturalist Division on a detailed inventory of museum accession materials. A number of discrepancies are being revealed in the accessioning. These are being remedied as the work progresses. The need for additional storage space for museum artifacts is very evident and a concentrated effort is being made to assemble these artifacts in given areas so they can be readily located and the records properly maintained on them.

On March 29 District Park Ranger Lee Coleman donated a rocker sluice box which he found on Reese Creek in the park. This piece of equipment,

although not very old, is an interesting artifact and is being retained even though it does not have historical significance of any great importance.

Research and Observation. Some field trips for the purpose of making photographs of winter scenes, wildlife and hydro-thermal phenomena were made during the month. During the course of these observations it was observed that the Angel Spring has shifted to a lower level on the terrace and is flowing a large volume of water; that the Minerva Terrace is again becoming quite active. Cleopatra Spring is beginning to flow water for the first time in about three years. The springs on the Narrow Gauge Terrace have been more active this winter than they have been for many years. Water has been flowing over both sides from the rift down the center of the Terrace and flooded extensive areas, building up a series of small terraces and creating a very highly colored series of basins. The old Palette Spring above the Devil's Thumb is now virtually dormant and the activity on the far edge of this terrace level near the highway is very heavy and is building up a series of beautiful terraces and pools which will prove to be of unusual interest to visitors this coming season should the spring's activity continue at this point.

Considerable time was given over to gathering information which was sent to Frans Lipp who is planning to publish a book interpreting Yellowstone National Park in a pictorial way. Mr. Lipp was seeking information which would be helpful to him in labeling his illustrations and also presenting textual information.

Natural History Association. The Yellowstone Library and Museum Association during the month of March placed its orders for all publications which it anticipates selling during the 1949 season. The Association will be adding to its list of publications for sale several new titles, including: "The History of Man in Yellowstone", by Dr. Merrill D. Beal; "Yellowstone National Park", by Marie Augspurger; and "Yellowstone and Teton Trails", by Joseph and Joyce Muench.

During the month a large shipment of books and periodicals were sent to the Dieter Book Bindery in Denver for binding.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. A total of 1184 persons entered the Park during the month as compared with 773 persons during the same period last year or a gain of 53.6%. Motor vehicles entering the park during the month totaled 445 as compared with 461 shown on last year's report for March.

Week-end travel increased rapidly during the latter part of the month with advent of warm spring days. The road from Tower Junction for a distance

of seven miles toward Dunraven Pass was ploughed open for spring ski enthusiasts. The only other road open in the Gardiner-Cooke road through the north part of the park. Several people availed themselves of the opportunity to view the big game animals along this section of road.

Included in the above travel are 26 people who entered the West Entrance in four different snoplanes or 13 separate trips. The majority traveled as far as Old Faithful and two trips were made to West Thumb.

Ranger Service. The following official trips were made by Protection Division personnel during the month: Chief Ranger Curtis K. Skinner to Fort Collins and Denver - March 8-17, to interview applicants for employment during coming summer and confer with officials in Public Roads Administration and Public Health Service and inspect surplus property; Assistant Chief Ranger Leon Evans to Helena and Missoula, Montana - 15th-16th, to attend wildlife meeting and interview applicants for seasonal positions; Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman to Missoula - 24th and 25th to attend a wage board meeting with other Governmental Agencies; the following rangers attended the Region II Personnel Instruction Course in Omaha the 18th-23rd; Ela, Kowski, Nyquist, and Hirst; Assistant Chief Rangers Chapman and Finch departed on the 31st for Grand Canyon National Park to attend an Inter-regional Fire School being held April 4-8.

A census of big game animals required the services of all Protection Division personnel during the week 7-11, during which time a general elk census was conducted of the main nothern range. The outlying areas were counted a few days previous.

The Mountain Sheep census was completed during the early part of the month.

An airplane count of the bison in the Hayden Valley and Mary Mountain areas was made by Park Biologist Kittams.

The building fire inspections of the Government buildings at Mammoth and the North Entrance were completed and unserviceable fire extinguishers were replaced or repaired and refilled.

The following ski patrols were made throughout the park during the month: all patrol cabins in the Snake River and Heckler River Districts were visited and snow removed and wildlife observations made; rangers at West Yellowstone patrolled to Old Faithful where they removed snow from Government buildings and inspected the area; a patrol was made to the Upper Lamar and Miller Creek areas to remove snow and inspection purposes; the Mammoth and Tower Falls areas were covered quite thoroughly in connection with the big game census.

Other Protection Division activities included, entrance station duties, road patrols, repair of equipment, preparation of training aids for use at conference and during training of seasonal employees, In-Service Training, reports and correspondence.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. BIGHORN SHEEP. A census and survey of the Bighorn sheep was completed during the month with the following results: a total of 129 were counted within the park boundaries, while 15 were counted in adjoining areas outside the park, making a total counted of 144 head. Of the number counted in the park, 16.1% were of lambs, 30.4% ewes and 39.5% rams. It is interesting to note the small ratio of lambs. Counting conditions were considered good and all known wintering areas were thoroughly covered. There was a marked reduction in the number of sheep normally seen at this time of the year along the Mammoth-Gardiner road and on the old target range.

Two large rams were found dead near Golden Gate on the 30th that had apparently winter killed or had become weakened and the coyotes finished them off. Both were about ten years old and one had an especially fine set of horns. Detailed measurements were taken of the horns and spread which will be sent in to Boone and Crockett Club, New York, for competition purposes.

ELK. An unusually complete census of the northern Yellowstone elk herd was completed on March 9. Four outlying units were counted on March 3 and 4 and the principal units inside and outside the park on March 7, 8, and 9. A heavy snow crust had forced the elk on the open ridges and other exposed areas where they were easily seen and counted by more than 50 men who represented the National Park Service, Forest Service, Montana Fish and Game Department and the organizations which form the Absaroka Conservation Committee. Elk counted in the park totaled 7,931 while counters found 1,565 outside for a grand total of 9,496 elk. Forest Service officials estimated that 3,000 or more elk were outside the park about mid-February but continued unseasonably warm weather of late February and early March had caused an unusually up-country movement.

A rather complete survey of the winter range and elk movements was made during the latter part of the month. The results showed that at the end of the month the recession of winter snow has been slow and gradual. The amount of snow remaining is considerably above normal. The snow area extends down to around the 5800 foot level. The snow below this elevation has largely disappeared in the sheltered places. The spring migration of the elk started the early part of the month following the open exposed slopes to higher elevations. Considerable amounts of old forage is available on the newly exposed slopes, which was utilized last fall and winter. In general the elk came through the severe winter in good condition, which was accounted for by the fact the snow remained loose and powdery and allowed easy pawing. Several dead elk have been found, due to winter kill or coyotes, but the number at this time indicates a comparatively light winter loss.

BUFFALO. Plans to commence feeding the bison on March 1 were abandoned after continued mild weather made more natural forage available

in the Horseshoe and other areas in that vicinity.

Buffalo in the Hayden Valley and Fountain-Nez Perce Creek areas were counted from an airplane on March 7. A total of 367 animals were counted in the Hayden Valley area and the animals were ~~so~~ widely scattered in 50 bunches ~~of about 7 head~~. The Fountain-Nez Perce area contained 147 head. The use of the plane was very successful in counting the bison.

Forest Fire Protection. Letters to sufficient applicants to fill all fire control aid positions were sent out by the end of the month.

On March 24 Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman went to Missoula to attend a meeting sponsored by Region I of the U. S. Forest Service for the purpose of determining fire fighters wage rates for 1949. Other government agencies in that region attended, including Park Service and Indian Service officials from the Department of the Interior.

A proposed revised individual fire report form 10-400 was made up and will be presented at the Grand Canyon Fire Conference in early April.

Some work was accomplished in the Mammoth Fire Cache reconditioning tools and general clean-up.

Three pairs of 9 x 35 binoculars were ordered for use by lookout observers.

Blister Rust Control. Letters to sufficient applicants to fill all positions in the Blister Rust Control camp were sent out. The number of acceptances was encouraging and few declinations have been received.

Bids for three Hi-pressure sprayers have been invited. These sprayers should speed up the initial work in the Mount Washburn area this season.

Building Fire Protection. The new Building Fire Hazard Inspection system which was developed for use in Yellowstone by the delegates to the Yosemite Building Fire School was used in Mammoth for the annual inspection. With the exception of few minor revisions this system was found to be practical, effective and economical of time. Copies of the forms used and a description of methods employed was sent to Region Two for criticism. No criticism was received but copies were forwarded to the Director, by the Region, for approval for possible Service-wide use.

The annual hazard inspection has been completed for all government buildings at Mammoth and the North Entrance. All extinguishers in those buildings have been tested and filled. In the near future all forms will be studied and systematic lists of hazards prepared according to classes and responsibility.

During the month organization plans were made and a Manual revision prepared covering Building Fire Hazard Inspections. Also, an outline was developed covering instruction material for one day of training on Building Fire Protection to be given at the Ranger Conference on April 14.

Accidents. Five motor vehicles, one being class A and four [illegible], occurred during March. All of them happened on the West Yellowstone-Gallatin road, which is maintained during the winter by the state of Montana. Rather serious injuries were incurred in one of the accidents. The cause of the accidents in each instance was extremely slippery icy road surface on narrow roads with high snow banks on each side. Visibility was limited to a few feet on curves not allowing sufficient time to stop. Due to the severe winter with deep snow and high winds, the highway department has experienced difficulty in maintaining the winter roads in good condition.

Personnel. The transfer of Harry V. Reynolds, Jr. from Blue Ridge Parkway to the position of Park Ranger, GAP-5, was approved by the Director March 21. Mr. Reynolds served in the Yellowstone prior to his transfer to Blue Ridge Parkway last May.

Deaths. The step-father of Mrs. Arlene Hess, wife of Park Ranger Dennis Hess, died in Shoshone, Idaho, on March 21.

Mrs. Mary O'Loughlin, 86, one of the Yellowstone old-timers, died in the Park Hospital in Livingston on March 27. Mrs. O'Loughlin lived in the Yellowstone from 1908 to 1933, when her husband, William J. (Tuffy) O'Loughlin, who was employed here as a blacksmith and watchman from 1895 to 1933, retired. The couple have been living in Livingston, Montana, since Mr. O'Loughlin's retirement.

Births. A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kurtz at the Park Hospital in Livingston on March 22. Mr. Kurtz is Postmaster at Mammoth and Mrs. Kurtz (Victoria Novicki) was employed as Personnel Clerk in the Fiscal Office here prior to her marriage. This is the third child for the Kurtzs, their first born having been twin boys.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union No. 469 was held in the Canteen on March 9. Following the meeting District Park Ranger Frank Anderson and Purchasing Assistant Willard Chase showed some of their choice kodachromes of the Yellowstone and other areas.

Edmund B. Rogers,
Superintendent.

cc: Region Two, in quintuple.
File (2)

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