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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK



FILE NO. A2823

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 1954

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Report 1-1

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

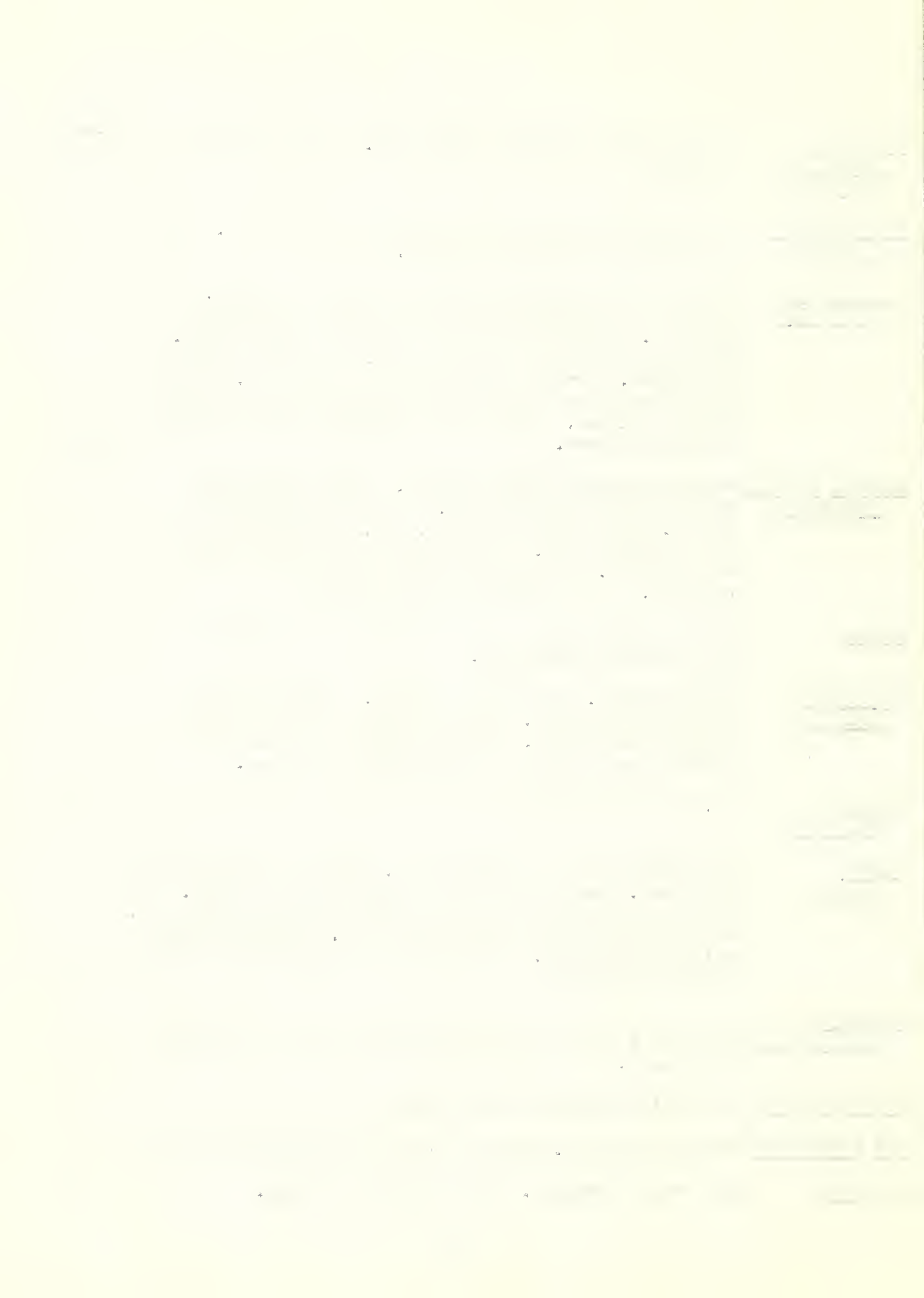
Yellowstone National Park
Yellowstone Park, Wyoming

Office of the Superintendent

Summary of the April 1954 Monthly Narrative Report
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARKPage

<u>WEATHER:</u>	Variable as usual. Temperature ranges. Precipitation 1.92 inches. Snow depths.	1
<u>SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:</u>	Rogers made trips to Bozeman; to Billings with Joffe to confer with MBIA officials. Hamilton and Stevens to Cody and HE. Robinson and 5 others to Ephrata for house trailers. Chapman and Milligan to Missoula on firefighting wage rates. Epperson received 175 award. Goodwin retired as Supt., Death Valley. Bids opened for electrical generators.	1-2
<u>INSPECTIONS:</u>	Robert Moore, Frank Chilis, Paul Judge, Elliot Davis, Douglas McLaren, Harvey Reynolds, Almer Fladmark, Lynn Coffin, Stanley Spurgeon for fire training conference. Fred Luist visitor from Yosemite. William Dunn arrived for summer. Montana Employment Service officers, Livingston to discuss employment.	2-3
<u>PUBLICITY:</u>	Press release issued on park opening. 1954 brochures received, 373,500 on hand. DMC furnished material for article.	3
<u>PLANS, MAPS & SURVEYS:</u>	Alignment for Fishing Bridge campground completed; Mattson in office most of month; master plan for 1954 campground prepared; Inspiration Point trail terminus plan being prepared; Canyon comfort station and water pump plan reviewed; CCC building at OF being re-modeled.	3
<u>MAINTENANCE:</u>	Plowing operations started. Snow depths normal. Plowing 2 days behind schedule. Road to OF to open May 1. Maintenance crews engaged on various projects.	3-4
<u>CONSTRUCTION:</u>	Projects all closed except Mammoth Hospital, rehabilitating CCC building OF, water line extension Thumb cabin area, rehabilitating generators, Canyon. Additional concrete signs constructed.	3-4
<u>CONCESSIONERS:</u>	Dr. Pearson visitor. Jack Haynes moved to Mammoth. YP Co. publications received. Huntley Child elected Pres. Montana Hotel Assn. Povich and Hamilton crew arrived. Hamilton closed Mammoth campground cafeteria and store. Models of guest cabins prepared by YP Co.	4-5

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<u>RELIGIOUS SERVICES & CHAPEL U-E:</u>	Sunday School and Youth Fellowship. Easter Sunrise Services.	5
<u>INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:</u>	Watson presented program to Gardiner High School. Condon talked to wildlife students.	5
<u>RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:</u>	Charles Gebler making study on nature trail guide. Elmore on historical research and preparation museum exhibits. Watson on research on Norris Geyser Basin. Osprey returned to Eagle Nest Book. Research program for Harler. Condon inspected nature north park. Elmore and Condon visited mud volcano area and observed Black Dragons Caldron. Temperature recordings made of other thermal features.	5-6-7
<u>NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION:</u>	Books and other items purchased. "Wild Animals of Yellowstone" revisions made. March-April Nature Notes issued. Alice Luist employed. Dr. Paul autographed copies of his book. Mrs. Lucille Warner to be hired as Librarian. Bagley-McDonald plant book to be reissued. YLM directors meeting May 21.	7
<u>TRAVEL:</u>	1712 visitors in 517 vehicles; 1917 in April 1953. 17 in oversnow equipment.	
<u>IN-SERVICE TRAINING:</u>	Staff meeting. Weekly News issued. Sectional Fire Training Conference. Plans completed for In-service Training Conference. Proper, Hart and Tompkins instructed on personnel investigating procedure.	
<u>SPECIAL VISITORS:</u>	Dr. Nils Paul Larson	8
<u>RANGER SERVICE:</u>	Ski patrols and inspections made. Snowshoe collections collected. Rangers assisted repair telephone lines. Entrance stations partially prepared for summer operations. Plans completed for Ranger Conference. Grimmett met with railroad officials. Difficulties encountered in selecting seasonal rangers.	9
<u>WILDLIFE:</u>		
<u>GRIBLY WEASLS:</u>	13 seen at OF; 4 killed for public safety and property protection.	9
<u>MOUNTAIN LION:</u>	1 reported seen near Oxbow Creek	9
<u>ELK MANAGEMENT:</u>	Montana F&G Dept. dropped salt in Buffalo-Hellroaring area	9
<u>BIGHORN:</u>	15 seen at Abiathar. 110 seen during winter.	9



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<u>FISHING</u> <u>REGULATIONS:</u>	1954 fishing regulations approved April 15. Copies mimeographed and issued.	9
<u>RANGE:</u>	Lower and Intermedi te range fire of 1954. Possible growth during first half April. Less than normal in latter half. Most of 5000 ft. near Stevens Creek. Greatest growth on south slope in higher elevations. Bison cows in poor flesh. Elk in fair flesh.	9-10
<u>FOAM T FIRE</u> <u>PROTECTION:</u>	Revisions for fire fighting Plan and Guide partially completed.	10
<u>BUILDING FIRE</u> <u>PROTECTION:</u>	Maintenance of extinguishers started.	10
<u>BLISTER BUNT</u> <u>CONTROL:</u>	Additional personnel selected. New pickup truck to be purchased.	10
<u>RANCH AND COR-</u> <u>RAL OPERA-</u> <u>TIONS:</u>	Horses and mules being fed hay. Young horses trained. Portions of meadow re-seeded.	10
<u>TRAILS:</u>	Manpower available for trail sign snap. 265 signs completed. Trail crew selected.	10-11
<u>LAW ENFORCE-</u> <u>MENT:</u>	FBI and Undersheriff, Livingston in on law enforcement matters. Complaint prepared against Lloyd W. Beard. Activities of former B. employee investigated.	11
<u>DEATHS:</u>	Leonard Winberg, Father Mrs. Cole Huss. Ed Howels, Park County News, Livingston.	11
<u>PERSONNEL:</u>	Andrew Stewart to CL cler. Claude Melvin cod as Park Ranger. Alice Murphy resigned. Margaret Greer appointed Clerk-Stenographer. James Hardis appointed Property and Supply Clerk. Herman Angelsen resigned as Guard. Royal E. Grover rtd. Marie Pierson and Dorothy Harne appointed seasonal Clerk-Stenographers, Viola Loylance as Clerk-Typist, John Voss and Orville Johnson, Storekeepers (General). Selections made of seasonal ranger and ranger naturalists from register. Local Board Civil Service Examiners rating applications for wage board positions.	11-12
<u>MISCELLANEOUS:</u>	FEU meeting. AFGE meeting.	12



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

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Report Inl

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

May 11, 1954

Memorandum

To: The Director
From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park
Subject: Monthly Report for April 1954

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of April 1954:

Weather Conditions. The weather for April was variable as is usual for this time of the year. The temperatures ranged from a low of 17° on the 1st to a high of 61° on the 17th and 23rd. The average maximum temperature was 51° for the month and the average minimum was 27°. The mean temperature was a cool 39°. The total precipitation was 1.92 inches. The above figures pertain to the headquarters area only. Snow depths for some of the courses at the end of the month are as follows: Norris 23.1", Lupine 24.8", Northeast Entrance 14.7", and Lewis River Divide 108".

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers made trips to Bozeman April 7 and 13 for research work at the library on his legislative history of areas of the National Park System and to confer with concessioner J. E. Haynes. On April 19 he and Administrative Assistant Joffe left for Billings to confer with Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee officials on matters affecting the convention to be held at Lake Hotel June 24-25 and attended the Seventeenth Annual Community Cooperative Dinner sponsored by the Billings Chamber of Commerce, returning the 20th. On April 27 Mr. Rogers made a trip to the Bozeman library.

Assistant Superintendent Hamilton and District Ranger Stevens departed April 7 for Cody, Wyoming, where Mr. Hamilton met with Rural Electrification Administration officials on proposed power line to East Entrance, and to the East Entrance Ranger Station on inspection and to deliver a radio, returning on the 9th.

On April 19 Mechanical Supervisor Robinson, District Ranger Ela, Park Ranger Murphy, Automotive Mechanic Herne, Truck Driver Jump, and Storekeeper Schultz left for Ephrata, Washington, to obtain six house trailers from the Bureau of Reclamation for use here for seasonal employees. Assistant Superintendent Hamilton accompanied them on annual leave. They returned the 24th.

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman and Snake-Jumper Squad Leader Milligan attended the annual meeting of the Cooperative Fire-fighting Agencies at Missoula, Montana, April 22 to discuss and agree on firefighting wage rates.

James E. Epperson, seasonal Operator (General), was the recipient of a \$75 cash award granted by the Region Two Incentive Awards Committee for his suggestion to construct a grader ditch cleaning wing for use on park roads. The presentation was made by Superintendent Rogers at the staff meeting in the Superintendent's Office April 14.

Secretary of the Interior McKay announced that T. Raymond Goodwin, Superintendent of Death Valley National Monument, retired at the end of March. Mr. Goodwin was assigned to Yellowstone a number of years ago on road oiling. He was one of the discoverers and developers of the oil mix system of road paving.

Bids were opened April 26 for electrical generators, invitation for which was issued by the Regional Office April 5, and the three bids received were forwarded to the Regional Office for final approval. No award had been made by the end of the month.

Inspections. Hilton T. Hendrix, Supervising Investigator in Charge, Tenth Civil Service Region, Denver, Colorado, in April 12 to confer with Supervisory Park Ranger Harry V. Reynolds, Personnel Assistant William G. Proper and District Ranger Ruben O. Hart in connection with investigating procedures for federal employees. He left the 14th.

Robert B. Moore, Chief, Administrative Branch, Forestry Division, Washington Office; Frank W. Childs, Regional Forester, Region Two; Paul A. Judge, Chief Ranger, Eliot Davis, District Ranger, and Douglas McLaren, Park Ranger, Grand Teton National Park; Harvey B. Reynolds, Chief Ranger, Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park; Elmer N. Fladmark, Chief Ranger, A. Lynn Coffin, Assistant Chief Ranger, and Stanley H. Spurgeon, Assistant Fire Chief Dispatcher, Glacier National Park, arrived April 26 for Sectional Fire Control Training Conference, the latter four departing April 30 and the rest the following day.

Fred Quist, former Yellowstone employee who has been located in Yosemite for the past 15 years, visited in the park near the end of the month.

William Dunn, Superintendent, Yellowstone Park Fish Cultural Station, arrived April 29 to begin Fish and Wildlife Service operations at Yellowstone Lake for the season.

Frederick H. Rutherford, Manager, and Lawrence Rasmussen, Interviewer, Montana State Employment Service, Livingston, in April 20 to confer on employment.

Publicity. A press release was issued to the park's mailing list April 16 on the 1954 opening dates for the various roads and accommodations.

On April 20 the first shipment of 1954 Yellowstone bro d-sides arrived and most of the 400,000 which were shipped had been received by the end of April. A total of 373,500 Yellowstone bro dsides were on hand at the end of the month.

Information was mailed April 28 for a feature story for International News Service to their Denver representative.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. A new projected alignment for the Fishing Bridge campground road was completed and grades worked out for the road widening project at West Entrance.

All of the time of the Resident Landscape Architect during the month was spent in the office, largely on plan preparation.

A Master Plan sheet for the Fishing Bridge campground area was prepared, reviewed in the park and forwarded to the Regional Office.

A plan for the revision of trail terminus, Inspiration Point is under preparation and proposes a concrete flight of stairs and ramps with metal hand rails and guard rails.

Architectural plans for the comfort station and water pump house at Canyon have been reviewed and recommendations are being prepared.

Some work is underway to start on the remodeling of one CCC building at Old Faithful into three small apartments.

Maintenance. Snowplowing was started toward Norris April 5 the plows arriving there the 12th and plows started toward Canyon and Old Faithful on the 15th, arriving at those points on the 20th. Plows reached Lake on the 26th and by the end of the month were within three miles of West Thumb and about twelve miles out on the West Entrance road. Around the first of the month snow reports indicated about normal depths but warm weather and high wind were fast reducing this depth. Plowing has been generally good with some trouble caused by the "treasel" tracks made during the winter. At the end of the month plowing was about two days behind last year's schedule. The roads to Old Faithful and West Entrance were to be opened for traffic May 1.

Maintenance crews are located at Mammoth and Gallatin. They are busy patching and taking down snow fences and snow stakes. The Gallatin section of road is breaking up on some sections. About 600 yards of gravel were placed on the Mammoth Hotel cottage area roads in preparation for placing a bituminous mat. About 20 miles of road center-line stripe were placed and an additional five miles spotted for striping. Three new dump trucks were received during the last week of April.

Construction. All construction projects are closed down for the winter except the following: Account 231.01, Replace the Heating Plant at the Mammoth Hospital, Building No. 16, which project is 99% complete; Account 231.03, Rehabilitation of CCC Buildings, Old Faithful, material being ordered and work will start in early May; Account 332.17, Water Line Extension, West Thumb Cabin area, material ordered; and Account 232.02, Rehabilitate Generators, Canyon, material on order and some carpenter work under way and the electricians lining up generators and panels. A few additional concrete signs were constructed by the maintenance crew.

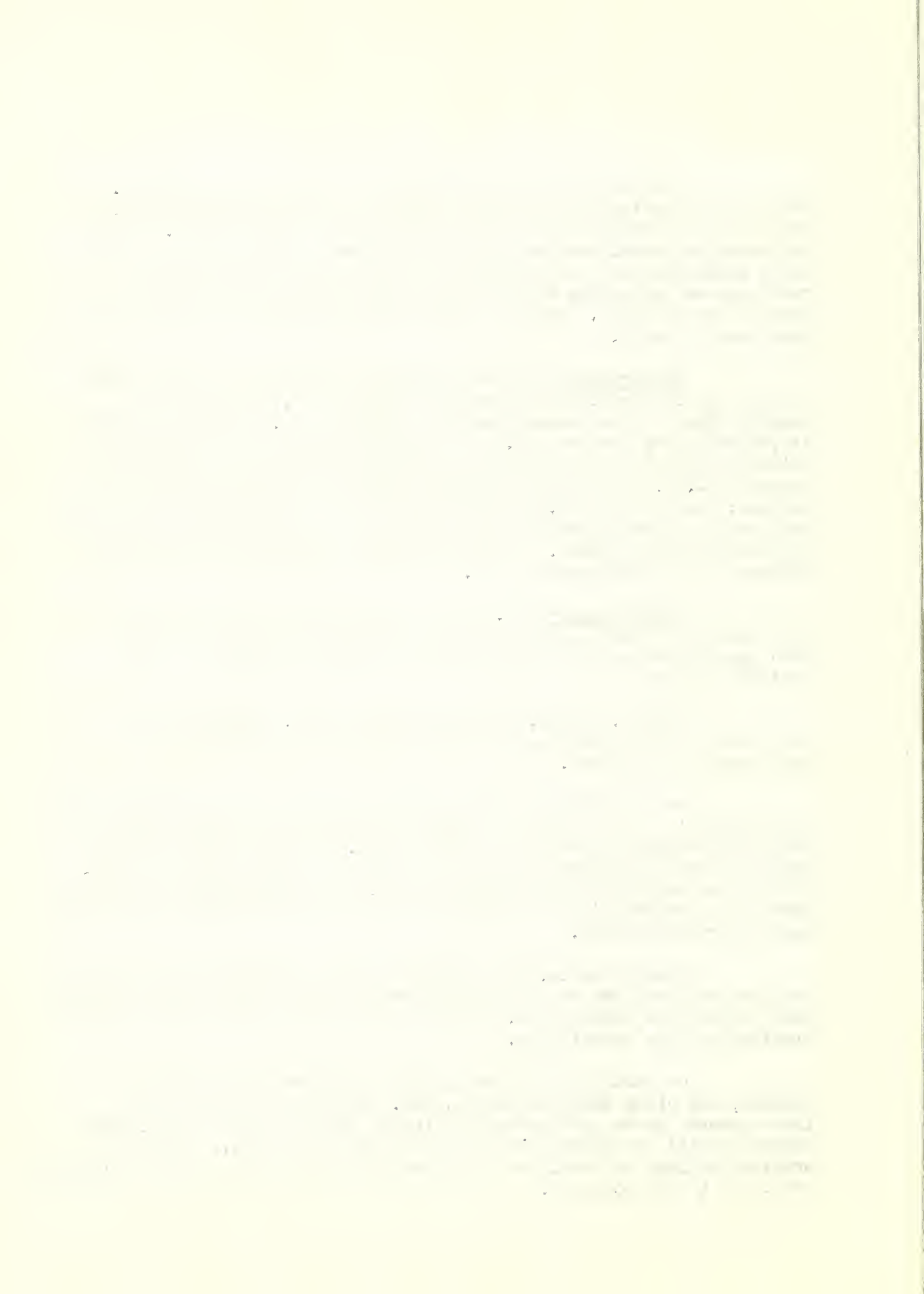
Concessioners. Dr. John W. Pearson of the Yellowstone Park Medical Service was in the park April 9 from Livingston to confer with Superintendent Rogers and Resident Physician Gilman on park medical matters.

Jack E. Haynes, President, Haynes Inc., photographic concessioner, moved to Mammoth April 15 for the summer from his winter headquarters at Bozeman.

On April 16 the first supply was received of the Yellowstone Park Company's A and B Folders containing the rates for bus tours and motorist accommodations for the 1954 season. On the 20th the first supply of the 1954 Accommodations and Services leaflet were received. This latter publication was printed in St. Paul, Minnesota, this year, having been printed in the Yellowstone Park Company's print shop in the park in previous years.

Huntley Child, Jr., Vice President, Yellowstone Park Company, was elected President of the Montana Hotel Association at its convention held in Billings April 23-24. He served during the past year as Vice President of the Association.

On April 27 Trev Povah, Vice President, Gar Helppie, Manager, and other Hamilton Stores, Inc. employees arrived to open their general store and service station at Old Faithful by May 1 when motorists will be admitted to the west side of the park. They will provide lodgings and meals of an informal character until other facilities are open at that location.



On April 30 permission was granted Hamilton Stores, Inc. to discontinue operations of its general store and cafeteria in the Mammoth campground beginning this summer, the building to be used as a general storehouse for the storing, marking and redistribution of merchandise to their various stores in the park.

The Yellowstone Park Company prepared during the winter a number of one-inch scale models of guest cabins and these were viewed by National Park Service personnel in April. The purpose of the study was to evolve some economical method of prefabrication.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. The regular Sunday School services were held in the Yellowstone National Park Chapel at 10:30 each Sunday morning during the month. The Youth Fellowship organization met in the Chapel at 6:00 p.m. on the 25th.

A well-attended Easter candle light service was held in the Yellowstone National Park Chapel at 6:00 a.m. Easter Sunday, April 15. Reverend G. H. Walker preached the sermon. Music was supplied by the Mammoth Youth Choir and the combined Gardiner-Mammoth Adult Choir. Although the weather was stormy there was an exceptionally large congregation in attendance.

Interpretive Services. Park Naturalist Watson presented a program to the Gardiner High school science class on the geological history of Yellowstone National Park. There were fifteen students in attendance and two teachers. On the 30th Park Naturalist Watson presented a similar talk to the Scouts and parents in Gardiner with 24 persons present.

A special talk was given by Mr. Condon to a group of nine wildlife students and instructors from Idaho State College at Pocatello, Idaho. Dr. Van Pulling was in charge of this group.

Research and Observation. Mr. Charles Gebler, former Park Ranger Naturalist and prospective employee for the 1954 season, submitted an outline for a proposed study on nature trail guiding which he plans to make as part of the qualifications for his masters degree. This study outline was reviewed by members of the Naturalist staff and a letter outlining our suggestions on its improvement was sent to Mr. Gebler.

Park Naturalist Elmore devoted a lot of time to historical research for the preparation of museum exhibits and Park Naturalist Watson spent a good deal of time on library research with respect to the Norris Geyser Basin reviewing published information on the activities as recorded for that thermal area. He also spent considerable time

working on final details of a map of this area and stippled in the forested area which tongued out into the geyser basin.

The osprey were reported back at the Owl's Nest lock in Gardiner Canyon on April 4 and during the month were busily engaged repairing the nest and settling about with their nesting.

The possibilities of setting up a research program on the hydrothermal phenomena of the geyser basin along the Firehole River is being explored and it is hoped that a program can be justified which will be supported by private foundation funds. The Yellowstone Library and Museum Association is interested in acting as sponsor of such a research project and Mr. George D. Warler was in on April 30 to discuss the possibility of his participating with this research work.

On the 18th and again on the 25th trips were made over range lands north of the Park which are Forest Service lands and privately owned livestock range by Chief Park Naturalist Condon for his personal enlightenment. These range lands provided a marked contrast to the north Yellowstone range within the National Park boundary. Forage and general vegetation cover was exceptionally good on the Forest Service range lands and good on the privately stocked ranges in contrast to the virtually barren condition of the countryside from Geese Creek to Mammoth around the slopes of Sepulcher Mountain and around the slopes of Mount Everts. Any one interested in receiving a shock with respect to vegetation need only walk over some of this countryside.

On the 26th, Park Naturalists Moore and Condon visited the Mud Volcano area for the purpose of determining what changes had occurred in this thermal area and especially to make observations of the Black Dragons Caldron. It was found that the Black Dragons Caldron is violently active along a fissure bearing 32° east of south and having a total active length of 109 feet. The temperature of this seething mass of mud was 191° F. A smaller fissure was active on the north side of the crater. This fissure had a bearing of 42° east of north. Its temperature was only 162° F. The original crater of activity as it was discovered in the spring of 1948 had a width of 45 feet, a length of 60 feet, and a depth of 7 feet 11 inches and followed the long axis on the fissure bearing 42° east of north. The present length of the crater along this bearing is now 142 feet. The extent of the crater along the fissure alignment bearing 32° east of south is also 142 feet. The width of this crater at its widest point is 77 feet and its depth from rim to boiling mud surface is 18 feet 5 inches.



A series of temperatures were recorded for other thermal features in that general area and these temperatures are as follows: Dragons Mouth, 192° F.; Mud Volcano, 200° F.; Mud Geyser, 136° F.; Sulphur Caldron, 144° F.; Large mud cone below Sulphur Caldron, 146° F.; Large turbulent pool near Black Dragons Caldron, 142° F.; Large mud pit up ravine behind the Mud Volcano, 194° F.

Natural History Association. The Yellowstone Library and Museum Association purchased four books and some other items for the library. Two of these were Yellowstone Through the Stereoscope and Yellowstone and Alaska.

Park Naturalist Elmore spent two day's time making grammatical corrections of the printed copy of "Wild animals of Yellowstone" by Brodrick. Other revisions were made in the text of this publication and it was sent to Edwards Brothers for reprinting in the revised form. It is planned to have a minimum of five thousand copies of this edition run off.

The March-April issue of Yellowstone Nature Notes was prepared, multilithed, and mailed by the 20th. There were 307 copies placed in the mails.

Mrs. Alice Luist was employed as clerk of the Association and worked 62½ hours and devoted her time to arranging the book stock, working on the photo albums and the Kodaslide collection.

Dr. Merrill L. Beal spent more than two days autographing about 750 copies of his book Story of Man in Yellowstone of which the Association now has the entire stock.

The Association has negotiated to retire Mrs. Lucille Wagner as Librarian for the 1954 season and it is anticipated that she will report for duty before mid-June. The Association is still working with Mrs. George Bagley and Dr. A. B. McDougall on the manuscript of a new book on plants of Yellowstone.

There was a special meeting of the Board of Directors held in the Chief Park Naturalist's office at 3 p.m. on the 21st. Members present were: James W. Brown, Chairman, David de L. Condon, Executive Secretary, Alice Luist, Treasurer, Jack A. Lynes, Member, Arund B. Rogers, Member, Joseph Joffe, Member, A. Verde Watson, Member, Otto M. Brown, Member, Francis H. Elmore, Member, William Proper, Member. The matter of the proposal to incorporate the Association and revise the Constitution and By-laws was reviewed at some length and after considerable discussion a motion was made to table the proposal until further exploration of the values to be gained by such action was made.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. A total of 1,712 visitors in 518 vehicles entered the park this month including 17 visitors in over-snow equipment. This compares with 1,070 visitors during April 1953 or a slight decrease.

In-Service Training. A staff meeting of division heads was held in the Superintendent's Office April 14.

The Yellowstone Weekly News was issued each Thursday to keep employees, concessioners and others currently informed of park happenings.

A Sectional Fire Control Training Conference held in the park April 27-30 was participated in by Forester Moore of the Washington Office, Regional Forester Childs of the Regional Office, and personnel from Glacier, Grand Teton and Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park as well as Chief Ranger Brown, Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman and District Ranger Nelson of Yellowstone.

Plans were completed for a Park Ranger In-Service Training Conference in Law Enforcement to be held May 5-7 with Federal Bureau of Investigation instructors.

Final arrangements for a Fire Control and Training Conference May 10-14 have also been completed in which Regional Director Baker and Regional Counsel Mullady will participate.

Personnel Assistant Proper, District Ranger Hart and Supervisory Park Ranger Reynolds received instruction April 12 and 13 from Supervising Investigator Hilton T. Hendrix of the 10th Civil Service Region, Denver, on personnel investigating procedures.

Special Visitors. Dr. Pils Paul Larson, in charge of a large hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii, and former Hawaiian Consul to Sweden, in April 23 to visit park and obtain pictures for use in talks to be given in Hawaii.

Ranger Service: Final ski patrols were made mainly to observe wildlife conditions and to run snow courses. A number of inspection trips for like reasons were made from park headquarters. Snowshoe cabin rations were collected and returned to the warehouse for storage as the snowplows reached the various stations.

Rangers assisted in the repair of telephone lines. Entrance stations were partially prepared for summer operations and interior stations were opened for automobile travel they were inspected and readied for occupancy.

Plans and arrangements were completed for the Ranger Conference May 5-7 and May 10-14 and the programs prepared and mimeographed. District Ranger Criss met with railroad officials in Livingston, Montana on May 16 regarding the railroad right-of-way in the park.

Difficulty was experienced in selecting seasonal rangers from the lists of eligibles certified and it now appears unlikely we will be able to obtain a good percentage of the men employed last year who want to return. The considerable effort spent in getting seasonal rangers this summer has not been very fruitful.

Wildlife Activities. Grizzly bears. As many as 13 grizzly bears were seen in the Old Faithful area at one time the past few weeks. It was necessary for protection division personnel to dispose of four grizzly bears, one grown female and three yearlings, at Old Faithful on April 30 in the interest of public safety and property protection. Several had taken up residence in that area and these four became particularly troublesome and made repeated attempts to break into buildings.

Mountain Lion: Truck driver Oscar Mathis reported seeing one of these rare predators near Oxtow Creek April 26.

Elk Management: Biologist Joe Saab of the Montana Fish and Game Department dropped, by air, 1,200 pounds of salt in the Buffalo-Hellroaring area on April 26. The grounds and locations are essentially the same as has been the practice for some years.

Bighorn: Joe Kay reported 15 bighorn seen on Abiathar and two on Mt. Norris. These are over and above those seen previously during the winter. The actual count of bighorn seen this winter is 110 animals.

Fishing Regulations. The 1954 fishing regulations were approved by Secretary McKay April 15 and the Federal Register of April 22 containing these regulations was received April 26. The fishing regulations were mimeographed and issued the following day, 6,000 copies having been prepared. Only a few minor changes were made.

Range. According to observations of Biologist Kittams all of the Lower and most of the Intermediate range is now free of snow. Since mid-April, considerable old forage has been available to grazing animals on the Intermediate Range. On the entire Yellowstone range, there was negligible growth of grass during the first half of April. Less than normal growth in late April was due to low temperature on most of the range. Near Stevens Creek the absence of new crested wheat grass in the bottoms and presence of new grass on moist north

slopes suggests a shortage of moisture. At higher elevations, greatest growth is on south slopes which warm early. An interesting comparison of crested wheat on heavily grazed and relatively ungrazed range was observed near Stevens Creek. Within the nursery fence, new leaves are about four inches long; outside, most crested wheat has not put out new leaves yet. Of 25 bison seen in the Firehole area on April 24, several were in poor flesh. Forage had been cleaned from nearly all sectors which were free of snow. Most elk in the Yellowstone drainage are in fair flesh. At low elevations elk are feeding on north slopes and higher up they are on critical range, apparently seeking green grass.

Forest Fire Protection. Revisions of the Yellowstone Park Fire Fighting Plan and Guide for the coming season were partially completed.

Building Fire Protection. As a follow-up from the fire extinguisher inspection reports for the Mammoth Village area, the maintenance of extinguishers was started the 1st week of April. Twenty seven Foam, 5 soda acid and 6 Protexite extinguishers were cleaned and recharged. CCl_4 extinguishers were recharged with air, improper type extinguishers and unsatisfactory extinguishers were replaced.

Blister Rust Control. Additional personnel were selected for the blister rust crew to replace selections who declined or failed to return questionnaires within the specified time. A purchase order was issued to the Director's office for the purchase of a new 4-wheel drive pickup truck.

Ranch and Corral Operations. Horses and mules were fed hay during the entire month. Daily consumption of hay was reduced from 41 bales per day to 24 bales by the end of the month as snow had melted sufficiently for limited grazing. Young horses and those needing additional training and gentling received this attention.

A small amount of work was done on the portion of meadow to be reseeded. The soil is still too wet for proper tillage. Seed was purchased for reseeding this portion of the meadow.

Trails. More man power was available for work in the trail sign shop during the month and by the end thereof 260 signs had been completed and approximately 100 more were in various stages of manufacture.

All nine men offered positions on the trail crew have accepted and the first ones will report June 1. Due to the lateness of the season and the amount of snow it is not expected much trail work can be accomplished prior to that time.

Law Enforcement. FBI Agent William Brosnith and Undersheriff Hodges of Livingston visited the park on Law enforcement matters on May 7. A complaint was prepared against Lloyd D. Beard, now in a Texas prison, for burglary of the Lake Service Station last summer.

Supervisory Park Ranger Reynolds spent several days with Montana law enforcement officers investigating the activities of a former National Park Service employee and members of his family by marriage.

Deaths. Leonard Winberg, 58, Warren, Minnesota, father of Mrs. Dale Nuss, died in Warren April 2. Mrs. Nuss was with her father at the time of his death and Mr. Nuss also attended the funeral in Warren.

Ed Nowels, 58, News Editor for the Park County News in Livingston for 30 years, died of a heart attack April 8. Funeral services were held April 12 and burial in Mountain View Cemetery. Mr. Nowels has been a fine friend and staunch supporter of Yellowstone and the National Park Service.

Personnel. The Change in Headquarters and Indefinite Promotion of Andrew E. Stewart, Operator, General (Mobile Power Equipment), Yellowstone, to Mixed Gang Foreman, Glacier, was effective April 4. He departed April 5 for that area.

Claude W. McClain entered on duty April 5 as Park Ranger, GS-5 by Indefinite Appointment. He was previously employed as Park Ranger for the Corps of Engineers at Harlan County Reservoir at Republican City, Nebraska.

Mrs. Alice B. Murphy, Clerk-Stenographer, GS-4 in the Personnel and File Office, resigned at the close of April 9.

Mrs. Margaret A. Acme arrived April 20 to enter on duty by Indefinite Appointment the following day as Clerk-Stenographer, GS-4, vice Alice B. Murphy.

James C. Mardis received Indefinite Appointment April 26 to the position of Property and Supply Clerk, GS-4.

Herman Engelsman, Guard, GFC-4, resigned at the close of April 16.

Royal E. Grover, Operator General (Mobile Power Equipment), returned to duty from furlough April 15.

The following seasonal employees were appointed during April: Mrs. Marie A. Pierson and Mrs. Dorothy L. Jarne, Clerk-Stenographers, GS-3, April 6 and 8, respectively; Mrs. Viola B. Boylance, Clerk-Typist, GS-3, in the storehouse, April 13; John A. Voss and Orville F. Brennan, Storekeepers (General), GS-3, April 7 and 26, respectively.

Selections were made of seasonal Park Rangers and Senior Naturalists from the registers furnished by the Region Two Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, Regional Office, Omaha, Nebraska, in accordance with procedure established this season, and additional registers were requested to complete selection in these positions.

As required effective this season, the Local Board of Civil Service Examiners for Yellowstone National Park is now rating applications and making selection for all seasonal wage board positions in the park with the exception of laborers, laborer-leadmen, cooks and cooks helpers.

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

On April 12 the regular monthly meeting of the American Federation of Government Employees was held in the Canteen.

Edmund B. Rogers
Superintendent

In duplicate

Copy to Region Two

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