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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. A2823

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

MARCH 1954

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Report 1ml

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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Summary of the March 1954 Monthly Narrative Report
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Report 1ml

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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

April 9, 1954

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Monthly Report for March 1954

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

Weather Conditions. The weather conditions for the month were characterized by erratic changes of temperature varying from brilliantly clear to dull days with moderate snowfall. Thunder was recorded on the 17th. The total precipitation of 1.49 inches was .08 inch greater than the last eight-year average and .53 inch more than in March 1953. Temperatures ranged from a minimum of -10° on the 2nd and 3rd to a maximum of 48° on the 10th. These precipitation and temperature figures pertain to the headquarters area only.

Snow depths from various locations in the park at the close of the month are as follows: Mammoth 8", Tower Fall 22", West Yellowstone 43", and South Entrance 69".

Thermometers at Old Faithful were read on the 11th. For the season to date the minimum temperature was -29° and maximum 49°. The snow depth there on the 11th was 42".

The -68° record-breaking temperature reported in the February monthly report was finally recognized by the U. S. Weather Bureau as -70° which occurred at their Rogers Pass station about 40 airline miles northwest of Helena, Montana and this -70° is a new all-time record for the United States, breaking the long-standing record of -66° recorded at Riverside Station near West Yellowstone in February 1933.

Special Activities. Superintendent and Mrs. Rogers returned to the park March 11 after spending most of the winter in Denver where he has been working on his project on the legislative history of areas of the National Park Service. On his return trip he stopped at Custer Battlefield National Monument and in Billings met with Regional Director Baker who had arrived there March 9 for a meeting of the Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee. He made a trip to Bozeman March 30 for legislative history research at the library and also attended a Rotary meeting with concessioner J. E. Haynes.

Administrative Assistant Joffe returned March 23 after two weeks assignment in the Washington Office where he acted as Chairman of the Conference Planning Group for the 1954 National Park Service Conference and several weeks annual leave.

Resident Landscape Architect Mattson made a trip to Grand Teton March 2-5 to review power line location and to Custer Battlefield March 11-13 to discuss area developments.

Assistant Chief Ranger Edwards departed March 8 for Spokane, Washington, to confer with Blister Rust Control officials and to bring back supplies. He returned the 16th.

Park Engineer Cummings, Shop Foreman Miller and Supervisory Park Ranger Reynolds departed March 14 to attend the Supervisors' and Drivers' Training Course sponsored by the General Services Administration March 15-19, returning the 20th.

Electrical Supervisor McMullin made a trip March 22 and 23 to Arco and Idaho Falls, Idaho, for excess property.

Field Order 10-54 of February 23 covering the reorganization of the National Park Service was received March 1. Four Yellowstone employees, Park Naturalist Condon, Personnel Assistant Proper, and Engineers Thuring and Cummings, were included in the proposed reorganization.

The Local Civil Service Board held an examination for Stenographer-Typist on March 5 with three contestants participating. The examination was conducted by Personnel Assistant Proper.

On March 25 word was received from the Yellowstone Park Postmaster that beginning this season the Lake Postal Station would not be operated, the mail in the Lake area to be handled through the Fishing Bridge Post Office.

Administrative Officer Anderson left March 31 for Chehalis, Washington, to attend the funeral services of Mr. Joseph Targus, father of Mrs. Anderson. He expects to be gone about two weeks.

Harold C. Bryant, Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, retired at the close of March 31. Dr. Bryant entered on duty as seasonal Park Ranger Naturalist in Yosemite in 1923 and since 1939 has been Superintendent of Grand Canyon. He visited Yellowstone on a number of occasions during his service with the National Park Service. He will be succeeded at Grand Canyon by Preston C. Patraw, now Assistant Southwest Regional Director, Santa Fe.

Inspections. Superintendent and Mrs. Edward S. Luce of Custer Battlefield National Monument were in the park March 6 and 7 on return to their area from annual leave.

Paul McG. Miller, Chief Engineer, Washington Office, and Robert G. Hall, Assistant Regional Director, arrived March 15 to discuss public utilities proposals and other engineering matters and departed for Glacier on the 17th.

Clyde Jones, Auditor, and J. K. Donaldson, Accountant, General Accounting Office, Billings, Montana, in March 25 for site audit of payrolls and Civil Service retirement records. They spent about a week on this work. Redmond R. Everard, Regional Manager, G.A.O., Billings, was here March 29 and 30 observing the operations.

L. L. Lilly, Board Advisor, Tenth Civil Service Region, Denver, arrived March 29 to assist the Local Board in establishing procedure for rating seasonal wage board applications and in other Civil Service routine. He expects to leave April 2.

Publicity. The Spring 1954 issue of National Heritage contained an interesting article on Yellowstone entitled "Cavalcade to Hell" by Dale White. The article was profusely illustrated with old prints of park scenes from pictures furnished by the park.

The National Park Ranger was the "Man Behind the Badge" on the Columbia Broadcasting Television Program March 28. Assistant Secretary of the Interior Orme Lewis appeared at the end of the play for a brief comment on the work of the Park Ranger. The "Man Behind the Badge" is a popular Sunday evening television program.

A total of 6,000 Yellowstone broadsides for 1953 remained on hand at the end of March.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. A revised plan for remodeling of CCC buildings at Old Faithful to small apartments was prepared to provide a more satisfactory heating arrangement. A remodeling plan was prepared for the fire dispatcher's room in the fire cache section of the barn, Building No. 38. A master plan sheet for the Fishing Bridge campground area was finished. Topographic data was prepared on the West Thumb bay area for the use of schools of landscape architecture as a "problem" and shipped to Michigan State College. The layout of power lines in the Canyon area was reviewed during the preparation of utility plans. The locations of a propane cylinder cabinet and oil tank filler pipe for the hospital were reviewed. Details were prepared for the large signs which will be used at the approach of park entrance stations as one leaves the parks and which will include the U. S. highway marker shields.

Maintenance. During the latter two-thirds of the month snow fell almost every day or night with high winds. Snow plowing for the month was above average. When not operating plows the crew worked on signs including concrete bases, 156 having been completed. These signs are to be placed along the paths and walks. Ten new drag brooms were made and painted. One old culvert pipe was replaced on the old Gardiner-Mammoth high road. All maintenance operations have been accomplished by three permanent employees and one temporary operator. Where the roads are bare there is some breakup and a maintenance crew will be started early in April.

Construction. All construction projects are closed down for the winter except Account 231.01, Replacing the Heating Plant at the Mammoth Hospital, Building No. 18, which project is 98% complete, and Account 231.03, Rehabilitation of CCC Buildings, Old Faithful, for which material is being ordered.

Concessioners. The Yellowstone Park Company repair shops at Gardiner were reopened March 1.

Huntley Child, Jr., Vice President of the Yellowstone Park Company, and Mrs. Child returned to the park March 4 from a trip to California where he attended the Western Conference of National Park Concessioners and attended to other matters for the Company.

On March 31 the Superintendent approved the continuance of the collection of a deposit for a key at the cottages, lodges and tourist cabins operated by the Yellowstone Park Company.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. The Yellowstone National Park Chapel was used each Sunday for the regular Sunday School services at 10:30 a.m. On March 14 and 21 the Chapel was used for the Youth Fellowship services at 6:00 p.m. On the 21st, church services were held in the Chapel at 7:30 p.m. conducted by Reverend Clarke of the Livingston Ministerial Association.

On the afternoon of Sunday, March 21, the Reverend E. A. Syms baptized Paul Craig Murray, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Murray.

On March 2, the Yellowstone Park Church Committee received a check from Mr. Ben Arnold in the amount of $448.75 to finance the installation of a religious services bulletin board at the Yellowstone Park Chapel. The Church Committee, on March 8, held a meeting and an order was placed with the W. L. Clark Company for the bulletin board.

Interpretive Services. Glacier National Park used the Yellowstone movies during March and ran the Wild Animal Heaven picture to audiences totaling 275 people and the film Geysers, Mud Pots, and Hot Springs of Mysterious Yellowstone to audiences totaling 250 people.

Clarence Alleman presented Wild Animal Heaven in Santa Rosa, California, to audiences totaling 1,800 people. Robert Jonas used the same movie in Moscow, Idaho, with an audience of 260 people.

Chief Park Naturalist Condon traveled to Billings, Montana, on March 22, to present a program on Yellowstone National Park to the Billings Rotary Club.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. Park Naturalist Elmore spent considerable time during the month working on exhibit plans for the Old Faithful Museum and on March 2 the exhibit plans for the case on Comparisons of Geysers was sent to the Regional Director's Office. Plans for the remodeling of the Old Faithful Museum reception room were completed and the engineers estimated it would involve an expenditure of about $1,600 to remodel the room in conformance with the plans.

Carpenters began the installation of rubber tile flooring in the Mammoth Museum on March 9. This job was completed on the 29th and adds materially to the museum appearance and will facilitate floor maintenance.

Research and Observation. Park Naturalist Watson devoted a great deal of time to furthering the research work on Norris Geyser Basin and on the completion of a map of that area. At the close of the month a few minor changes on this map will have it completed. Chief Park Naturalist Condon made a trip to the Norris Geyser Basin on March 1. Trips were made by him over the terraces on March 5 and 25. The Highland Spring is no where near as active now as it was in October. The Cupid Spring is active on both sides of the road. The Canary Spring is very active on the south side of Main Terrace. The Blue Spring has shifted its activities to the large pool on the northwest side of Main Terrace. The Jupiter Spring is still very active and flowing down over the front of the Terraces as well as into a huge pit near the Main Terrace. The Minerva Spring is exceedingly active and outstanding in its deposition and beauty. The Cleopatra Spring has increased its activity greatly and is the most active it has been in the past ten years. The Palette Spring is entirely dormant and Opal Spring is still active. There was very little snow on the Terraces and across the top of Highland Terrace there was an area where the ground was heated along a fissure and no snow was present at all.

Natural History Association. Mrs. Francis H. Elmore was employed by the Association to mount plants for the herbarium on herbarium sheets and to otherwise bring the herbarium records up to date. Mrs. Elmore began her employment March 4 and finished her work on the 30th.

The multiliths of the Association were used in running off the January-February issue to Nature Notes on March 12 and 379 copies were placed in the mail on this date. In addition, 18,000 mastheads were run off for use in the issuance of the Yellowstone Park Weekly News Letter.

Mrs. Alice Quist was employed for 75 hours of work during the month and during this time she prepared and sent out orders for the summer sales stock of publications.

The Association sent out 220 slides to Meston for duplication so that additional slides will be available for the use of naturalists during the summer in connection with interpretive programs.

Copies of the proposal for the Articles of Incorporation and a new Constitution and By-laws of the Association were sent out on March 8 to all board members and it is anticipated that a meeting will be held early in April at which time the Association will become incorporated.

The Association purchased from Graybar Electric Company three Portapage public address units.

In-Service Training. On March 16 an in-service training session was conducted from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Canteen with Payroll Supervisor Hotchkiss, Cashier Somerville and Fiscal Accounting Clerk Galle speaking on payroll and related accounting procedure and Fiscal Accountant Gabbert instructing on travel vouchers. This session was attended by all employees who could be spared from their regular work.

District Rangers Ela and Stevens worked in the Fiscal Office during the month gaining additional knowledge of the operations of that division.

A staff meeting of division heads was held in the Conference Room on March 18.

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

Increase or Decrease in Travel. A total of 2,110 people entered the park in 626 vehicles as compared with 1,051 visitors in 319 vehicles during March of last year. Of this total 58 visitors entered the park in snowplanes from the south and west entrances to observe Old Faithful and winter scenes within the park.

Special Visitors. Miss Christel Toew, exchange teacher from Frankfort, Germany, who had been teaching at Greybull, Wyoming, visited the park March 3 and 4. She was conducted along the northern part of the park from Gardiner to Cooke and over the Mammoth terraces and was acquainted with the park in general at the Mammoth Museum where she was also shown a film on the park.

Earl Nelson, Universal International News Service, Seattle, Washington, who had been filming pictures for a news reel in the West Yellowstone to Old Faithful area since February 23, spent March 4-6 in the Mammoth to Soda Butte area and left for Seattle on the 6th.

Dr. Farrel Branson and Range Specialist Karl Parker with eight range management students from Montana State College, Bozeman, in March 6 for a trip over the northern range, accompanied by Biologist Kittams.

Seth King, Mid-West Correspondent for New York Times, arrived March 24 to gather material for an article on National parks. He was accompanied by Don Huff, Secretary of Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee, Billings. They departed the 25th.

Ranger Service. The ranger assignments for the summer and possible assignments for next winter were released March 26.

Ranger activities during the month included elk trapping and loading, snow gauging, trail sign manufacture, trail map revision, park ranger administrative and checking station manual revision, preparation of fire maps, repair of telephone line from West Yellowstone toward headquarters, preparation of memoranda of recommendations to various division heads compiled from ranger annual reports, ski patrols by Anderson and Beal from West Yellowstone to Sportsman Lake March 2-4, Gunzel and Beal to South Riverside 8th-10th, Gunzel and Stitt to Cougar Creek 15th-17th and to Sportsman Lake 23rd-25th, and of Gilbert and Jones from Snake River to Cascade Creek 22nd-23rd, and snowplane patrol by Gilbert and Jones from Snake River to Old Faithful on the 4th.

Wildlife Activities. ELK REDUCTION. A total of 103 live elk were taken from the park during the month in the following shipments: on the 1st and 4th, 25 and 24, respectively, were taken by the State of Montana for transplanting in the Red Lodge area; 28 were furnished on the 14th and 26 on the 15th to Tobe Foster, 16 of the first shipment to go to the State of New Mexico and the rest for restocking the Foster ranches at Capitan, New Mexico.

Elk trapping operations were terminated March 17 upon agreement with the Montana Fish and Game Department.

BUFFALO. Two buffalo calves were turned over to a representative of the City of Great Bend, Kansas, for its zoo on March 9. These animals were to take the place of two elk calves which they had come after but which escaped or were released from the Crystal Creek trap. Special authority for making this shipment of buffalo from the park was furnished by the Washington Office.

Range. According to observations of Biologist Kittams, new snow during March increased snow depths and reduced the size of snow-free sectors. In early March some elk and bison were pawing through snow for forage on non-critical range. Increased depths and hardening of the snow have sealed off almost all of the non-critical range, limiting foraging to snow-free areas late in the month. Utilization

of grass on snow-free sectors was moderate to heavy in early March. Constriction of available range and gradual reduction of forage on those sectors since then has left the grazing animals hard pressed. Appraisals of utilization on Coal Mine Flat at mid-month were: sagebrush and winterfat, heavy; grass, moderately heavy. There is no new grass on the lower Yellowstone range, no doubt because temperatures have been too low for growth. On the Gallatin range at the start of the month most grass, except western wheatgrass, on critical range had been utilized so that very little forage remained. Sagebrush on these sectors had been browsed lightly, rabbitbrush moderately and horsebrush moderately heavy. In late March elk were widely scattered over the snow-free range. Some elk have dropped to poor flesh condition.

Forest Fire Protection. Most of the Fire Control Aid personnel were selected and offered employment during the month.

Plans were drawn and cost estimates submitted to the Regional Office for the new dispatcher's office which is to be located at the fire cache in the barn at Mammoth, Building No. 30.

On March 31, telegraphic confirmation of an allotment advice was received from the Regional Office for the purchase of a four-wheel-drive pickup truck. This vehicle is to be equipped with a slip-on tank and pumper for forest and range fire suppression.

Building Fire Protection. All surplus building fire equipment such as refills and refill materials were moved into the fire cache. Here this material will be under the direction of the fire cache supervisor for issuance and maintenance of extinguishers.

Blister Rust Control. Assistant Chief Ranger Edwards conferred with blister rust personnel in Spokane, Washington. He left Yellowstone on March 7 and returned March 16. Plans for the coming season were formulated and key personnel selected.

A power sprayer manufactured last year by Equipment Sales and Service, Spokane, was returned to the company for rebuilding and making modifications. This pumper performed satisfactorily but it is believed with the modifications it will speed up blister rust work.

Ten mine type telephones and a supply of folding cots for use on the blister rust project were picked up from surplus at Spokane.

Selections for the crews have been made and notices of selections mailed. All inexperienced men are to report for duty on June 7 when training will begin. Experienced men were notified to report on that date or as soon thereafter as possible.

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Ranch and Corral Operations. All horses and mules were fed hay during the month and all horses were given phenothiazine treatment for worms.

Horse trailers are being reconditioned for next summer's use. One trailer has been rebuilt from one to two-horse capacity. We now have five two-horse trailers and four one-horse trailers.

Trails. Notification was received that the 1955 trail allotment would be cut some $2,200. This will confine trail maintenance this summer to mostly routine items.

Nine men were offered employment on the trail crew for the summer. Six of these are last year's men with only three new crew members to be engaged. This will complete recruitment for this season unless declinations are received. Due to the rather drastic cut in funds for the 1955 fiscal year, this will be five less men than were employed on the trail crew last season.

Work was resumed in the trail sign shop during the last two weeks of the month and to date approximately 50 signs are in the process of being completed. A new bench grinder was received as part of the sign shop equipment.

Accidents. Two automobile accidents occurred in the park on the Gallatin road. These occurred in late February but reports were not received in the Chief Ranger's Office until March. One was the case of a car left on the road during a snowstorm and run into by another of unknown identity causing approximately $75 damage. The other was a sideswipe collision also in a snowstorm with vision obscured, causing approximately $200 damage to each vehicle. There were no personal injuries.

Law Enforcement. U. S. Commissioner and Mrs. James W. Brown were away from the park on annual leave at Denver from March 6 to 30.

Federal Bureau of Investigation Agent Mason Melvin visited the office with Park County Sheriff White on the 3rd and with Under-Sheriff Hodges on the 16th regarding law enforcement matters.

Deaths. Mrs. Katheryn Kurtz, mother of Postmaster Joe D. Kurtz, died at Cody, Wyoming, March 9 of a heart attack. Mr. Kurtz attended the funeral services which were held at Cody March 13.

Norman Korn, former Superintendent of Schools at Gardiner and Transportation Agent at Canyon for the Yellowstone Park Company for several seasons, died March 22 at Missoula, Montana, after a lingering illness from cancer. Funeral services were held on the 25th at Anaconda.

Mrs. Oscar Quist, 78, Dawson, Minnesota, mother of Plumber Arnold G. Quist, died March 26 at Dawson. Mr. Quist departed the 27th to attend the funeral the 30th at Dawson.

J. W. Curtis, 92, father of Mrs. Karl Gilbert, died at La Veta, Colorado, March 30. The Gilberts left South Entrance by snowplane to attend the funeral services.

Joseph Targus, father of Mrs. Ernest Anderson, died at Chehalis, Washington, March 30. Mrs. Anderson was with him at the time of his death and Mr. Anderson left the 31st to attend the funeral.

Births. A son, Thomas Wayne, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Rapp at Denver, Colorado, March 17. Mr. and Mrs. Rapp were both seasonal employees of the National Park Service in Yellowstone last summer and Mrs. Rapp is the daughter of Judge and Mrs. James W. Brown.

Personnel. Warren D. Hotchkiss, Time, Leave and Payroll Supervisor, GS-5, transferred to the position of Personnel Assistant, GS-7, Southwestern National Monuments, Globe, Arizona, effective March 21. He departed from Yellowstone with his family March 18.

Marjorie C. Proper and Maudie Lee Wohlbrandt entered on duty March 29 as seasonal Clerk-Typists in the Fiscal Office.

For the first time the park received registers for seasonal Park Ranger and Ranger Naturalist furnished from the Region Two Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners. In the future it will be necessary that selection in filling these positions be made from the Civil Service registers of that office.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of Federal Employees Union No. 465 was held in the Canteen March 1, followed by a card party and refreshments for the members and their wives and husbands.

The monthly meeting of the American Federation of Government Employees was held March 8 in the Canteen, following which refreshments were served.

The Yellowstone Park Sunday School held its annual picnic at the Lamar Unit March 6.

On March 14 the annual ski meet was held at the Undine Falls ski hill.

The Parent-Teachers Association sponsored a pot luck supper and entertainment on March 18 in the Canteen.

The annual American Legion "Elk Feed" in Gardiner was held March 20 and sponsored by Gardiner Post 118.

Edmund B. Rogers
Superintendent

In duplicate

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