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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

JULY 1953

	ROGERS	
✓	HAMILTON	
✓	JO[illegible]	
	AND[illegible]	
	STA[illegible]	
	GAR[illegible]	
	PRO[illegible]	
	HO[illegible]	
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✓	M[illegible]	
✓	EDWARD[illegible]	
✓	GA[illegible]	
✓	KIT[illegible]	
✓	WORKERAMIL[illegible]	
✓	ROBINSON	
	WIGGINS	
	McMULLIN	

IMPORTANT

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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Summary of the July 1953 Monthly Narrative Report
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

WEATHER:	Extremely dry. Mammoth maximum 90°, minimum 39°. Lightning causing fires.	1
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Rogers to Bozeman, Teton, Glacier. Mattson trips to Teton. C. S. Regions changed. New quarters rentals. C. S. exam. Meetings re. fishery matters, elk & buffalo reduction, & road improvements. Forced landing of plane.	1-2
INSPECTIONS:	Official visitors listed.	2-3
PUBLICITY:	June travel figures mailed. Presses phoned re. drowning & forest fire. 135,000 broadsides.	3
PLANS, MAPS AND SURVEYS:	Mattson on Canyon projects & to Teton. Comfort station plans.	3
MAINTENANCE:	Hot weather caused wrinkling of roads. Crews on fires. Sealcoating, bridge repair, etc. Large signs placed.	3-4
CONSTRUCTION:	Surfacing project at Canyon 25% complete and water-sewer project there 28% complete. Contract for Canyon campground roads approved by Secretary Office. Other active projects listed.	4-5
SIGNS:	Area approach signs placed.	5
COMPLAINTS:	Eight complaint letters.	5
CONCESSIONERS:	Dr. Gilman resident physician. Record number Y.P.Co. bus visitors. Meal rate increases. 8424 record house count. New Lake cottages in use; work on laundry & bathing facilities. Hamilton West Thumb store addition.	5
RELIGIOUS SERVICES:	Various church services. Messiah.	5
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:	Interpretive program. Boy Scouts talked to. Blind group conducted. Disney wildlife pictures shown.	6

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

August 6, 1953

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Monthly Report for July 1953

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of July 1953:

Weather Conditions. Extremely dry conditions prevailed throughout the month with only .01" of rain being recorded at Mammoth on July 20. Average precipitation for the month of July for the past 10 years was 1.23". Melting snow on the higher elevations is almost completely gone and can no longer be considered an appreciable source of moisture. The maximum temperature at Mammoth was 90° recorded on July 14 and a minimum of 39° was recorded on July 2. Numerous thunderstorms occurred throughout the month causing a total of 30 lightning fires in the park.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers made a trip to Bozeman July 9 to confer with Jeff Jones, Editor, Bozeman Chronicle, and attended the funeral of Mary Hardie, long-time employee of Hamilton Stores, Inc. He went to Grand Teton National Park July 12 and again the 29th to confer with Superintendent Freeland. On the 17th he and Mr. Jack Haynes went to Glacier National Park to attend the land dedication ceremonies the 18th and confer with Director Wirth and Regional Director Baker, returning the 19th.

Resident Landscape Architect Mattson made trips to Teton as follows: July 5-10 with Messrs. Vint and Hall, July 15-16 and July 30-31.

Effective July 1 the field system of the Civil Service Commission was reorganized, the Thirteenth Civil Service Region, in which Yellowstone Park is located, being changed to Region 10 and to include Arizona in addition to Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico.

The new quarters rental schedule was effective July 5, providing for a 25% increase over the rates in effect prior to that date, with an additional increase effective October 11 to not in excess of 50% over the rates in effect prior to July 5, and the balance of the increases to be effective January 2, 1954, but subject to further adjustment.

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On July 13 the Local Civil Service Board held an examination for "Designation to U. S. Military and Naval Academies" for which there was one competitor. Personnel Assistant Proper conducted the examination.

A meeting of Fish and Wildlife Service officials, concessioners and Yellowstone Park officials was held July 15 at the Mammoth Hotel Recreation Hall on fishery matters.

On July 30 a conference was held in the Superintendent's Office with Chief Naturalist Doerr and a number of Yellowstone officials on the Yellowstone elk program and the buffalo reduction program.

A conference was held July 30 in the Superintendent's Office with the President and several members of the Road Commission of the Bozeman Chamber of Commerce to discuss proposed road improvements in Yellowstone and make arrangements for a larger meeting of Chamber of Commerce representatives of adjoining states regarding Yellowstone road improvements to be held here August 10 when Director Wirth is in the park.

Alex Crossin, of East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, flying a Piper plane, made a forced landing on Fountain Flat due to engine trouble July 2. After repairs were made he was able to take off on July 4.

Inspections. Thomas C. Vint, Chief of Design and Construction, NPS, Washington, and Robert G. Hall, Assistant Regional Director, who arrived June 30, departed July 11. Richard W. Ketcham, Engineer, Region Two, in July 1 on assignment for summer. John W. Jay, Superintendent, Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, former Assistant Chief Ranger in Yellowstone, in July 3. Engvald O. Bybuth, Supervising Auditor, Concessions Division, NPS, Washington, in July 5 to assist Supervising Auditor Ryland E. Johnson in audit of Yellowstone Park Company for 1940-52. Bennett T. Gale, Chief, Geology Branch, NPS, Washington, in July 12, out 16. Lewis M. Culver, Chief, Regional Inspection Division, 10th Civil Service Region, Denver, in July 14 to inspect personnel activities, out 19th. W. F. Carbine, Chief, Section Inland Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C., in July 15 regarding fisheries problem at Yellowstone Lake. Frank W. Childs, Forester, Region Two, NPS, Omaha, in July 15 regarding forestry matters, remained through end of month. Walter N. Dashiell, Senior Sanitary Engineer, Division of Sanitation, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington, D. C., on assignment in Denver office, arrived July 15 on sanitary inspection of food-handling establishments, out 26th. Clifford J. Harriman, Chief Ranger, Natchez Trace Parkway, in July 16 on vacation with Mrs. Harriman. John E. Doerr, Chief Naturalist, NPS, Washington, in South July 22, regarding wildlife, thermal protection, etc., expects leave August 1. T. E. Smith, James Armfield,

William Selkirk and John Saxon, National Park Service Engineers on assignment to Grand Teton National Park, in July 23, out 24th. Ned J. Burns, Chief, Museum Branch, NPS, Washington, in July 24, out 27th to Teton, returned 29 and out East to Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park. George E. Cavin, District Supervisor, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Agricultural Research Administration, Grasshopper Control, Cheyenne, Wyoming, in July 24 to check Lamar River-Slough Creek grasshopper infestation. Ronald F. Lee, Assistant Director, Washington Office, in and out South with Superintendent Freeland of Grand Teton National Park July 31.

Publicity. The June comparative travel figures were mailed to the park's mailing list on July 6.

The Associated Press and United Press at Helena were phoned a story July 9 on the drowning in Yellowstone Lake of Carl George Mihlberger of Salt Lake City, Utah, and on July 10 the Salt Lake Tribune and Associated Press at Cheyenne were furnished similar information. On July 17 the Associated Press and United Press were phoned information on the White Lake fire and daily reports were furnished these presses during the entire length of the fire.

A total of 135,000 Yellowstone broadsides for 1953 remained on hand at the end of July.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. One day a week has been spent by Resident Landscape Architect Mattson on the review of the Canyon Paving and Parking Areas and Water and Sewer contracts. Three on an average were spent by him in Grand Teton National Park.

When Mr. Cabot was in the areas he left three proposed plans for comfort stations with the object of having them presented for consideration by Yellowstone for use in the Canyon campground. These have been reviewed by the Yellowstone staff and comments thereon furnished the Region Office.

Due to the assignment of the Resident Landscape Architect to Grand Teton National Park the greater portion of his time, only a small amount of planning work could be accomplished on Yellowstone projects.

Maintenance. July was dry and unusually hot. The extended hot weather caused much wrinkling of our older roads and in several cases wrinkles developed in some of the plant mix sections. Surrounding states are having the same difficulty. Much time was spent in eliminating these rough spots.

Quite a few fires were started by lightning and the road crews were nearly all called out for fire fighting, losing a little over a week from road work.

Besides routine maintenance, special crews seal-coated eight miles and seven miles were half-soled or reprocessed. Several bridges were rebuilt or repaired on the truck trail up Pelican Creek where a major fire had developed. Two thousand feet of old, rotted guard rail were replaced with guide posts. The portable crusher was operated all month.

Labor is still adequate, but not as plentiful as earlier. All crews are filled at the present time.

Several large signs were placed and a periodic repainting started.

The Gallatin section is still in poor condition. Several other sections are only fair.

Construction. The Strong Company, Springville, Utah, contractor for completion of 1F3, G4 road job at Canyon, bituminous surfacing of parking areas and connecting roads, has made good progress during the month, with grading about 56% complete, drainage 65% complete, curb and gutter work 25% complete, removal of old Cascade Creek bridge 90% complete, and entire job about 25% complete.

Water and sewer projects at Canyon under contract to the Cop Construction Company of Billings, Montana, are making good progress, the entire job estimated at about 28% complete.

The contract of Studer Construction Company of Billings for construction of campground roads at the Canyon Area was approved July 23 by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior and is pending final approval by the Washington Office. The survey crew is running lines for this project.

Other construction projects active during the month were: Construction of Roads and Walks, Fishing Bridge Cabin Area, (portion), Account 323.04, grading and concrete curbs complete; Construction of Roads and Walks, Lake Hotel Cabin Area (portion), Account 323.14, grading nearly complete, curbs 99% complete, surfacing 15% complete; Pump House for sewage system, Lake, Account 331.04, complete except for installing equipment; Water Line Extension, Hotel Cottage Area, Lake, Account 332.07, work nearly complete; Sewer Line Extension, Hotel Cottage Area, Lake, Account 332.08, work nearly complete; Sewage Disposal System, Hotel Cottage Area, Lake (portion), Account 332.11, excavation at sand filter completed this month; Comfort Stations (2), Old Faithful Campground, Account 331.14, obligation authorized, material being ordered; Construction of Walks in Thermal Areas, Account 323.02, 95% complete; Campground Roads and Walks, Old Faithful, Account 323.12, 99% complete; Comfort Stations (2), Old Faithful Campground, Account 331.12, 100% complete; Sewer System for Campground, Old Faithful, Account 332.06, 95% complete; Utilities, Tables, Fireplaces and Comfort Stations, Old Faithful Campground, Account 332.02, 96% complete.

Signs. Area approach signs have been placed for a number of the major areas and junctions.

Complaints. Eight letters of complaint were received, as follows: (1) aggressive solicitation by veteran just outside west entrance, (2) discourtesy of clerk at Hamilton Lake Store, (3) shortage of accommodations and lack of signs, (4) camp cleaner's alleged failure to warn before and during cleaning of ladies' comfort station, (5) lack of permanent fireplaces at Indian Creek campground, (6) inability to obtain ice and uncleanliness of West Thumb tourist cabins, (7) unsatisfactory handling of reservations, and (8) overcharge at Mammoth Hotel.

Concessioners. Dr. George Gilman arrived July 1 to assume the duties of Resident Physician in the park.

On July 13, 1,950 rail visitors were handled by Yellowstone Park Company buses which was an all-time record since the inauguration of buses, the previous record being 1,216 on July 21, 1925. The large number of Boy Scouts en route to the Jamboree at Santa Ana, California, were largely responsible for this record, 1,522 having been taken care of by park buses that date.

On July 16 the Director approved increases in meal rates for the Yellowstone Park Company to be effective when new menus were printed, which was July 22.

An all-time record house count of 8,424 visitors accommodated in the various hotels, cottages, lodges and tourist cabins in the park occurred July 24.

The new Yellowstone Park Company cottages behind the Lake Hotel have been put into use and were filled to capacity immediately. Painting the latest group of cabins to a Tower Fall green color will start soon. Work continues on their public laundry and bathing facilities at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge.

On the West Thumb Hamilton Store additions, the framing and exterior rough sheathing and roofing have been constructed.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. The regular services for all religious faiths as scheduled for the summer program were held throughout the park. Representatives of the Roman Catholics, Latter Day Saints, Park County Ministerial Association, Cody Ministerial Association and the Christian Ministry in the National Parks all held services at the times and places scheduled.

The first presentation of the Messiah which is a program promoted by the student ministers in Yellowstone as part of the Christian Ministry in Yellowstone's program was a pronounced success and similar presentations of the Messiah will be made at Old Faithful,

Mammoth and Canyon during August. Lake chorus was directed by Miss Betty Dunn, and gave the first presentation of the Messiah at the Lake Lodge.

Interpretive Services. The interpretive services for the public were conducted at all stations throughout the park in conformance with the program activities for the 1953 season. Walks, talks and evening programs were well attended by park visitors and all museums proved to be popular centers of concentration for visitors seeking information on the park. The interpretive services were affected some by the use of naturalists on fire duty at White Lake for one week, but as much as possible the personnel at the various stations absorbed the additional work load and the program continued with very little interruption.

Boy Scout visitation was heavy during the month and special Scout troop convoys coming into Yellowstone by train were met and given interpretive information on Yellowstone by the park naturalists at the various field stations and special introductory talks were given to these convoys by the members of the permanent naturalist staff as follows: Park Naturalist Watson met convoys on the 8th and 14th. Park Naturalist Elmore met the convoy on the 29th and Chief Park Naturalist Condon talked to convoy groups on the 12th, 13th, 28th, 29th and 30th.

On July 27 Park Naturalists Watson and Condon met a special party at the West Gate. This party consisted of 78 people, 68 of whom were totally blind. This party was composed of two large buses, one from Bozeman, Montana, and another from Idaho Falls, Idaho. It was the pleasure of Mr. Watson and Mr. Condon to serve as eyes for this group for the interpretation of Yellowstone's resources and they spent the entire day going around the lower loop and out the Northern Entrance. The presentation of Yellowstone to this group required a great deal of imagination and talking. Chief Park Naturalist Condon presented special talks to the group at Madison Junction, Daisy Geyser and at Artist Point. In addition to these special talks, a constant commentary on views seen from the bus as it traveled was made to the group by the two naturalists. All in attendance seemed to get a great deal from their experience and it was felt that the effort put forth to help these people was a pronounced success.

Chief Park Naturalist Condon talked at the Canyon amphitheater on July 10 and Park Naturalist Watson presented a program at Roosevelt Lodge on July 9.

The motion pictures entitled "Beaver Valley" and "Bear Country" prepared by Walt Disney Productions were made available to Yellowstone and were shown to a large group of employees in the canteen on the evening of the 27th and were again shown to the employees on the evening of the 28th. These pictures were greatly enjoyed by the audiences.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. The five museums of the park were all open throughout the month with the exception of the Madison Museum which it became necessary to close on the 21st and 22nd while Park Ranger Naturalist Cotner was on his lieu days and Park Ranger Naturalist Herriman was on the fire.

The binocular viewer which was installed at Lake Butte for the general use of the public and which during the past four seasons has been very useful to them in viewing Yellowstone Lake and the scenery in that general vicinity was stolen on July 14. Someone had taken a hack saw and cut off the steel post on which the viewer was mounted.

On July 3 the members of the staff at the Fishing Bridge museum tore out the old rotted stage at the Fishing Bridge amphitheater and fixed two new campfire pits for their evening campfire.

Research and Observation. Mr. Robert Jonas, park ranger naturalist stationed at Canyon has proceeded with his research study on the distribution of beaver in Yellowstone and at the present time has compared previous studies and historical records of this animal.

On July 14 a special party visited the Molly Islands for the purpose of banding birds nesting there and to install on the islands warning signs which would keep people off the island. The party put up large double-faced signs on the rocky and sandy islands and banded 195 sea gulls, 155 pelicans and 18 cormorants. There were 27 fish tags recovered and these had their origin - one from Pelican Creek, 22 from Chipmunk and Grouse creeks and four from Arnica Creek.

On a visit to the Trout Creek dump on July 17 there were 17 grizzly bears seen including two females with three cubs each and on July 29 there were 13 grizzlies seen with only one of the females with three cubs showing up that evening. There are well beaten bear trails leading from this dump like the spokes of a wheel across Hayden Valley to the woodland areas.

Natural History Association. During the month the pamphlet "The Story of Old Faithful Geyser" was carefully reviewed. A reprint of 10,000 copies has been ordered and delivery is expected in early August. By the end of July this publication had been sold out.

Copy for the May-June and July-August issues of Yellowstone Nature Notes were prepared during the month and these two issues will be duplicated and assembled early in August.

Mrs. Lucile Wagner has continued to function as librarian and Mrs. Alice Quist as clerk for the Association.

In-Service Training. A total of 136 man-hours in-service training were given at the West Entrance Ranger Station to Park Ranger, Trail Crew and Road Crew employees in fire control and other Protection Division activities.

Several memoranda on means of improving the interpretive program were distributed to Naturalist Division personnel as in-service training aids and information. In addition, a copy of Vernon E. Craig's thesis on fisheries management in Montana was distributed to the naturalists for their review and observation.

The Yellowstone Weekly News was issued each Thursday during the month with a view to keeping employees, concessioners and others currently informed of park happenings.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Travel for the month of July was only .2% less than the same month last year. A total of 448,660 persons visited the park in July as against 449,640 for July 1952. July averaged 14,473 visitors per day as against 14,504 in July 1952.

Independence Day Holiday this year failed to produce a record-breaking number of visitors as in the past two years, due to a two-day holiday instead of the usual three-day holiday. This resulted in a high percentage decrease during the early periods of July; however, as the month progressed this loss was almost completely recovered by the month's end.

A very noticeable gain was made in rail visitors for July, and the season, as compared to the past several seasons. This consisted of 51.4% and 71.6% increases over 1952 and 1951 respectively. The increase was due to a large number of Boy Scouts who visited the park en route to and from their national jamboree in California. On July 13, 1,950 rail visitors were handled by Yellowstone Park Company buses which was an all-time record since the inauguration of buses, 1,522 Boy Scouts being largely responsible for this record.

Special Visitors. Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Chorley of New York City, in and out South July 2. Julius A. Alms, General Passenger Traffic Manager, C.B.&Q. Railroad, Chicago, in July 7 with W. F. Burke, General Passenger Agent, C.B.&Q. Railroad, Omaha. Mrs. Francis Joyce Farnsworth, author of the "Cubby" books sold in the park, in July 9. Ghalib E. Toufiq, Chief of Police, Jidda, Saudi, Arabia, in July 11 for month's training in law enforcement, etc. Nicanor G. Jorge, Geodetic Engineer, Bureau of Lands, D.A.N.R., Manila, Philippines, in July 12, out 13. Sigurd F. Olson, Consultant, the Wilderness Society and Quetico-Superior Committee and Ecologist for Izaak Walton League of America, in July 12, out 13. Werner Oppel, German Consul, Seattle, Washington, in July 16 with Mrs. Oppel. Robert Hursh, former Engineer in Yellowstone and Crater Lake National Parks, and Mrs. Hursh in July 19, out

20. Edgar Bergen, radio and movie ventriloquist, in July 19, Tom McHugh, photographer, and James Algar, both of Walt Disney Motion Pictures, in July 17 and 21, respectively. J. W. Hayes, Architect, Great Northern Railway, St. Paul, in July 22 to study type of construction of employees dormitory at Lake. Jukichi Kodaira, Governor of Tochigi Perfecture, Japan, and Tetsumaro Senge, connected with National Parks in Japan, in July 23, out 25. Josef Muench, eminent landscape photographer, in July 23. Norman Brunsdale, Governor of North Dakota, and Mrs. Brunsdale, in Northeast 24, out 25. Bernard A. De Voto, member of Advisory Board on National Parks, and well-known writer, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and family in July 24. A. E. Stoddard, President, Union Pacific Railroad, in July 25 with Governor J. Bracken Lee of Utah, out West 28th. Reis Tuttle, Des Moines Register and Tribune, Des Moines, Iowa, in with family July 25. J. Hammond Brown, Executive Director and President, Outdoor Writers of America, Baltimore, Maryland, and Mrs. Brown, in July 26, out 28. Dr. C. Max Bauer, former Chief Park Naturalist in Yellowstone and recently retired as Chief Geologist in the Washington Office, now living at Orlando, Florida, and Mrs. Bauer, in July 27, out 29. Frank Arbuckle, Advertising Promotion Manager, Schwabacher-Frey Company, Los Angeles, in July 27, out 29. William Aplin and Leavitt Dudley, Travel Reporters for Sunset Magazine, Menlo Park, California, in July 28. Theodore L. McKeldan, Governor of Maryland, and Mrs. McKeldan, in July 28, out 31.

A party of travel editors consisting of the following: Ed Jones, Editor and Publisher, HIGHWAY TRAVELER, Chicago; Phil Spelman, Associate Editor, MOTOR NEWS, Detroit; C. V. "Bill" Talbot, Travel Editor, CLEVELAND NEWS; Bert Emanual, Writer-Photographer, DETROIT FREE PRESS, accompanied by Howard Sharp, Secretary-Manager, Wyoming Commerce and Industry Commission, and a Wyoming Highway Patrolman, in July 12, out South 15.

Ranger Service. High fire occurrence, including the White Lake fire, which started on the 17th, stripped manpower to a minimum for other duties. Also, beginning on the 8th, special Boy Scout tours to and from their national jamboree required all available rangers as escort patrolmen. There were a total of seventeen organized groups of 6,000 Boy Scouts which required 530 hours of protection time including planning, travel and operation. This amounted to sixty-six man-days diverted to "Operation Boy Scout", a serious loss from other activities, especially from regular traffic patrols. However, these Boy Scout patrols were quite necessary and were performed in a highly satisfactory manner, probably avoiding serious difficulties.

An unusual amount of time was needed to investigate special incidents involving police protection, handling the Mihlberger drowning case, thefts, damages to public property, and other depredations of all descriptions.

Police Chief Ghalib Toufiq of Saudi, Arabia, here to study police problems and methods, had a good opportunity to observe many types of cases. His experiences with us this month should prove especially worthwhile. In addition to our own work he sat in on questioning done by three F.B.I. agents.

Chief Ranger Brown directed rescue operations at Canyon on the first, in which Yellowstone Park Company employees Ann Thompson, Marjorie Bourns, John King, and John Argue were assisted out of the Canyon.

Other activities included handling routine correspondence, revision of the boat operation permit form, preparation of reports and correspondence relative to accidents, assisting persons in difficulties, and the operation of the jail and care of prisoners.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. RANGE. Herbaceous vegetation on the Lower Yellowstone Range dried up rapidly in early July and the forage crop appears to be appreciably below normal. Occasional observations on the higher range suggest that the hot, dry weather has resulted in relatively short growth and early maturing there this year.

ANTELOPE. A management plan for the antelope herd has been prepared.

BISON. A long-term plan and reduction program for 1953-54 for the Lamar bison herd was prepared.

ELK. Revisions of the long-term management plan and 1953-54 reduction program were completed and a list of estimated costs for the reduction program next winter was completed.

FISH PLANTING. Fish plants were made during July in Cascade, Ice and Grebe Lakes, Gardner and Lamar Rivers and Slough Creek.

BEARS. Nine cases of bear injury were reported during the month. Gordon Cummings, Park Engineer, came upon a bear unexpectedly while returning from a fishing trip on the Gardner River the evening of July 7, and suffered a badly bitten hand and deep scratches on his left arm and back, necessitating several days hospitalization.

Forest Fire Protection. Twenty-six reportable forest fires were suppressed during July. It was necessary to establish twenty-six fire accounts, two of which were for non-statistical fires.

The White Lake Fire reached 1,535 acres in size and was the only project fire of the season to date.

Blister Rust Control. Blister Rust Control work was interrupted from noon July 17 to July 27 by the crew being assigned to control work on the White Lake fire. The crew at the end of the month consisted of two camp superintendents, one checker, four laborer leadmen, and thirty-two laborers. Eradication work was carried on both in Carnelian Creek and Mount Washburn areas.

Forest Insect Control. The Spruce budworm infestation in the Lava Creek area was kept under constant observation and the representatives of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine kept advised via telephone as to the development of worms. On July 11, Entomologist Robert Denton was flown to the Gardiner Airport via a plane chartered by Johnson Flying Service, Missoula, Montana, for a final inspection of the area before spraying. Two thousand acres were sprayed on the mornings of July 12 and 13. The spray plane, a modified DC-3, was over the area each morning at just daylight, 4:30 a.m., and each load of 1,000 gallons of insecticide was sprayed on the infested area in approximately 30 minutes. We are happy to report a complete kill of the budworms in the sprayed area.

Wood Cutting. Wood Contractor Oscar Roseborough who is cutting firewood for the Yellowstone Park Company continued cutting in the Fishing Bridge Campground. To date Mr. Roseborough has cut approximately 600 cords.

Trails. By the end of July, fourteen trail maintenance men were employed in the various districts. Work was completed in Mammoth, Tower Fall and Lake districts, and the men moved to Canyon, Lamar and Bechler. All trail men except those stationed in the Lamar and West Yellowstone districts were actively engaged in fire control during the month so actual trail work lagged somewhat. In the Snake River district, one trail man was used part time as an emergency secondary lookout. A special project completed was a 30 foot bridge replaced across the Firehole River on the Howard Eaton Trail near Biscuit Basin. Another bridge on the Howard Eaton Trail was rebuilt in the Mammoth district. A crew of five men set up camp at Moss Creek on July 31 and will work the Canyon-Wapiti Lake trail, then move on to Wapiti Lake and work all the trails in that area. It is estimated this work will require about four weeks. One thousand eight hundred metal trail markers were cut and about half of them painted during the month.

Hay Contract. A contract was awarded July 28 to Kenneth V. Meigs of Livingston, Montana, for the cutting, baling and stacking of an estimated 300 tons of hay at the Lamar Unit. Operations are expected to begin early in August.

Accidents and Public Safety. A total of 41 automobile accidents were reported during the month of July, as follows: 25 Class A, 10 Class B, 4 Minor, and 2 Non-Reportable. The more seriously injured include Mrs. Ruth Duff of Powell, Wyoming, who overturned in a 3/4 ton truck on July 19 and received possible multiple fractures of ribs and lumbar vertebrae, and Eric Walton of Ogden, Utah, who crashed into some trees as a result of going to sleep and suffered severe lacerations of the face and a chipped jaw bone. The accidents include one which involved a Government patrol car driven by Supervisory Park Ranger Reynolds on July 2. Considerable damage was done to the vehicle and a claim has been made to recover cost of repairs. Mr. Reynolds was absolved of all blame. A large black bear was run over and killed on Dunraven Pass on July 19. It was believed caused by reckless driving, but those investigating were unable to locate the vehicle and question the driver.

Alex Crossin of East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, flying a Piper Clipper airplane from West Yellowstone to Jackson Hole, was forced down near the Fountain Paint Pots on July 2, because of engine trouble. Repairs were made and he was able to take off on July 4.

Louise Stromfield suffered a heart attack at West Entrance on July 31, was brought to the Mammoth Hospital, and the following morning was put on the Livingston bus. Inasmuch as she was without funds, the sheriff's office was contacted.

Carl G. Mihlberger of Salt Lake City, Utah, disappeared late on the afternoon of July 8, after taking out a boat on Yellowstone Lake, and is presumed drowned although his body was not recovered. Attorneys for the family have been supplied a complete report of the accident and of the actions taken to recover the body. This has been the only drowning in Yellowstone Lake this season.

Nine more cases of bear injury were reported during the month. The most serious of these injuries occurred to Gordon Cummings, Engineer. He was returning from fishing along the Gardner River when the bear attacked him. Numerous lacerations, bites, and other complications confined him to the Mammoth Hospital for a total of twelve days.

Law Enforcement. Forty-eight cases were investigated and brought before the United States Commissioner, as follows: Speeding, 12; Reckless Driving, 5; Entering Barricaded Road, 5; Driving off Roadway, 4; Operating a boat in waters closed to boating, 3; Drunken and disorderly conduct, 3; Excess fish, 3; Illegal Collection of Specimens, 2; Grand Larceny, 2; and Miscellaneous, 9; with total fines imposed, $730, and total fines suspended, $135.

A case is pending involving reckless driving, destruction of signs, and damage to private property by seven young men from Jackson, Wyoming. Confessions have been obtained and we are awaiting instructions from the U. S. District Attorney.

The telescope located at Lake Butte was stolen on the 15th of July by vandals who sawed off the iron pipe support. So far we have been unable to obtain any information regarding the loss of the instrument.

Deaths. Mary Hardie, 67, who was employed some 32 summers in the park most of which were with Hamilton Stores, Inc., passed away July 6 due to a heart attack at the Hamilton Old Faithful Basin Store which she has been managing. Funeral services were held in Bozeman July 9.

Carl George Mihlberger, 64, of Salt Lake City, Utah, was apparently drowned in Yellowstone Lake July 8. The boat in which he had been fishing was found that evening and it was thought he may have fallen overboard attempting to start his stalled motor or to free his fishing line which was entangled in the propeller. Attempts were made but failed to recover his body which apparently remained on the bottom of the Lake due to the low temperature of the water.

George Ross Miller, an insurance adjuster for the Yellowstone Park Company who was severely injured on July 17, 1952, when he fell off a ramp at the Canyon Hotel suffering a skull fracture, broken back and other injuries when he struck the pavement 12 feet below, passed away in Helena, Montana, July 14.

Jacob G. Cornelsen, 64, teacher in schools at Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada, died at the Mammoth Hospital July 27 of a heart attack which occurred at Old Faithful.

Mrs. Marion Kirkland Ketchum, 76, Mars Bluff, South Carolina, passed away at Canyon July 29 of a heart attack. Her body was sent to Somerville, Tennessee, for burial.

Joseph Alphonse De Grandgagnage (DeGrande), 78, of Cooke, Montana, died July 29 at the Mammoth Hospital, following a heart attack. His body was removed to Green Bay, Wisconsin, for burial.

Breynton R. Finch, 53, who retired September 30, 1951, as Assistant Chief Park Ranger due to disability following a stroke several months earlier, passed away at Medford, Oregon, July 30.

Births. A son was born July 10 at the Mammoth Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Siemens, tourists from British Columbia, Canada.

Personnel. The following seasonal employees were appointed during the month: Arthur B. Flick, Francis L. Polutnik and Charles J. Viviano, Fire Control Aid (Smokejumper), IGS-5, July 13; John N. Reeve, Supervisory Control Aid, Plant Disease (Checker, BRC), GS-5,

July 19; Park Rangers, IGS-4, Robert B. Braun and George S. Butchko, July 1, Kenneth W. Catmull, July 4, and Arthur E. Speckhard, July 10; Roger S. Thompson, Fire Control Aid (General), IGS-4, terminating IGS-3 appointment, July 19; William S. Chapman, Jr., Fire Control Aid (General), IGS-3, July 20. Deane M. Shilts, Park Ranger, resigned July 16 and William A. Poole, Jr., Fire Control Aid (General), IGS-4 terminated July 17.

Edmund B. Rogers
Superintendent

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