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(November 1954)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

file

Yellowstone National Park
(Area)

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER 1955

FROM:

TO:

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 November 1955 Monthly Narrative Report
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

December 7, 1955

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Acting Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Monthly Report for November 1955

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of November 1955:

Weather Conditions. November was a month of extremes in temperature and one of the worst Novembers on record for the past [illegible] years. During mid-month nearly a week of sub-zero temperatures was recorded at Mammoth headquarters followed by several warm rainy days during which temperatures rose into the forties. There was a range of 69 degrees between the maximum of 48° on November 4 and minimum of 21° below zero on the 16th. The -21° was the coldest November temperature recorded at headquarters in over half a century and the precipitation for the month, 2.51 inches, has been exceeded only three times at Mammoth during the past five decades, 1931 with 2.55 inches, 1927 with 3.74 inches and 1942 with 2.61 inches. Measurable precipitation was recorded on 21 days. The greatest snow depth at Mammoth during the month was nine inches on November 18 and the measurement at the end of the month was four inches.

The minimum temperature for the park was -30° which occurred at South and West Entrances on November 16, on which date -30° was recorded at Tower Fall, -28° at Lamar Unit and -21° at Mammoth. The park maximum was 49° at South Entrance on November 4, with 48° registered at Mammoth and Tower Fall, 45° at Old Faithful and Lake, and 44° at West Entrance on that date.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. North Entrance had 24 first-entry cars and 55 re-entry cars that registered, totaling 259 passengers, and Northeast had a total of 33 re-entry cars with 125 passengers or a total of 117 vehicles and 384 passengers. Both gates showed truck travel as 6 vehicles each. Last year a total of 2,145 vehicles carrying 7,118 passengers entered the park during November. There was no over-snow vehicular traffic recorded this month.

All roads were closed to public travel with the exception of the portion in the north end of the park from Gardiner to Cooke, Montana. The highways to Old Faithful and West Yellowstone and to Lake were kept plowed due to buffalo reduction and a limited amount of travel was permitted to West Yellowstone under special conditions.

Visitors. Mr. William [illegible] Alexander of the First Christian Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, who was the distinguished speaker at the Silver Anniversary banquet of the Montana Chamber of Commerce in Helena November 7, flew to Gardiner with Mrs. Alexander and their pilot on the 9th. They were conducted to Old Faithful by Park Naturalist Condon. He is one of the most outstanding nationally known speakers in the country and is much in demand for this thrilling and inspirational talks.

Inspections. Roger Rittase, Procurement and Property Management Officer, National Park Service, Washington; Donald Miller, Assistant Director, Division of Property Management, Interior Department, Washington; and William [illegible] Robertson, Regional Engineer, Region Two, who arrived October 31 to make an equipment survey, departed November 5 for Glacier.

James B. Robinson, Chief Auditor, and Jack [illegible] Bellinger, Assistant Chief Auditor, Washington Office, who arrived October 31 to work with Supervising Auditor Peter J. McQuade and Auditors Merwin Seybolt, Eldred Corrick and Leroy [illegible] Pickett, who have been in the area for several months auditing the records of the National Park Service and concessioners, departed November 2 and 23, respectively.

Paul McG. Miller, Chief Engineer, Washington Office, was in the park November 7 to 10 to review accomplishments of construction projects and confer regarding development problems and utility services under negotiation.

Richard T. Montgomery, Engineer, Western Office, Division of Design and Construction, San Francisco, who has been on assignment in the park since May 25, departed November 2 to meet Chief Engineer Miller, take him to Glacier and return with him November 7. He left the 10th.

David Kane and Ray Myrick, Survey Helpers, [illegible], who arrived June 8 on assignment for the summer, departed November 3 on return to San Francisco.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers made a trip November 3 to Livingston to arrange a meeting with Drs. Lueck and Pearson of the Park Hospital for negotiation of a new medical service permit and to the library at Bozeman. He made further trips to Bozeman November 9, 17 and 30 for library research on his legislative history of areas of the National Park System, stopping at Livingston on the latter date to obtain signatures on the new medical service permit. Mr. Rogers and Administrative Assistant Joffe conferred with Drs. Lueck and Pearson November 21 in connection with the new medical permit for the three-year period from January 1, 1956, to December 31 1958. Mr. Joffe departed November 6 for Helena to attend the 25th anniversary meeting of the Montana Chamber of Commerce, returning the 9th. Messrs. Rogers, Joffe, Chief Ranger Otto Brown and U. S. Commissioner James Brown attended the Rotary meeting in Livingston on November 21. Chief Ranger Brown was the principal speaker and talked on the northern elk herd management program.

Assistant Superintendent Hamilton was away from the area on annual leave November 11-29. Other officials on annual leave were Park Engineer Mohlbrandt from November 10 to 21, Park Biologist Kittams November 10-28, and Park Naturalist Condon November 16-28.

Forester Barrows made a trip to Grand Teton National Park November 15-18 on matters affecting that area.

Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman and District Rangers Stevens and May returned November 15 from Yosemite National Park where they attended the Structural Fire Control and Rock Climbing Training Sessions held October 31-November 11, inclusive.

Harry V. Reynolds participated in the graduation exercises November 18 of the Federal Bureau of Investigation 56th National Academy which he had been attending as National Park Service representative since August 29. He is spending some time on annual leave before returning to the park.

Mechanical Supervisor Robinson was selected as Washington Office representative on the Equipment Survey Team for Region Four with Regional Engineer Hilton N. Hilton of that region. Mr. Robinson departed November 29 to report to the Region Four Office prior to the survey of the various areas. It is expected the survey will continue until about January 20, 1956. Shop Foreman Miller will be Acting Mechanical Supervisor during Mr. Robinson's absence.

Advice was received November 14 by Field Order 59-55, dated October 28, that Warren F. Hamilton was appointed by Director Wirth to membership on the MISSION 66 Advisory Committee effective December 1. The committee is expected to hold quarterly meetings during 1956, with the first one to be called early in January. Other members of the committee include Lemuel A. Garrison, Chairman; John E. Doerr, Thomas C. Vint, Herbert E. Kahler, C. Raymond Vinten, J. Carlisle Crouch, Herbert Maier, Glen T. Bean and Robert P. White. The purpose of the committee is to take some of the detail load from the Director, to provide a body capable of making objective analyses of conclusions reached by the MISSION 66 staff, and to provide the staff with suggestions, advice, and reactions of the entire Service.

A staff meeting of various park officials was held November 10 in the conference room to discuss apportionments and other matters.

Assistant Chief Auditor Jack W. Ballinger and Supervising Auditor Peter J. McQuade met November 22 with the Superintendent and several division heads to discuss the audit being conducted in the park.

The MISSION 66 report for Yellowstone, detailing a ten-year prospectus for the park, was completed and placed in the mail on November 11.

The Local Civil Service Board held an examination November 30 for Wage and Hour Investigator, GS-7. Personnel Assistant Everett conducted the examination and there was one competitor.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of Federal Employees Union Local No. 465 was held November 7 in the Canteen.

On November 14 the regular monthly meeting of the American Federation of Government Employees was held in the Canteen.

The Mammoth Library annual meeting was held November 1 in the Canteen and the following were elected as Board Members for a two-year term: Miss Ellen Bratlien, Mrs. Warren Hamilton, Mrs. Norman Merkenham, Mrs. Jack Parkes and Mrs. Joe Kurtz. Mrs. John Schmid was the only remaining member from the 1954 election. At a board meeting on November 30 the following officers were designated for the ensuing year: Mrs. Schmid, Chairman; Miss Bratlien, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. Merkenham, Secretary; Mrs. Kurtz, Treasurer; Mrs. Parkes, Book Chairman; and Mrs. Hamilton, Finance Chairman.

Quite a number of Yellowstone employees donated blood in connection with the Red Cross Blood Bank Mobile Unit which was in Livingston November 22.

Deaths. Mrs. Campbell, the mother of Mrs. Harry V. Reynolds, passed away at Livingston, California, on November 5 following a long illness due to cancer. Mrs. Reynolds was with her mother at the time of her death.

Mrs. Elnor M. Richards, mother of Clerk-Stenographer Dwight Richards, died at Sterling, Virginia, on November 14 at the age of 81. Mr. Richards had recently returned from a visit with his mother.

Harry R. Woodward, 62, Superintendent of the Hot Springs, South Dakota School System, died at his home November 13. Mr. Woodward served as a ranger-naturalist in Yellowstone National Park from 1932 to 1941, inclusive.

Bernard DeVoto, outstanding author, editor and historian, died November 14 at the age of 52. Mr. DeVoto served for several years as a member of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments and was the author of "The Year of Decision", "Across the Wide Missouri" and numerous other books as well as several articles on the park. He last visited the park in 1953. He was a fine friend and champion of the National Park Service.

Administration

Personnel. The position of Assistant Superintendent, GS-13 was reallocated to GS-14 and the present incumbent, Warren F. Hamilton, promoted effective November 18.

Robert J. Murphy was promoted on November 21 from Supervisory Park Ranger, GS-6 to Supervisory Park Ranger (District Park Ranger), GS-7.

The position of Personnel Assistant, GS-7, was established November 9 in lieu of Personnel Clerk, GS-5, and the present incumbent, Rolla D. Everett, was promoted effective November 23.

The promotion and change of headquarters of William C. Proper, Personnel Assistant (Employment Officer), GS-9, to Regional Personnel Officer, GS-11, Region Five, was effective November 29. On November 10 he completed the six-weeks training course in the Washington Office for new Regional Personnel Officers prior to entering on duty at Philadelphia.

Thomas B. Hyde arrived November 28 to enter on duty December 1 in the newly-established position of Sanitary Engineer, GS-11.

Donald R. Guiton, Park Ranger (General), GS-4, received a temporary assignment to the position of Property and Supply Clerk, GS-4 effective November 8 for a period not to exceed three months.

The indefinite appointment of Mrs. Helen M. Abbie and temporary appointment of Mrs. Ioel Wright, as Telephone Operators, GS-2, were converted to career appointments effective November 21 and the indefinite appointment of Claude W. McClain, Park Ranger, GS-5, was converted to career appointment effective November 25. The indefinite appointment of Thomas E. Close as Storekeeper (General)-Truck Driver, GS-3 was converted November 22 to career-conditional.

Orville F. Drennon, seasonal Storekeeper (General), GS-3, was terminated at the close of November 4 and Marie A. Pierson, seasonal Clerk-Typist, GS-3, was terminated at the close of November 18.

<u>In-Service Training</u>. <u>Yellowstone's Weekly News</u> was issued each Thursday to keep employees, concessioners and others informed of park happenings.

Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman and District Rangers May and Stevens returned November 15 from the Structural Fire Control and Rock Climbing Training Sessions at Yosemite National Park held October 31 to November 11, inclusive.

District Ranger Reynolds graduated November 18 from the 56th National Academy of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D. C., which training session began on August 29.

All available personnel attended the showing at the Museum November 10 of the movie <u>Trout a La Shoshone</u> by Evinrude Outboard Motor Company and educational film strips prepared for young people by Ralph Adams on Yellowstone scenes and operations.

Personnel Assistant Proper completed the six-weeks training course in the Washington Office for new Regional Personnel Officers on November 10 prior to his transfer to Regional Personnel Officer at the Region Five Office.

Park Naturalist Norkenham devoted considerable time during the month of November to training Park Ranger Naturalist Ted Parkinson in dark room techniques so that he could proceed with the work necessary to bring the photographic files up to date.

Accidents and Public Safety. One minor accident and one Class B accident occurred. Both were primarily the result of weather and road conditions. The Class B accident involved a Government pickup and minor injury was reported by the employee occupant.

Building Fire Protection. Messrs. Stevens, Way and Chapman attended the Building Fire and Rock Climbing schools held in Yosemite National Park, leaving Yellowstone on October 28 and returning November 16. The structural fire training received at this school was considered very good and considerable material which will be of value in planning for protection in our area was presented by the instructors.

Cooperative Activities

General Publicity. The Region Two Office informed us on November 7 that we would receive 100,000 Yellowstone broadsides for 1956, the same number as was furnished for 1955. A total of 97,200 Yellowstone broadsides remained on hand at the end of November.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. The shutters were placed on all wayside exhibits and on the Norris Museum foyer on November 1.

Interpretive Services. There were no general interpretive activities offered to the public during the month of November but several special activities were rendered by the Division. On November 7 the 16mm motion picture "Geysers, Mud Pots, and Hot Pools" was sent to Ricks College where it was used on November 10 as a special program for the Ricks College Leadership Week. Chief Park Naturalist Condon presented the following programs: movie "Your Yellowstone" to the Moaser School, Vernal, Utah November 18 with 250 in attendance; "Geyserland in Winter" and "Your Yellowstone" to the Brigham Young University College Professors November 25 with 30 present; and "Your Yellowstone" to the Rotary Ladies Nite, Livingston, November 29 with 64 in attendance.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. The Yellowstone National Park Chapel was used each Sunday for regular Protestant services. The Rev. Duane Murphy held an interdenominational service in the Chapel at 9:30 a.m. on November 6 and 13. On November 20 the time of the service was changed to 10:00 a.m. and it will be conducted at this time during the balance of the winter. The regular Yellowstone Park Sunday School services were held in the Chapel each Sunday morning at 11:00.

Research and Observation. Road Foreman Elmer Armstrong called attention to a black bear hibernating den near Grand View Point at Canyon. This den was visited by Park Naturalists Condon and Merriam on November 1 and found to be occupied by a large brown-colored black bear. The den is in a very convenient spot for observation and photography and is only about 50 feet from the Grand View parking area.

On November 2 a trip was made to the Upper Geyser Basin for the purpose of observing thermal activities, cleaning up some of the thermal features, and doing some work in the Museum at Old Faithful. The remaining of the large rocks were removed from Bonita Pool, and a large amount of debris was cleaned from Morning Glory Pool. Daisy Geyser has returned to its general mode of eruption, and intervals were observed to be between 1½ and 2 hours in length.

Kenneth S. Armitage of the University of Wisconsin submitted a report on his research and observations for the 1955 season of the marmot colony on the Snake River near the South Entrance to Yellowstone Park. Mr. Armitage has gathered some very interesting data on the social habits of marmots, and his report has been placed in the pamphlet file of the Yellowstone Research Library. Mr. Armitage plans to continue this research for two years or more and, upon completion of the study, will publish a detailed report on his observations.

At the month's close word was received from Park Ranger Naturalist Joseph Murphy that the University of Nebraska is sending him to Yellowstone, probably in January, for the purpose of making winter observations on the Mammoth Hot Spring Terrace area so that he can gather data which will be incorporated in his research problem on the ecology study which he is making for his doctor's degree on this area.

Assistant Chief Ranger Carry noted two trumpeter swans with three cygnets one half mile south of Chittenden Bridge at Canyon on the 7th.

Natural History Association. The National Park Service Auditors spent the better part of the month making the internal audit of the activities of the Interpretive Division and especially of the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association records and activities. On November 3 a conference was held with Auditors Bellinger, Seybolt and McLaude concerning the activities of the Association and the Interpretive Division. The Auditors recommended that the Association adopt a new bookkeeping procedure. The present system is satisfactory, but in their opinion, the Association could be using a much better one.

The manuscript for seasonal naturalist Wayne Replogle's booklet Yellowstone's Bannock Indian Trails was thoroughly checked and then sent to Smith-Brooks Printers in Denver for a final estimate of printing costs.

The September-October issue of Yellowstone Nature Notes was multilithed and assembled, and the November-December dummy was prepared, reviewed by the Editorial Board, and should be completed during the first week of December.

Operations

Concessioners. W. M. Nichols, President, Yellowstone Park Company, returned to Helena November 17 from an Eastern trip during which he visited the Washington Office of the National Park Service where he signed a new 20-year contract for the Company. Huntley Child, Jr., and John W. Nichols, Vice-presidents of the Company, returned to the park November 2 and 15, respectively. They also attended the conference in Washington regarding the Yellowstone Park Company contract negotiations. Mr. Child left for California November 12 for a discussion of the improvement plan and expects to return about December 9. Mr. and Mrs. John Nichols left November 29 for their winter headquarters at La Jolla, California.

Superintendent Rogers and Administrative Assistant Joffe conferred with Drs. Alfred M. Lueck and John A. Pearson at the Park Hospital in Livingston on November 21 in connection with the new revocable concession permit to operate the Yellowstone Park Medical Service for the three-year period from January 1, 1956, to December 31, 1958. The permit was prepared November 29 for submission to the permittees and signed on the 30th by the four members of the partnership, Drs. Alfred M. Lueck, John A. Pearson, L. M. Baskett and Thomas Clemons.

The proposed new 20-year contract for Hamilton Stores, Inc. was sent November 4 to the Committees of Congress by the Secretary of the Interior for the required 60-day review before it may be finally executed on behalf of the Government.

The Yellowstone Park Company 20-year contract was forwarded by the Office of the Secretary of the Interior to the Committees of Congress on November 30 for the 60-day waiting period before final approval.

Complaints. Two letters of complaint were handled during the month, as follows: (1) condition of cabin accommodations, and (2) protesting 20-year renewal of concession contracts as considers facilities and services inadequate and over-priced due to monopoly.

Maintenance. The road maintenance crews were kept very busy snow plowing during the month. Extra plowing to Old Faithful and Lake to keep roads open for the buffalo reduction program took much of this time.

Protection and Ranger Service. Chief Ranger Brown attended the Superintendent's staff meetings on the 10th and 22nd, discussed protection problems with the National Park Service auditors on the 8th, and presented a talk on wildlife management to the Livingston Rotary Club on the 21st with Superintendent Rogers and Administrative Assistant Joffe present. Other special activities included inspection trip to Old Faithful on the 4th, to Northeast Entrance with auditors Dellinger and McGuade on the 10th, to Reese Creek on the 25th, and to Lake on the 28th to inspect buffalo reduction operations. He went with rangers Grimm, Garry and Peterson on the 18th to work out some solution to the beaver problem at the Mammoth water supply intake.

The Chief Ranger's Office kept correspondence, records and reports current and assisted field stations with materials and supplies. Personnel records of the protection division are being brought up-to-date and are now almost complete. Much work has been done in sending lost and found articles to owners and finders and bringing records up-to-date.

Field activities included boundary patrols, some last-minute rationing of patrol cabins, and pick-up of fire fighting equipment for winter storage, preparation of cargo carriers for oversnow use in the reduction of buffalo. This work got underway the week of the 20th and by the end of the month 143 buffalo carcasses had been supplied nearby Indian agencies. Park Rangers Valder and Lacy returned from Thoroofare patrol on the 3rd. On the 23rd, District Ranger Murphy transported Electrical Supervisor McMullin and Electrician Freitag to Sylvan Pass by cargo carrier; District Ranger May transported Electrician Foreman Murray and seasonal Electrician Collett to Lewis River road camp to repair telephone lines on the 25th; and Murphy transported them to South Entrance. Boundary patrols were maintained along hunting areas.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. BUFFALO AND ELK REDUCTION. The general increase in acceptance of the plan for park wildlife management necessary through direct reduction at this time is heartening. Concurrence in the plan has been expressed by many wildlife clubs and individuals. Buffalo reduction was started on the 21st and was about 50% completed by the end of the month. This is being done by three teams of two men each, two of which are working near Lake and one near Old Faithful, with the work of dressing out, skinning and loading being done by the recipients. It is understood the elk meat sent to the federal prisons has proven highly satisfactory but major elk reduction has been deferred until January 1 until buffalo reduction is completed. Traps have been baited but to date no live elk have been trapped. A total of 23 elk were killed during the month for Indian agencies. Orders are on hand for 548 elk carcasses for Indians, 10 for the Veterans Administration and up to 2,000 for the Bureau of Prisons. Orders are on hand for 170 additional buffalo for the Indian Agency and three for the Veterans Administration. Considerable correspondence has resulted from inquiries regarding elk hunting

in the park and requests for carcasses. Apparently a number of news stories about the reduction program have been misleading. Gallatin elk have been leaving the park so hunters have been able to harvest them and the season is scheduled to close on December 3. Elk have moved downward on the northern Yellowstone range and are congregated in bands as low as Mammoth. Thus, if normal winter weather occurs in December, there may be a large movement out of the park. The Montana Fish and Game Department closed the Gardiner to Jardine area to elk hunting on November 30 and will reopen the season later. This arrangement should help increase the harvest of Yellowstone elk by hunters. The 143 buffalo carcasses were distributed as follows: 20 to Fort Belknap Tribal Council, 1 to Fort Belknap Hospital, 20 to Chippewa Cree Tribe, all at Harlem, Montana, 10 to Flandreau Indian School, 1 to Flandreau Tribal Council, Flandreau, South Dakota, 10 to Fort Hall Agency, Idaho, 10 to Intermountain Indian School, Brigham, Utah, 64 to Northern Cheyenne Agency, Lame Deer, Montana, and 7 to Ute Indian Tribe, Fort Duschesne, Utah.

ELK RECORDS. Corrections were prepared on tabulations of elk censuses and reductions made by Mr. Brundberg and sent to him for his report on the northern Yellowstone elk problem. Tagging records were brought up to date for 1955 as far as possible.

BEAVER. Three beaver were taken at the Mammoth water intake to safeguard the winter water supply. The carcasses were turned over to the naturalist division for study and probable museum use.

FISH. Following reports that a large number of whitefish and suckers were dying in the Yellowstone River, Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman took a boat trip from Corbella to a point about a mile below Point of Rocks on November 28. One hundred twenty whitefish, 12 suckers and 2 brown trout were found dead along the banks and in the slower waters. These fish had all been dead for some time which would indicate this was only a small portion of the total loss. Two brown trout found near the mouth of the Gardner River were sent to the Montana State College for identification of the cause of death. Nothing could be ascertained by then as to reasons for their death. Heavy coyote trails in the snow along the Yellowstone River may have been made by coyotes searching for fish. Forester Barrows, Biologist Kittams and others also participated in this study and attempted to determine whether or not the loss was the result of the DDT spraying of spruce budworm in and near the park during the summer and further comment is included under the subject of Forest Insects.

Range. Weather was severe in November with precipitation being double the normal of 1.26 inches at Mammoth where 2.51 inches fell and with temperatures being low, falling below zero Fahrenheit on seven days. Most of the precipitation fell as snow. Biologist Kittams observed rain and high temperatures from November 19 to 21

melted snow on the Low Range and on much of the Intermediate Range. On the remainder of the higher range, the snow settled and crusted as temperatures dropped. Snow depths increased on the Yellowstone range. At the end of November, snow on the low range was about three inches deep and loose; in Lamar Valley it was about five inches deep with scattered remains of old snow being crusted. At the end of the month, elk and antelope were nuzzling snow aside on Target Flat to obtain the tops of most winterfat plants, indicating the high palatability of winterfat.

Forest Fire Protection. Construction of a new rodent-proof storage room in the Mammoth Fire Cache was started and by the close of the month it was more than half done. This room is for the storage of tentage, hose and other equipment which are subject to damage by mice, squirrels and other rodents.

Fire distribution maps and fire weather charts for the Fire Atlas were finished.

Reports covering the seventeen forest fires which occurred at Yellowstone during the 1955 season were reviewed by Forester Barrows.

Blister Rust Control. A request to Region Two was made for $315 to reimburse the Forest Service for costs of preparing blister rust survey maps covering the proposed areas at Glacier, Grand Teton, Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone. An audit of the Yellowstone blister rust account revealed that only $1,000 is available for operation in June 1956.

Forest Insects. During November there were a number of verbal reports and rumors about whitefish and suckers dying in the Yellowstone River between Gardiner and Livingston. Generally the cause was attributed to the spraying of DDT during the spruce budworm control project in July. On November 29 Forester Barrows examined 1/10 of a mile along the Yellowstone River in the vicinity of the Sternits Ranch outside the park and counted 23 dead whitefish and suckers in the water. On the same day he and Biologist Kittams found no dead fish along one mile of the Gardner River but did see five dead whitefish in the park portion of the Yellowstone River above its confluence with the Gardner. Mr. Kittams called Professor C. J. D. Brown at Montana State College about this matter and was advised many samples of dead fish had been sent from the Yellowstone River but there was no known test for DDT poisoning in such samples. Mr. Brown said there was a possibility the spray program had reduced aquatic life which in turn caused starvation of the principal fish species in the river but the evidence was purely circumstantial. Also, he thought it possible DDT ingested through insect life might be a direct cause. Thus, the mortality of whitefish and suckers cannot be satisfactorily explained at this time. Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman and others also participated in this research and additional information is included under the subject of Fish.

Trails. Work in the trail sign shop was started when manpower became available and to date approximately 40 standard trail signs are in various stages of fabrication.

Ranch and Corral Operations. Two horses remain at North Entrance for patrol and the remaining 82 horses and mules are at the Lamar Unit for winter feeding.

Design and Construction

Plans, Maps and Surveys: Paul McG. Miller, Chief Engineer, National Park Service, was in the park November 7 to 10 going over the construction program.

On November 9, Assistant Superintendent Hamilton and Park Engineer Kohlbrandt met with Messrs. Hatchford and Lackey of the Montana Highway Department at Gallatin and inspected the location of the five miles of the Gallatin road lying in Wyoming.

Considerable time of Park Landscape Architect Mattson and Park Engineer Kohlbrandt, as well as a number of other personnel, was dedicated to MISSION 66 efforts and to projects associated with it, such as the development program and project construction program priority and proposal forms.

Plans for the modernization of the kitchen in Residence No. 3 were prepared by Mr. Mattson, drawing supplement to MM-C119. This is an old 1909 kitchen being brought up to date.

New Construction. All Service construction projects were closed down early in the month by cold weather and heavy snow.

Work on the Fishing Bridge campground roads by National Park Service forces is about 40% complete. Half the road system will be completed early in July. Water and sewer lines for the campground are out on contract to the Studer Construction Company which expects to start construction early next spring.

Lake Lodge Cabin Area Roads grading and surfacing being done by National Park Service forces is 40% complete. Work is slowed by Yellowstone Park Company cabins in the area which are to be moved.

Work on the Canyon Campground Facilities by Park Service forces is 85% completed with all fireplaces, tables and garbage cans placed. Landscaping and leveling of camp sites remain to be completed

Fishing Bridge Campground Facilities work by Park Service forces is 30% complete with 150 fireplaces in place, 150 tables fabricated and 40 garbage cans on hand.

The Inspiration Point Observation Platform is about 95% completed by Park Service forces with the walk at the top all that remains to be done. Expected completion date is July 1, 1956.

Construction work on the Gallatin road under contract by the Montana Highway Department, a portion of which is inside the northwest corner of the park, was practically closed down by the middle of the month due to heavy snow and extreme cold.

Construction projects underway by the Yellowstone Park Company but closed down by the end of the month are renovation of Old Faithful Lodge floors, 75% completed; comfort station-wash house, West Thumb, 75% done; winterkeeper's house, Lake Lodge, 85% done; Lake boat dock residence, 90% done; and site prepared for tourist cabin office and dormitory, public baths and laundry, Old Faithful.

Warren F. Hamilton
Acting Superintendent

Forms 10-24 and 10-771 attached
In triplicate
Copy to Region Two w/c Form

Files (2) ✓
Joffe Office Files

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MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REGION **Two**

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

REPORT FOR **November, 1955**
Month Year

AREA PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	P.C.F. NO	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED PROGRAM APPROVED	CONTRACT EXECUTED WORK STARTED	% COMPLETE	REMARKS

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

No uncompleted work in progress.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FORM 10-771
(Revised December 1950)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* ~~BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES~~

* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

REGION Two

REPORT FOR November, 1955 (Month, Year)

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE		REMARKS
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK						
Observation Platform, Inspiration Point, Acct. 323.3	R-115-2	YEL-2395	$18,000.00 8/13/53	95%	DL	Walk at top to be finished by July 1, 1956.
Fishing Bridge Campground Road Acct. 323.19	R-26-1 (por)	YEL-2284	$42,995.51 6/16/54	99%	DL	7 Loops graded and have base course; 3 loops are bituminous surfaced and have rock barriers placed.
Roads, Campsites, Barriers, Route 152, Fishing Bridge Campground, grade and surface 2148 feet drive and 8073 feet camp loop road, Acct. 523.1	"		$136,000.00 8/55	25%	DL	
Walks in Thermal Areas, Acct. 323.20	R-164		$10,000.00 8/12/54	100%	DL	Funds nearly exhausted. A few sections of walk remain to be installed under regular path maintenance . A total of 4,450 lin.ft. of walk was prefabricated.
Lake Lodge Area Roads, Route 151, Grade and Surface 2.75 miles, Acct. 523.2	R-149-2 (por)		$76,480.00 8/55	40%	DL	Work done: 75% clearing; 40% grading. Finishing will depend upon Y.P. Co.'s moving old cabins.
Grading and Drainage of Roads, Parking Areas and Walks, Canyon Cabin Area, Acct. 523.3	R-31	YEL-2578-A	$176,320.00	25%	C	Work under Contract No. 14-10-243-186 with Studer Construction Co., work begun August 28, 1955: clearing 70%, Grading 80% in loop "A", drainage 10%. Est. Date of completion 8/8/56. Another contract for surfacing and barriers contemplated early next season to complete this facility.

* Cross out the one not being used

FORM 10-771
(Revised December 1950)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

REGION Two

* ~~BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES~~

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

REPORT FOR November, 1955
Month Year

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK					
Comfort Stations (9) and Pumphouse Canyon Campground, Acct. 331.16	B-36-4	YEL-2138 3/31/54	$155,840.00 11/16/54	98%	C Stop order issued October 28, 1955.
Main Sewer System, Lake, Acct. 332.16	U-13-5	YEL-5669 6/22/50	$39,222.87 9/2/53	98%	DL Work closed down for winter.
Utilities connections for House Trailers, Acct. 332.18			$1,234.70	90%	DL Work closed down for winter.
Main Electric System, Canyon Area Acct. 332.19	U-10-7		$30,000.00	0%	Awaiting plans from WODC. Expect to contract portion this winter, work to start early in spring.
Campground Facilities, Tables, Fireplaces, etc., Fishing Bridge Acct. 333.3	M-61-1	YEL-3316 7/14/49	$30,000.00 9/27/54	30%	DL 150 Tables fabricated; 150 fireplaces placed; 40 garbage containers purchased. Additional funds required to complete job.
Campground Facilities, Tables, Fireplaces, etc., Canyon, Acct. 333.4	M-5-3	YEL-2385	$32,215.00 9/27/54	85%	DL Fireplaces, garbage cans and tables complete. Campsites need to be leveled.
Utilities, Water, Power and Sewer Extensions, Fishing Bridge Campground, Acct. 332.20	U-27-2	YEL-2584-A	$76,360.00 9/14/55	0%	C Studer Construction Co. contractor for water and sewer. Work to begin in Spring and plans for power to be made this winter.
Utilities, Main Sewer System, Canyon, and Water Supply System, Canyon Hotel, Acct. 332.21	U-44-8 & U-43-8 (por)	YEL-3405	$308,125.00 9/14/55	15%	C Clearing began 9/13/55 under contract 14-10-243-191 with Inland Construction Co. Water line village to hotel in place and about 2,000 feet of sewer line placed. Contractor expects to complete job 11/1/56.

* Cross out the one not being used

FORM 10-221
(Revised December 1950)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7mS

REGION Two

CONCESSIONERS' PROJECTS

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES
* ~~XXXX~~ ROADS AND TRAILS

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

REPORT FOR November, 1955
Month Year

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO	WORK IN DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
YELLOWSTONE PARK COMPANY					
Renovation, O. F. Lodge Floors				75%	
Tourist cabin office and dormitory, public baths and laundry, Old Faithful		YEL-8436 Approved			Site prepared.
Comfort Station--Wash House, West Thumb				75%	
Winterkeeper's House, Lake Lodge		Approved		85%	
Lake Boat Dock Residence		Approved		90%	

* [illegible] the one not [illegible]