10-23
(November 1954)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone National Park
(Area)

FILE CODE:

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY 1956

FROM:

TO:

IMPORTANT

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371-3

A2323

Report 1ml

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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Summary of the January 1956 Monthly Narrative Report

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WEATHER:	Mammoth maximum 43°, minimum -19°, precip. 1.44", snow depth end month 13". Park max. 47° at Lamar, min. -39° at West. Record snow depths listed.	1-2
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

February 9, 1956

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Acting Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Monthly Report for January 1956

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of January 1956:

General

Weather Conditions. Weather for January moderated considerably as compared to December. The total precipitation for January was 1.44 inches at Mammoth, with a total snowfall of 22.90 inches. Both totals are nearer averages of other years. The maximum temperature at Mammoth for the month was 43 degrees on the 7th and the minimum -19 degrees on the 31st. The greatest snow depth recorded at this station during the month was 17 inches and that at the end of the month was 13 inches.

The maximum temperature for the park was 47 degrees at Lamar Unit on the 13th and the park minimum was -39 degrees at West Yellowstone on the 31st.

Snow courses were taken at the end of the month for most of the park. Course averages are listed below:

Location	Snow Depth Average	Water Content Average
Lake	56 inches	15 inches
Canyon	56 "	16 "
Norris	38.8 "	9.9 "
Lupine Creek	43.3 "	13 "
Northeast	32.5 "	8.9 "
East Entrance	43 "	12.75"
Sylvan Pass	49.5 "	14.7 "
Snake River	77.2 " (47)	23.9 " (12.6)
Coulter Meadow	84.6 " (52)	24.0 " (14.1)
Lewis River Divide	138.6 " (83)	50.5 " (26.2)
Aster Creek	106.4 " (63)	36.8 " (18.9)
Grassy Lake	107 " (70)	36.7 " (21.9)

Normal January averages shown in parentheses.

Jimmy Breman, Reservoir Superintendent, Moran, reported that for the Snake River drainage courses in the park the present snow breaks all existing records for depth and water content for February 1 since the courses were established in 1919. The previous records are:

Lewis River Divide	126	inches	in	1927
Aster Creek	98	"	"	1943
Coulter Meadow	81	"	"	1943

Snow depths in the West Yellowstone-Gallatin Area are:

West Yellowstone	48	inches	(last year 24")
Grayling Creek	46	"	(" " 25")
Divide Lake	62	"	(" " 30")
Bacon Rind	45	"	(" " 21")
Gallatin Ranger Station	31	"	(" " 18")
Daly Creek Boundary	15	"	(" " 10")

Increase or Decrease in Travel. North Entrance recorded 214 first-entry cars and 93 re-entry cars with a total of 1,007 visitors. Northeast reported 31 re-entry vehicles with 102 people. There were 16 trips from West Yellowstone to Old Faithful by oversnow vehicles (Bombardier Snowmobile) carrying 104 people and two trips by oversnow equipment (snowplane) through South Entrance carrying 4 people, bringing the total of visitors during the month to 1,217, compared to 731 visitors in January 1955.

Roads remained closed to public travel except the portion from Gardiner to Cooke, Montana, across the north end of the park.

Visitors. Ronald R. Kelso, Chief, Wyoming Bureau, Denver Post, Cheyenne, Wyoming; Warren Garst, free lance and Disney Photographer, Douglas, Wyoming; and Hugh Bates, State of Wyoming and C.B.S. Photographer, Cheyenne, arrived January 3 to get stories and pictures of elk reduction program. They left for Teton January 5. Mr. Kelso's story appeared in two issues of the Denver Post with appropriate pictures on January 24 and 25.

Jack Richards, well-known photographer of Cody, Wyoming, was in January 6 to get wildlife pictures and pictures of elk reduction. His pictures appeared in the photo section of the Cody Enterprise of January 19.

Warren W. Ost, Director, A Christian Ministry in The National Parks, National Council of The Churches of Christ, New York City, arrived January 18 in connection with the religious services in the park. He departed the 23rd.

Inspections. John Morse, Electrical Engineer, and Albert W. Devins, Assistant Electrical Engineer, Western Office, Division of Design and Construction, arrived January 16 to work on the park's power and communications studies. They left the 19th.

Richard N. Hostony, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Butte, was in the park January 3 with Special Agent Mason Melvin of Bozeman. Special Agent Robert Hedden of Bozeman made several visits to the Chief Ranger's Office during the month. William E. Klick, Special Agent, Counter-Intelligence Corps, U. S. Army, visited the ranger office on the 5th on investigative matters.

Fred Johnson, U. S. Forest Service, Missoula, Montana; Phil Johnson, Forest Insect Division, U. S. Forest Service, Missoula; Don Parker, Forest Insect Laboratory, USFS, Ogden, Utah; Dr. Oliver Cope, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Logan, Utah; and Boyd Opheim, Fish Biologist, Montana Fish and Game Department, Bozeman, were in January 11 for conference on fish mortality in the Yellowstone River allegedly caused by spruce budworm spraying in and near the park last July.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers continued on assignment in Denver on his legislative history of areas administered by the National Park Service. He, with Park Landscape Architect Mattson, attended a meeting in Denver on January 22 with Bureau of Public Roads officials and other National Park Service officials on construction of the Lake-Canyon road and other road matters, following which Mr. Mattson departed for San Francisco for conferences in the Western Office, Division of Design and Construction in connection with proposed improvement projects. Mr. Mattson also made a trip to Custer Battlefield National Monument January 12-14 on road matters affecting that area. Park Engineer Wohlbrandt departed January 28 to also confer at WODC on park construction project planning, he and Mr. Mattson to be joined by Mr. Rogers in early February for a meeting with Yellowstone Park Company officials and architects and others on the new Canyon development. Mr. Rogers left Denver January 29 and Acting Superintendent Hamilton, Chief Ranger Brown, Administrative Officer Anderson, and Personnel Assistant Everett left Yellowstone January 28 for Omaha, Nebraska, to attend a conference in the Region Two Office on personnel matters and reorganization.

Mr. Hamilton, Chief Ranger Brown, Park Naturalist Condon, Biologist Kittams and Assistant Chief Ranger Edwards departed January 13 for Billings, Montana, to attend a meeting of the Montana Wildlife Federation January 14-15 at which the reduction program of the Northern Yellowstone elk herd was thoroughly discussed and the Board of Directors unanimously endorsed the park's elk reduction program. All returned the night of the 15th with the exception of Mr. Brown who continued to Helena to attend a meeting on January 16 of the Montana Fish and Game Commission in connection with the fish mortality in the Yellowstone River and then to Great Falls in connection with the obtaining of a helicopter for use in the proposed elk census this spring.

Forester Barrows attended a meeting January 4 at Bozeman of the Montana Rural Fire Defense Committee. On the 11th he left for Grand Teton National Park on grazing matters following which he went to

Omaha with officials from Teton to confer on Yellowstone and Teton matters during the week of January 16-24. He returned to the park January 27.

Biologist Kittams left January 28 for the Washington Office for a conference of Service Biologists to be held during the week of January 30-February 4. All aspects of the Service's biological programs and policies were scheduled for discussion. Biologists Cole from Rocky Mountain and Murie from Grand Teton are also attending from Region Two.

Bids were opened January 3 for over-snow equipment, with Tucker Sno-Cat Company of Medford, Oregon, being awarded the contract for a Model 443 Tucker Sno-Cat, 4-wheel-drive utility model. Truck Driver Charles Manning left January 6 for Medford to take delivery of the machine and bring it back to the park, returning the 12th. The Sno-Cat was put into operation on the 18th in connection with the repair of the telephone line to Old Faithful and West Yellowstone, another trip being made later in the month to repair lines toward Canyon and Lake. This new over-snow equipment proved very efficient and will be very beneficial in carrying out winter operations.

Assistant Chief Ranger Thomas Garry left January 30 for Missoula to spend the month of February attending the Eleventh Annual School of Public Administration conducted by the University of Montana. This is being done on annual leave and at Mr. Garry's own expense.

Staff meetings of division heads and other park officials were held January 5 and 19 in the conference room. It was decided at the meeting January 5 to hold regular staff meetings the first and third Thursday of each month except during June, July and August when only one meeting a month will be held, on the 21st, 19th and 16th, respectively.

The members of the Management Improvement Committee met in the Canteen January 25. They reviewed improvements made during the past year and suggested improvements for the coming year.

The Board of Survey was appointed January 6 for Yellowstone National Park and Big Hole Battlefield National Monument for the ensuing year, consisting of Philip H. Wohlbrandt, Chairman; Donald K. Guiton, Clerk; Roger H. Miller and Willis Stanton, Members; and Joseph Joffe and Howard S. Kocher, Alternate Members. The membership remains the same as for 1955 except that Mr. Guiton has been substituted as Clerk for Edwin N. Chamberlin, Mr. Stanton succeeds Otto M. Brown as Member, and Mr. Joffe succeeds Thomas K. Garry as Alternate Member.

On January 18 the Yellowstone Park Safety Committee to serve during the 1956 calendar year was designated, as follows: Robert N. Robinson, Chairman; Dwight E. Richards, Clerk; Harry V. Reynolds and Lawrence Murray, Members; and J. Stanley Fillmore and John A. Schmid, Alternates. The membership remains the same as for the previous year

except that Mr. Reynolds has been appointed to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of Thomas F. Ela to Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

On January 25, Mrs. W. Ruth Grover of Idaho Falls, Idaho, was sent a lifetime pass for areas administered by the National Park Service in appreciation of the faithful and commendable service rendered by her husband, Royal E. Grover, seasonal Operator, General (Mobile Power Equipment), who died November 20, 1954, in Idaho Falls of a heart attack.

The Region Two Incentive Awards Committee authorized an award of $65 to Roger H. Miller, Shop Foreman, for his suggestion that an attachment to the bituminous mat surface preparizer be used for adjusting the breaker bar so as to utilize all the wear in the paddle plates, thus saving the government approximately $1,500 annually. The attachment has been in operation for some time and has proven very effective. Mr. Miller was advised of the award at a staff meeting on January 19.

Public Law 323, approved August 9, 1955, which provides for the purchase of bonds to cover officers and employees of the Federal Government who heretofore were required to pay the premiums on these bonds out of their own personal funds, became effective January 1, 1956, and will benefit a large number of Yellowstone employees.

The Employees and Alumni Association of the National Park Service was organized during the month and charter members received membership cards. The establishment of the organization was undertaken by Earl M. Semingsen, Superintendent of Wind Cave National Park, Organizing Director, and membership was solicited during the PUBLIC SERVICES Conference at Great Smoky Mountains National Park in September 1955. John F. Rohn, also at Wind Cave, is Executive Secretary of the newly-formed organization. Members joining before September 23, 1956, will be considered as charter members. The membership fee is $1.00. This is the start of an organization which has long been considered for National Park Service employees and alumni.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the American Federation of Government Employees was held in the Canteen the evening of January 9.

The January meeting of Local 465 of the National Federation of Federal Employees was held in the Canteen on the 16th and the following officers were elected for the 1956 year: Ellis Gabbert, President; Stanley McComas, Vice-President; Helen Tracy, Secretary; David Beal, Treasurer; William Biastoch, Guard; and Frank Mattson, Thomas Garry, Foster Freeman, Joe Kurtz and Harold Edwards, Directors.

The annual meeting and election of officers of the Yellowstone Federal Credit Union was held January 17 in the Canteen and the following will serve as its officers for the ensuing year: David Beal, President of the Board of Directors; Stanley Fillmore, Secretary-Treasurer of the Board; and Stanley McComas, James Brown and Ralph Reed, other Board Members; Clarence Scoyen, Chairman, and Edward Schultz and Roger

Miller, Members of the Credit Committee, with Thomas Somerville as Alternate; and Alice Kohout, Chairman, and Joe Kurtz and Willis Stanton, Members of the Supervisory Committee. A 4.8% dividend and a 10% interest refund were voted from last year's operations.

Deaths. Clarence L. Edwards, 62, Regional Director of the 13th Civil Service Region, Denver, from 1939 to 1951, died in San Francisco, California, January 4 following an operation. Mr. Edwards visited Yellowstone on several occasions, the last time in 1949, and was very cooperative and helpful to the park during his years as Regional Director. Burial was at Rock Island, Illinois.

Bert L. Brown, 75, who photographed in Yellowstone National Park and vicinity for many years, a number of which were with Haynes Inc. and the Northern Pacific Railway Company, and whose photographs have been used in magazines and newspapers throughout the country, died January 16 at his winter home in Grand Bay, Alabama, from cancer of the pancreas. His genial manner made him a friend of everyone he met. Burial was in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Births. A son was born to Supervisory Park Ranger and Mrs. Harold R. Jones at the Park Hospital in Livingston on January 25. He has been named Michael Ray.

Administration

Personnel. Delmer C. Riley received a career-conditional appointment as Painter, Ungraded, effective January 22, selection having been made from the Civil Service register.

Thomas F. Ela, District Park Ranger, GS-7, departed January 31 with his family for Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico, where he will assume his new duties as Chief Park Ranger, GS-9, effective February 10. He is taking some leave en route.

Raymond C. Easton, seasonal Project Clerk, GS-4, was terminated at the close of January 5. Mrs. Lois L. Milligan was terminated as seasonal Clerk-Typist, GS-3 at the close of the 13th. Shirley Rae Epperson was given a temporary appointment as seasonal Clerk-Stenographer, GS-3 on January 13 to serve in the Chief Park Naturalist's Office during the illness of Mrs. Alice B. Murphy. She was terminated at the close of January 27.

In-Service Training. On January 11, a meeting of all employees was called in the Canteen Building at 4:30 p.m. and the MISSION 66 program of slides and a recorded talk by Director Wirth was presented. A total of 121 persons was in attendance. A copy take was made by Park Naturalist Beal of the recording narration in the MISSION 66 program and this tape was used with the large tape recording and large speakers to present the program to the employees and the narration is being retained in the files. This program is being conducted throughout the Service and will be repeated in numerous communities near the various areas administered by the National Park Service to acquaint the general

Allen, teachers at the [illegible] Residence, with [illegible] as [illegible] and [illegible], Cherokee, [illegible] and [illegible], Members of the [illegible] Council, [illegible] and [illegible] were [illegible] their last year's [illegible].

Deaths. Clarence [illegible], Superintendent of the [illegible] from [illegible] to [illegible], died in San Francisco, California, January 4 following an operation. Mr. [illegible] [illegible] or [illegible] [illegible], and was very conservative and helpful to the [illegible] his years of [illegible]. Burial was at [illegible], Illinois.

Fred [illegible], known for [illegible] of Yellowstone National Park and vicinity for many years, a number of [illegible], and the [illegible], [illegible] have been used in [illegible] and [illegible] throughout the country, died January 16 at the [illegible] in [illegible], [illegible] to the [illegible]. The [illegible] [illegible]. Burial was in [illegible], Montana.

Births. A son was born to [illegible] and Mrs. Joseph C. [illegible] at the [illegible] Hospital in [illegible] on January 27. He has been named [illegible].

Administrative

Personnel. [illegible] in connection with [illegible] appointment as [illegible], [illegible], were made from the [illegible] register.

Thomas F. [illegible], [illegible], GS-5, [illegible] with his family [illegible] he will assume his new duties as [illegible] Park Ranger, GS-7, [illegible] February 12. He is [illegible].

Raymond [illegible], Seasonal [illegible] at the close of January 8. Mrs. [illegible] was [illegible] Clerk-Typist, [illegible] at the [illegible]. [illegible] was given a temporary appointment [illegible] Clerk-Stenographer, GS-3 on January 13 to serve in the [illegible] during the illness of Mrs. [illegible]. She was [illegible] at the close of January 27.

Employee Training. On January [illegible], [illegible] of all employees was called in the [illegible] building [illegible], and the [illegible] program of slides and a [illegible] by [illegible] was presented. A total of 128 persons [illegible] in attendance. [illegible] Naturalist [illegible] of the recording [illegible] in the [illegible] and this tape was used with the large tape recording [illegible] to present the program to the employees and [illegible] is being retained in the files. This program [illegible] the [illegible] and will be repeated [illegible], [illegible] given [illegible] by the [illegible] to [illegible] the [illegible].

public with this important program.

On January 24, personnel of the Caterpillar Tractor Company presented two films, one on evolution of crawler-type tractor and the other on construction equipment safety, to a number of park personnel.

On January 5, the 16mm footage which has been exposed on the wildlife management programs that have been conducted in Yellowstone in the past was shown to Acting Superintendent Hamilton, Chief Ranger Brown, Assistant Chief Ranger Edwards, and Park Naturalists Beal and Herkenham by Park Naturalist Condon. This review was made for the purpose of determining what might be done with this footage and additional footage to be obtained for the purpose of making an educational movie on Yellowstone wildlife management programs.

On each Thursday Yellowstone's Weekly News was issued to keep personnel, concessioners and others currently informed of park happenings.

Accidents and Public Safety. Two Tort Claims were received during the month and forwarded to the Field Solicitor, Region Two Office for decision. They were from Mrs. John (Violet) Specht, Evansville, Indiana, who was injured while she and members of her family ran from a bear in the Mammoth Tourist Cabin area in August 1955, and one from Mrs. Kathryn L. Rogers, St. Louis, Missouri, who fell on the Uncle Tom's Trail at Canyon and fractured her wrist.

Building Fire Protection. Material was compiled from a number of sources to be used in training building fire crews in fire suppression techniques this spring.

Sanitation. Sanitary Engineer Hyde in the company of Plumber Foreman Biastoch went over the water supply systems at Stevens Creek Ranger Station, Lamar Unit and Northeast Entrance. On the basis of bacteriological examinations of the water at Lamar and Northeast, these supplies were hand chlorinated. Three water samples were submitted to the Montana Board of Health Laboratory--one sample from Stevens Creek and two from Mammoth. All three samples showed no evidence of contamination. Mr. Hyde compiled a five-year summary of the bacteriological analyses of 247 water samples from 16 water supplies in the park and concluded considerable work should be done to protect and improve our park water supplies.

Cooperative Activities

General Publicity. A press release on the Yellowstone travel story for 1955 was sent to all on the park's mailing list on January 6. On January 9 a press release was sent the Associated Press, United Press and local newspapers on the arrest of elk poachers. A release was issued

to the presses and local newspapers January 26 on the presentation of $65 award to Roger H. Miller for his suggestion of an attachment to the bituminous mat surface preparizer to utilize all wear in the paddle plates.

The park received a great deal of publicity during the month in newspapers throughout the country in connection with the approval of Yellowstone Park concession contracts, proposed improvement program, northern elk herd reduction program, MISSION 66, fish mortality, and other matters affecting the area.

Pictures of the elk reduction taken by Jack Richards of Cody, Wyoming, on January 6 appeared in the photo section of the Cody Enterprise of January 19.

Illustrated articles on the elk reduction appeared in the January 24 and 25 issues of the Denver Post. The writer, Ronald R. Kelso, was in the park January 3-5 obtaining material for the articles.

The February issue of HOUSEHOLD Magazine Contained an interesting and well-written story of the Ranger Bob Jones family covering their stay at the south entrance during the winter of 1954-55. The story, entitled "They Could Be The Loneliest Family in America", was written by Henry and Vera Bradshaw of Des Moines, Iowa, well-known writers who visited at the south entrance in February 1955 and became acquainted with the Jones family. The story is illustrated with five colored photographs showing the Joneses in action.

A total of 94,200 Yellowstone broadsides remained on hand at the close of January.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. A detailed memorandum covering the needs for place name signs, information signs and wayside exhibits on the Lake-Canyon, ~~Shiltlanden~~ Bridge-Artist Point, and Norris Cutoff roads was prepared in the Naturalist Division and submitted for inclusion in the PCP program for road construction in these areas.

Interpretive Services. Chief Park Naturalist Condon presented programs during the month as follows: American Legion Past Commanders Night, Livingston, Montana, January 11 with 60 in attendance; Montana Wildlife Federation, Billings, Montana, January 5 with 60 in attendance; and White Sulphur Springs School, Montana, January 24 with 370 pupils and 150 adults in attendance.

During the month Yellowstone movies and kodachromes were used for the presentation of several programs outside Yellowstone.

A set of kodachrome slides on Yellowstone was sent to Mr. Ruben Hart at Rocky Mountain National Park and he used these for the purpose of presenting a program to the Rotary Club there.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. The regular Protestant religious services were held in the Yellowstone National Park Chapel each Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. Services were conducted January 1 by Miss J. Josephine Leamer and the services on January 8 were conducted by Thomas Garry and Frank Mattson. The resident minister, Duane K. Murphy, was gone from the park through January 12.

Regular Sunday School services were held in the Yellowstone National Park Chapel each Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

The Rev. Warren W. Ost, Director of the Ministry in the National Parks, National Council of the Churches of Christ, arrived in Yellowstone on January 18 and remained through the 23rd. The Rev. Ost preached the sermon on January 22.

The Chief Park Naturalist, functioning as Chairman of the Superintendent's Church Committee, attended the meeting of the Park County Ministerial Association at noon on January 20 and at that time discussed with members of the Ministerial Association the proposal that the student ministers take over the 10:30 a.m. services at Old Faithful during the summer months. The Ministerial Association, after considerable discussion of this matter, passed a motion in which they favored abandoning the 10:30 a.m. services at Old Faithful and releasing that time to the Student Ministry program. The Park County Ministerial Association will continue to do all they can to assist with the continuation of a satisfactory Protestant Service in Yellowstone and are available for help at any time.

Research and Observation. Park Naturalists Beal and Herkenham spent several days in the field for the purpose of making wildlife observations and obtaining photograph records of the elk management program. On January 6 they spent the better part of the day outside Yellowstone along the hunting line obtaining pictures of hunters' take of Yellowstone elk. On the 9th and 10th, time was devoted to the obtaining of photographs of the management activities inside the park. On January 16, these men spent some time obtaining pictures and information on the Rocky Mountain Big Horn Sheep in the Gardiner canyon area. They saw 17 sheep, 5 of which were large rams.

Mr. Joseph Murphy, a park ranger-naturalist during the summer months and a Professor of Zoology at the University of Nebraska, arrived in Yellowstone on January 23 and remained until the 28th. Mr. Murphy is working on a Doctor's thesis on an ecological problem associated with the Mammoth Hot Springs terraces and travertine area. He has gathered data for three years and was anxious to obtain some detailed information on winter observations in this particular area.

Natural History Association. During the month of January the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association sent out letters to eight

printers sending them copies of the book The Story of Man in Yellowstone and asking for estimates on the costs for reprinting this book with the revisions.

The new book Park Ranger by Colby was purchased for employees and after examination it was determined to use it as a sales item at the information desks and 200 copies were purchased for resale.

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association was held in the Chief Park Naturalist's office on January 26. The following directors were in attendance: Jack Haynes, Warren F. Hamilton, Alice H. Quist, David de L. Condon, Joseph Joffe, Otto M. Brown, and Anna M. Biastoch. Edmund B. Rogers and James W. Brown were absent. Mr. James Brown's letter of resignation from the board was read by the Association Secretary, Mr. Condon, and the resignation was accepted by the board. The board elected as new members M. D. Beal, Norman B. Herkenham and Thomas B. Hyde. One of the major developments of the annual meeting of the Association was the adoption of a new constitution and bylaws by the Board of Directors for the Association.

Mrs. Alice Quist served as clerk for the Association and handled the book sales from the stock room.

Operations

Concessioners. The Committee of the House of Representatives delegated to review concessioner contracts held hearings January 6 on the proposed 20-year contracts of Hamilton Stores, Inc. and the Yellowstone Park Company. These were attended by W. M. Nichols, T. B. Wier and Hugh D. Galusha, Jr. of the Yellowstone Park Company and Trevor Powah of Hamilton Stores, Inc.

On January 12 the Director approved the new contract, No. 14-10-0100-602, for Hamilton Stores, Inc. for the 20-year period from October 1, 1954, to September 30, 1974, following the 60-day review period at the Committees of Congress.

J. E. Haynes, President, Haynes Inc., and Mrs. Haynes were in the park January 9 and 26 from their winter headquarters at Bozeman, Montana.

Huntley Child, Jr., Vice-President of the Yellowstone Park Company, left January 13 for La Jolla and San Francisco to confer on plans in connection with the new Canyon Village development which is expected to get underway as soon as the roads are open in the spring. Park Landscape Architect Mattson and Park Engineer Wohlbrandt conferred on this in the Western Design Office the latter part of the month and

will meet there with Superintendent Rogers, Yellowstone Park Company officials, and other Park Service officials on February 8 on this new development.

The Western Conference of Park Concessioners met in Washington, D. C. on January 30 and 31. The Yellowstone concessioners were represented by John Nichols and Huntley Child, Vice-Presidents of the Yellowstone Park Company, and Trevor Powah, Vice-President of Hamilton Stores, Inc., and the development programs of both companies were discussed.

The Annual Report of the Yellowstone Park Company for the year ending September 30, 1955, was received January 27 and turned over to the Field Accounting Office here for review prior to transmission to the Washington Office. On January 30, the Annual Report for Haynes Inc. for the year ending December 31, 1955, and check for $18,271.42 for franchise fee for the period were received. The report was furnished the Field Accounting Office for preliminary review and the check turned over to the cashier for deposit to Miscellaneous Receipts.

Maintenance. The maintenance crews were kept busy on snow removal and sanding operations during the month. Snowfall continued to be heavy. Elk reduction and telephone line repair required additional plowing. High winds during the latter part of December caused considerable damage to the telephone lines and cut the service to West Yellowstone and Old Faithful. A great number of trees were down across the roads which had to be cleared for plowing operations. Telephone service has been restored to West Yellowstone. A small rock slide occurred in the Gardner Canyon. The insulation on oil storage tanks at Gardiner blew off by high winds and required repairing. Some of the road signs were repaired during the month.

Protection and Ranger Service. Chief Ranger Brown attended Staff Meetings in the Superintendent's Office on the 5th and 19th, the Sign Committee meeting on the 6th, a Management Improvement Conference on the 25th, and the annual meeting of the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association on the 26th. Mr. Brown and Assistant Chief Ranger Edwards, together with Acting Superintendent Hamilton, Park Naturalist Condon and Biologist Kittams attended the Montana Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting held in Billings on the 14th and 15th where they explained the history, policies and problems of the management of the Northern Elk Herd and obtained the unanimous support of the Board of Directors of the Montana Wildlife Federation by resolution approving the elk reduction program. On the 11th Messrs. Brown and Edwards attended the meeting in the Superintendent's Office of various agencies regarding fish mortality in the Yellowstone River. On the 28th, Mr. Brown, together with Assistant Superintendent Hamilton, Administrative Officer Anderson and Personnel Assistant Everett departed for the Region Two Office, Omaha, to cover personnel problems concerning this area.

Field activities included patrols to West Thumb, Old Faithful and Bechler by the Snake River and West Yellowstone rangers. Because of the heavy snow loads, the patrols were concerned mainly with snow removal from the government buildings in those areas. Boundary patrols along the north boundary in and near the hunting area were maintained throughout the month as time and personnel were available. Night patrols of roads inside the park accessible to hunters were also maintained. All other available Protection Division personnel were used for live elk trapping operations or in the elk and buffalo reduction operations. Mr. Brown or Mr. Edwards made daily inspections of the elk reduction areas. District Ranger Gunzel assisted members of the Electrical Division in restoring phone service to Old Faithful and West Yellowstone. All snow courses were measured at the beginning of the month and some again on the 31st.

Law Enforcement. One case was presented to the U. S. Commissioner wherein two persons were fined $200 each for shooting two bull elk within the park and removing them from the park and two were fined $20 each for removal of the carcasses, one of which was suspended.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. BISON CENSUS. The annual bison count was started on the 25th by Biologist Kittams and completed by Chief Park Naturalist Condon on the 28th after Mr. Kittams' departure for Washington. This was conducted in plane piloted by James Stradley of Gallatin Flying Service, Inc. The count was as follows: Firehole Area, 312; Hayden Valley, 347; Pelican Valley, 392; and Lamar Valley, 206, totaling 1,257.

BISON REDUCTION. Bison reduction for January consisted of 17 killed in the park, the carcasses distributed as follows: Veterans Administration, Cheyenne, Wyoming, 3; Fort Peck Indian Agency, Poplar, Montana, 10; and Cheyenne River Sioux Agency, South Dakota, 4. The total bison reduction for the season to date is 373.

ELK REDUCTION. A total of 349 live elk were shipped during the month to New Mexico and to the State of Montana for transplanting and for nutritional studies and 11 killed in trapping operations in addition to the 99 live shipped in December brings the total reduction by live trapping to 459 to the end of this month.

The direct reduction within the park by park rangers accounted for 1,266 elk, the carcasses of which were furnished to various Indian Agencies, 10 to the Veterans Administration at Cheyenne, Wyoming, and 662 to the Federal Prisons. The total reduction by direct control to the end of the month was 1,468, making a total reduction for the season of live shipments and those killed in the park of 1,927.

Estimated hunter kill through January 31 in the Gardiner, Montana, hunting area was 3,200. This estimate was furnished by personnel of the Montana Fish and Game Department.

Early morning hunting accidents in the vicinity north of the park resulted in the death of Henry Lawrence, 37, of Butte, Montana, who was shot on January 22 between Gardiner and Jardine, and the serious injury of Victor Gee of Big Timber who was shot in the right arm on January 18. On January 25 the hunting hours were changed to remain closed until 8:00 a.m., then remain open to 8:00 p.m.

ELK. Elk continued to move to lower elevations during the month. Many crossed the north boundary and became available to hunters in Montana.

FISH. On the 11th a meeting was held in the Superintendent's Office with National Park Service, U. S. Forest Service, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Montana Fish and Game Department representatives concerning the tremendous loss of fish in the Yellowstone and Gardner Rivers and to discuss probable causes including direct and indirect loss as a result of spruce budworm spraying operations. In attendance were: Acting Superintendent Hamilton, Management Assistant Joffe, Chief Ranger Brown, Chief Naturalist Condon, Biologist Kittams, Fred Johnson of the U. S. Forest Service at Missoula, Phil Johnson of the U. S. Forest Service Insect Division at Missoula; Don Parker of the Forest Insect Division at Ogden, Utah, Dr. Oliver Cope of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Logan, Utah, and Boyd Opheim of the Montana Fish and Game Department. The subject of fish mortality received considerable newspaper publicity during the month and it was the subject of much conversation in communities around the park and was discussed at a meeting of the Park County Rod and Gun Club in Livingston at which Mr. Boyd Opheim reported on his findings. On the 16th, Chief Ranger Brown attended a meeting of Montana Fish and Game Commission at Helena with Forest Service representatives relative to the loss of fish in the Yellowstone and Gardner Rivers and its possible relationship to spruce budworm spraying operations. Further comment is included under the subject of Forest Insects.

Range. Precipitation at Mammoth during January was 1.44 inches, slightly under the normal of 1.55 inches. At the higher reporting stations on the northern Yellowstone range, more snow fell than at Mammoth. Temperatures were above normal at Mammoth. During a warm period from January 10 to 12, snow melted at low elevations, leaving much of the low range free of snow. Snow depths at the end of the month were about 3 inches near Gardiner but at higher elevations they increased considerably, accentuating difficult foraging conditions. The condition of crusted snow over much of the Intermediate and Upper Range in the Yellowstone drainage and ice over the ground, especially in swales, as reported in December, remains unchanged.

Fire Prevention and Presuppression. Forester Barrows attended the first meeting of the Montana Rural Fire Defense Committee, which was held at Bozeman, Montana, on January 4 with nine members present.

Forest Fire Protection. The new storage room in the Mammoth Fire Cache in the Barn, Building 38, was completed and considerable tentage, hose and canvas goods were moved into this rodent-proof storage. This work was done at considerable discomfort due to the extremely low temperatures of the unheated building.

Blister Rust Control. The expansion of blister rust control activities at Glacier, Grand Teton, and Yellowstone was thoroughly discussed and outlined with the Regional Office staff while Mr. Gynn of the Forest Service and Forester Barrows were in Omaha. The general concensus was favorable to the program and after a telephone call to Washington to obtain a rough estimate of available funds in the future, a program for fiscal years 1957 through 1961 was prepared. Mr. Oberhansley and his staff members participated in the blister rust discussions pertaining to Grand Teton and endorsed the program at that park. During the discussion in Omaha with Messrs. Baker, Baggley, Gregg, Castro, Childs, Snegosky, and Barrows, the present and proposed blister rust activities were very ably outlined by Mr. John Gynn of the U. S. Forest Service at Missoula and several operational improvements were suggested. The need for wage board positions for experienced blister rust workers, pump operators, and scouts or string layers was suggested and Mr. Gynn will submit his recommendations to the Regional Office. The proposal to employ a permanent man, probably at GS-7, while large blister rust crews are employed at Yellowstone, also was favorably received.

Forest Insects. In a report on investigations of fish mortality in the Yellowstone River, Boyd R. Opheim and Perry H. Nelson of the Montana Fish and Game Department attribute the inadequate food supply in the stream to the spruce budworm control project carried on during July 1955. Their investigation covered only that portion of the river outside Yellowstone Park but studies of aquatic insects made by Biologist Kittams and entomologists of the Agricultural Experiment Station, Montana State College, were also presented. The conclusion that the fish mortality was indirectly caused by DDT spraying is based on the premise that the control program was the only ususual activity on the river system during 1955.

In January, Dr. Oliver Cope, Fish and Wildlife Service, Logan, Utah, and Mr. Don Parker, Forest and Range Experiment Station, Ogden, Utah, were in the park and advised that if funds became available they expected later to conduct further studies on fish mortality attributed to spruce budworm spraying last July.

While Mr. Barrows was in the Regional Office the fish mortality situation was reviewed with Mr. Baker and several staff members. Mr.

Kittams also discussed the subject while attending a meeting of Service biologists in Washington, D. C. during the week of January 30-February 3.

Other comments are included under the subject of Fish.

Design and Construction

New Construction. All construction projects remained closed down for the winter. Invitations to bid were issued January 23, to be opened February 7, on 155 new campground tables for Account 333.3, Campground Facilities: Tables, Fireplaces, etc., Fishing Bridge, and an order was placed January 6 for 150 gratas for fireplaces for the same area and delivery is expected soon. Some work was done during the month on setting up of prefabricated campground tables.

Utilities. Electrical Engineer John Morse and Assistant Electrical Engineer Albert Devins, of the Western Office, Division of Design and Construction, were in the park January 15-19 and conferred with park officials on power and communication matters. A meeting was held January 18 on proposed electric power facilities with the following in attendance: W. H. Sennett, Manager, Park Electric Cooperative (Rural Electrification Administration), Livingston, Montana; J. H. Bielenberg, Chief, R.E.A. Department, Montana State Water Conservation Board; Dan Mikelson, Engineer, Montana State Water Conservation Board; Messrs. Morse and Devins from WODC, and Messrs. Hamilton, Mattson, Wohlbrandt and McMullin of Yellowstone. The R.E.A. officials were of the opinion they would be unable to complete their proposals before March 1.

Conferences and Meetings. Park Landscape Architect Mattson left January 22 for Denver where he attended a meeting with Bureau of Public Roads officials, Superintendent Rogers, and other National Park Service officials in connection with construction of the Lake-Canyon road and other road matters, departing from there for San Francisco for conferences in the WODC in connection with proposed improvement projects. Park Engineer Wohlbrandt departed January 28 for the WODC to confer on park construction program planning. They, with Mr. Rogers and Yellowstone Park Company officials, will attend a meeting scheduled there February 8 on the new Canyon development. Huntley Child, Vice-President of the Yellowstone Park Company, left the park January 13 for La Jolla and San Francisco to confer on plans in connection with the Canyon development and he, John Q. Nichols and Trevor Povah attended a meeting of the Western Conference of National Park Concessioners held in Washington, D. C. on January 30 and 31 at which the development program of the Yellowstone Park Company and Hamilton Stores, Inc. was discussed.

Joseph Joffe
Acting Superintendent

Forms 10-24 and 10-771 attached

In triplicate
Copy to Region Two w/c Forms

Files (2)
Joffe Office Files

ekm

File (2)
Info Office Files

FORM 10-24

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

REGION Two

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

REPORT FOR January, 1956
Month Year

Prepared by the Planning and Construction Division

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	PCP 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 January, 1956 (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					All projects closed down for winter.
321.2 Guardrail construction			19,649.95		
521.2 Guardrail construction			97,100.05		
323.3 Observation Platform, Inspiration Point	R-115-2	YEL-2395	18,000.00 8/13/53	95%	DL
323.19 Fishing Bridge Campground Road	R-26-1 (por.)	YEL-2284	43,117.49 6/16/54	99%	DL
523.1 Roads, Campsites, Barriers, Route 152, Fishing Bridge Campground, Grade and Surface 2148 feet Drive and 8073 feet camp loop road	"		136,000.00	25%	DL
523.2 Lake Lodge Area Roads, Route 151, Grade and Surface 2.75 miles	R-149-2 (por.)		76,480.00 8/55	40%	DL
523.3 Grading and Drainage of Roads, Parking Areas and Walks, Canyon Cabin area	R-31	YEL-2578-A	176,320.00	25%	C

* Cross out the one not being used

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FORM 10-771
(Revised December 1950)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

CONCESSIONERS' PROJECTS

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

REGION Two

* ~~XXXX~~ NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REPORT FOR January, 1956 (Month, Year)

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

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					
YELLOWSTONE PARK COMPANY					
Renovation, Old Faithful Lodge Floors				75%	
Tourist cabin office and dormitory, Public baths and laundry, Old Faithful		YEL-8436 Approved			
Comfort Station--Wash House, West Thumb				75%	
Winterkeeper's House, Lake Lodge		Approved		95%	
Lake Boat Dock Residence		Approved		70%	

* Cross out the one not being used

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