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(June 1941)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. A2823

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER 1956

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371-2

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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Summary of the December 1956 Monthly Narrative Report
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

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

A2823

Report 1ml

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

January 9, 1957

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Monthly Report for December 1956

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

General

Weather Conditions. Mammoth, as well as the rest of Yellowstone Park, experienced a relatively mild and sunny December. Official automobile trips were made to Old Faithful and West Entrance during most of the month.

Weather highlights for Mammoth in December are: maximum temperature 41° on December 4, minimum temperature -17° on December 6, total precipitation 1.39 inches, and maximum precipitation on one day .55 inch on December 5.

Lewis River Divide reported 53 inches of snow at the end of December which exceeds by at least twenty inches all other snow depths reported in the park at this time.

The maximum temperature for the park during December was 45° at Tower Fall on December 13. The park minimum was -31° at Lamar Unit on the 8th.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. A total of 586 passengers in 158 vehicles entered the park in December compared to 409 in 114 vehicles for December 1955. Of this number North Entrance reported 27 first-entry cars with 89 passengers and 61 re-entry cars with 200 passengers, Northeast Entrance 45 re-entry cars with 148 passengers, West Entrance 25 re-entry cars with 82 passengers and 10 snowmobile trips with 63 passengers, and East Entrance reported four skiers entering the park. The 69 over-snow visitors compare to 35 in over-snow equipment last December. The West Entrance was officially closed December 13, following which date the only road open to travel was that from the North Entrance to Mammoth, Northeast Entrance and Cooke City, Montana.

Another all-time record for travel was set during 1956 when 1,457,782 visitors were recorded at the five park gateways during the year, compared to 1,368,515 for the 1955 calendar year, an increase of 6.5%. This was the ninth straight year that Yellowstone exceeded the million mark. A total of 18,977 of these came to the park by air, rail and bus, 1.30% of the total travel, and showed a decrease of 2.2% from last year's figure of 19,398. The West Entrance continued to lead with 448,372 visitors, South second with 410,612 visitors, East third with 309,693 visitors, North fourth with 192,321 visitors, and Northeast fifth with 96,784 visitors, their percentages of total travel being 30.8%, 28.2%, 21.2%, 13.2%, and 6.6%, respectively.

Concurrence has been received of the Regional and Washington Offices to change the factor of passengers per car from 3.28 to 3.41 in computing travel beginning January 1, 1957. The present figure was an average over a period of time and was used since 1950 when the actual count of passengers was discontinued. The new factor was arrived at as a result of surveys taken for the weeks July 29 through August 4 and August 19 through 25. Figures obtained during the same periods of the number of automobiles from each state have been compiled and show the highest ten in the following order: California, Montana, Utah, Illinois, Idaho, Colorado, Washington, Texas, Minnesota and Ohio.

Inspections. Parke W. Soule, Regional Finance Officer, National Park Service, Omaha, arrived from Grand Teton National Park December 3 in connection with the new accounting system and returned to Teton the following day.

Robert W. Boyce, Architect, Western Office, Division of Design and Construction, arrived December 13 to confer with officials of the park and the contractor, Cop Construction Company, on changes recommended in the National Park Service buildings to be constructed at Canyon.

Philip C. Johnson, Leader in Charge, Forest Insect Laboratory, U. S. Forest Service, Missoula, Montana, was in December 14 for a meeting to discuss the possibility of continuing spruce budworm spraying in the park.

Special Activities. Superintendent Garrison, Biologist Kittams and Chief Ranger Brown departed December 1 for Helena, Montana, where they attended the Montana Wildlife Federation meeting, returning December 3. On December 8 Mr. Garrison and Assistant Superintendent Hamilton went to the Gallatin area in the northwest corner of the park, making a trip over the elk range by Sno-Cat. Mr. Garrison presented a talk on MISSION 66 to the Livingston Rotary Club on December 17, which meeting was also attended by Mr. Hamilton, Management Assistant Joffe, Chief Park Naturalist Condon, and U. S. Commissioner Brown, honorary members, and Huntley Child, Vice-President of the Yellowstone Park Company, a guest. Mr. Garrison was given an honorary membership in the Livingston Club at the meeting. On December 28 Mr. Garrison made an inspection trip by automobile to Madison Junction and Canyon.

A meeting on the insect infestation program was held December 10 in the Superintendent's office. Those present were Superintendent Garrison, Assistant Superintendent Hamilton, Biologist Kittams, Chief Ranger Brown, Assistant Chief Ranger Edwards, Forester Barrows and Park Naturalist Condon.

On December 14 a similar meeting was held there on the problem of continuing spruce budworm spraying and was attended by Philip C. Johnson, Forest Insect Laboratory, U. S. Forest Service, Missoula, and Messrs. Garrison, Hamilton, Barrows, Brown and Condon.

Regular staff meetings of division heads and various other park officials were held in the conference room on December 6 and 20.

On December 11 Superintendent Garrison appointed a committee to study methods to provide opportunity for more people to see wildlife in the park. The committee consists of Messrs. Joffe, Chairman, Mattson, Condon and Brown.

A Training Committee was appointed December 4 to carry out an employee development and training program with Park Naturalist Condon designated Chairman, Messrs. Anderson, Brown, Robinson, and Rowe, Members, and Personnel Officer Gnuse, Training Officer.

Monday December 24 was proclaimed a legal holiday by President Eisenhower, with all employees that could be spared being excused and those required to work receiving holiday pay.

The Government mess hall at Mammoth was closed for the winter on December 14, to be reopened in the spring when the park's crews are increased.

Effective December 10, garbage collections at Mammoth headquarters were reduced to three times a week, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Earth tremors were reported at 4:30 a.m. December 12 by Lake Hotel Winterkeepers Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Bateson and again December 21 at 9:33 and 10:48 a.m.

Yellowstone Lake started freezing over on December 21 and probably was entirely frozen over by December 25.

The Post Office Department announced that the town of Cooke, Montana, a few miles outside the Northeast Entrance of the park, will be changed to Cooke City, Montana, effective January 1, 1957. Cooke City was the name originally used for the town and was officially changed a number of years ago to Cooke.

The Norris-Canyon cutoff and the Mammoth-West Yellowstone road were closed to public travel December 13 with the closing down of McNeil

Construction Company operations at Canyon. Following that date the only road open was that across the north end of the park from the North Entrance to Cooke City, Montana, which is kept open throughout the winter.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of National Federation of Federal Employees Local 465 was held December 3 in the Canteen.

On December 10 the American Federation of Government Employees held its regular monthly meeting in the Canteen.

The Yellowstone Park School presented a Christmas program in the Canteen on December 19, following which Santa Claus appeared and distributed gifts to the children. The following evening the Gardiner School conducted its Christmas program and party.

The Christmas vacation at the Yellowstone Park School started at the close of school December 19 and that at Gardiner at the close of the 21st. School will resume at Gardiner on January 2 and at Mammoth on January 7.

A Community New Year's Eve Party was given at the Canteen on December 31, including entertainment, dancing, lunch and noisemakers, and proved very enjoyable.

Deaths. The entire community was saddened by the death on December 20 of Mrs. Alice Kittams, wife of Biologist Walter H. Kittams, age 40, at the Memorial Hospital in Livingston, following a long illness. Memorial services were held in the Yellowstone Park Chapel on December 23, conducted by Resident Minister Robert Thomson and the Rev. Harold Heckman of the Livingston Congregational Church, and cremation was at Great Falls, Montana.

Mrs. Grace Abbie, 69, mother of Mechanic Lester C. Abbie, died in Livingston December 5 as the result of a heart attack. Funeral services and burial were in Livingston on December 8.

Mrs. Lena Wright, step-mother of Property and Supply Officer William A. Wright, died December 16 at the home of her daughter in Livingston. Funeral services and burial were in Livingston December 21.

Mr. Edward Lee Murphy, age 72, father of District Ranger Robert J. Murphy, died at Bozeman, Montana, December 1 after a long illness with an asthmatic condition. Funeral services and burial were at Bozeman on December 4.

Mr. John Frederick Gnuse, 82, father of Personnel Officer Edmund H. Gnuse, died in Omaha, Nebraska, on December 5. Mr. Gnuse left immediately for the funeral which was held December 8 at Fremont and burial at Arlington, Nebraska. He returned the 12th.

Mr. Clarence Riley, 67, father of Painter Delmer C. Riley, died at the University Hospital, Minneapolis, Minnesota, on December 9. The Riley family attended the funeral at Pine River, Minnesota, on December 12.

Births. A daughter, Jean Louise, 4 pounds and 11 ounces, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Lyford W. Dore at the Memorial Hospital in Livingston on December 2. Mr. Dore is a Fireman with the National Park Service here.

On December 16 a son, Calvin Leo, 7 pounds and 13 ounces, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey L. Haines between Six-Mile Creek and Wanigan while en route to Livingston. The parents and baby proceeded to Wanigan where they received further care and awaited an ambulance to continue to the Memorial Hospital. Mr. Haines is an Engineer with the National Park Service.

Administration

Personnel. W. Ted Hackett, Supervisory Park Ranger, GS-6, received a reassignment and change of headquarters to Supervisory Park Ranger, GS-6, Devils Tower National Monument effective December 2.

On the same date William V. Appling received a promotion and change of headquarters from Park Ranger, GS-5, Platt National Park, to Supervisory Park Ranger, GS-6, to fill Mr. Hackett's vacancy at West Yellowstone.

Mrs. Sharlene T. Milligan received a temporary appointment, not to exceed January 3, 1957, as seasonal Clerk-Stenographer, GS-3, effective December 4, and was terminated at noon December 21.

On December 23 Mrs. Ella E. Bateman received a temporary appointment, not to exceed January 15, 1957, as Telephone Operator, GS-2.

Karl T. Gilbert, District Park Ranger, GS-7, has accepted a promotion and change of headquarters to the position of Assistant Chief Park Ranger, GS-9, Everglades National Park, to be effective about January 7.

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

Accidents. Two Class A accidents (over $100 damage and no personal injuries) occurred during the month, a one-car accident on the Gallatin road, U. S. 191, inside the park, the result of over-driving road conditions, and one involving a collision of two minor residents of Gardiner on the brow of a hill between Gardiner and Stevens Creek.

Building Fire Protection. Inspections were completed in all Government buildings for fire hazards. Fire extinguishers were tested, serviced and replaced wherever necessary. New extinguishers were installed in many cases. Soda acid, foam and pressure type extinguishers were recharged in a number of instances and in all cases the tanks were washed out and the contents inspected before replacing.

A check on the use of kerosene refrigerators by Forester Barrows shows they are installed at the Tower Fall, Bechler, Stevens Creek and Lamar Ranger Stations in Yellowstone. As these refrigerators constitute a very serious fire hazard when in operation their replacement with propane installations appears to be a worthwhile project.

Cooperative Activities

General Publicity. A total of 49,000 Yellowstone broadsides for 1956 remained on hand at the close of December.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. The regular Sunday School services were held each Sunday in the Yellowstone National Park Chapel at 10:00 a.m. and the regular Protestant Church services were held at 11:15 a.m. on all Sundays except December 30 when no services were held. A special Christmas Eve Vesper Service was held on the evening of December 24 at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Robert Thomson, the resident minister, conducted all the services.

A special memorial service was held in the Yellowstone National Park Chapel at 3:00 p.m. on December 23 in memory of Mrs. Alice Kittams. Mrs. Kittams passed away in the Livingston Memorial Hospital on December 20 and was the wife of Biologist Walter H. Kittams. The service was conducted by Student Minister Robert Thomson and the Rev. Harold Heckman of the Livingston Congregational Church.

Student Minister Robert Thomson left Christmas Day on a vacation period to his home in Canada and had not returned by the month's close.

Interpretive Services. Park Naturalist Tyers presented an evening program of movies and general discussion to a group of 19 Explorer Scouts and their four adult leaders in the Eagles Hall at Gardiner on the evening of December 28. Park Naturalist Beal conducted this same group on an all-day field trip across the Northern Yellowstone winter elk range area on the 29th and that evening, in the Eagles Hall, presented them with a program of movies and general discussion. Park Naturalist Beal, again on December 30, took this party on a two-hour trip over the Mammoth Hot Spring Terraces. The group was a very receptive party and originated from the community of Livingston.

Park Naturalist Beal presented a motion picture on Waterfowl Conservation to the Mammoth school children on December 14. Park Naturalist Condon presented a talk and pictures of Yellowstone to the P.T.A. organization on December 6. On the 13th he presented a similar program to the Yellowstone Park Masonic Club.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. The stagecoaches on the porch of the Mammoth Museum were covered with canvas to provide protection from the weather.

A study skin of a Whistling Swan was prepared by Park Naturalist Tyers and added to the collection and a full life-sized mount of a badger was obtained through the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association at a cost of $65.00 and added to the Mammoth Museum collection. This is a very fine specimen and was prepared by Lentfer Brothers in Livingston. In addition to this life-sized mount, a good badger skin has also been added to the study skin collection.

Research and Observations. The Interpretive Development Outline was completed by the Chief Park Naturalist and reviewed by members of the Interpretive Division and members of the Superintendent's staff, and then prepared in final form during the month.

A copy of the diary of Mrs. L. H. Shephard who visited Yellowstone in 1890 was sent to us by Mr. T. H. Beard. Mrs. Shephard in her diary reported seeing the Excelsior Geyser in eruption and if her description is correct, her evidence indicates a later eruption of this geyser than that normally referred to which is 1888.

Natural History Association. On December 3 the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association mailed out the May-June and July-August issues of Yellowstone Park Nature Notes and on December 31 they mailed out the September-October and November-December issues. Considerable time of the members of the Division was devoted to multilithing, assembling, and preparing these four issues for mailing.

Operations

Concessioners. The Yellowstone Park Company announced its new officers effective December 1. William M. Nichols, formerly President of the Company, was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors; John Q. Nichols, formerly Vice-President and Treasurer, was promoted to President and Treasurer; Huntley Child, Jr. was promoted from Second Vice-President and Secretary to First Vice-President and Secretary; and Mrs. William M. Nichols was voted Second Vice-President. The Board of Directors will consist of the above-named officers, Dean Nichols, Jr., and two newly-elected members, Hugh D. Galusha, Jr., Attorney and Certified Public Accountant, and Al T. Hibbard, Chairman of the Board of the Union Bank and Trust Company, both of Helena, Montana.

Jack E. Haynes, President of Haynes Inc., was in from his winter headquarters at Bozeman on December 10 to take progress pictures on the Canyon construction projects.

On December 11 the McNeil Construction Company closed down operations on the Yellowstone Park Company projects at Canyon. They hope to

resume work as early in April as possible so that facilities will be open for visitors by July 1, including some of the 500 modern cottages, the new lodge building housing a cafeteria, dining room and coffee shop, dormitories, a large Hamilton Stores, Inc. general store and service station.

Dr. J. Earl Carr of Sheridan and Lander, Wyoming, reported December 29 as resident physician to succeed Dr. Frank Brosius who departed September 15. He relieved Joan Reardon, R. N., who has handled the medical service in the park since October 1 when the Mammoth Hospital closed and Dr. Alfred M. Lueck returned to Livingston.

Maintenance. The road crew kept the roads to the Canyon Area from Mammoth and West Yellowstone as well as the road to Cooke City open during the month of December. This necessitated keeping on seven equipment operators through the month. The reasons for keeping these roads open so late in the season were the late construction season, the buffalo and elk reduction program and general administrative purposes.

The quarters maintenance survey in Mammoth was started during the month. This is an overall investigation of the general condition of the interior and exterior of the buildings; also the heating, plumbing, ventilation, condition of fixtures such as stoves, refrigerators, hot water tanks, etc. This survey is being conducted so that the most emergent features of maintenance can be accomplished and a more efficient program of quarters maintenance can be accomplished.

Maintenance carried on during the month on buildings and utilities was mostly routine with very few emergencies arising. One of the main emergencies occurred in the Bachelor Building, No. 1, when the coil in the oil pre-heater of the furnace failed allowing fuel oil to enter the steam lines in the system. This furnace furnished heat for the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Park Landscape Architect's residences as well as Building No. 1 which houses a number of single personnel, the Chief Naturalist's office and the Museum. This occurred in extremely cold weather and was cause for considerable inconvenience until the system could be flushed. The burner on this unit is typical of a number of units which are in use in Mammoth which have been used over a period in excess of twenty years and should be replaced in the near future.

Protection and Ranger Service. Principal activities of the Protection Division during December consisted of boundary patrols, elk management, wildlife observations and counts, elk trapping, law enforcement including two cases brought before the U. S. Commissioner, antelope census, preparation of reports and correspondence, running snow courses and taking weather observations, preparation of Weasels and other equipment for elk reduction activities, and inspection of buildings for fire hazards. Chief Ranger Brown was away from headquarters December 1 to 3 in attendance with Superintendent Garrison and Biologist Kittams at the Montana Wildlife Federation meeting at Helena and in the Gallatin area from the 5th to the 8th when he took the Sno-Cat and participated in the elk management program in that area. He was also away on annual leave December 15 to 31.

Law Enforcement. Elmer B. Hogan, McNeil Construction Company employee, was taken before the U. S. Commissioner on the 5th and fined $100 for drunken driving and $10 for driving without brakes.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Judson of Boulder, Colorado, illegally entered the park at West Entrance on the 24th, spent the night on Gibbon Meadows, and drove around the barricade near Mammoth Hot Springs the next day. Mr. Judson was charged with failure to observe official signs and fined $10 by the U. S. Commissioner.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. ANTELOPE. The antelope herd was censused by rangers and the biologist on December 7 when visibility was good and the animals were in large groups at low elevation. Only 10 of the 395 animals seen were outside the park and they were near the boundary. From Reese Creek to Stevens Creek, 194 animals were seen, on the hills above Stevens Creek to Gardiner Elk Trap, 66, and east of the Gardner River, 125.

In conformance with the long-term plan to improve conditions for wildlife, about 275 antelope may be removed by trapping by the State of Nevada.

BEAVER. A pair of beaver have taken up residence in the Gardiner water supply ditch and are threatening to cut off the water supply.

BIGHORN SHEEP. On December 1 14 sheep were observed on the west slopes of Mt. Everts. On the 16th two were observed on the ridge northwest of the Stevens Creek Ranger Station. On the 28th 15 were seen on Deckard Flat and 20 on Druid Peak. Sheep are observed frequently near the road between Mammoth and Gardiner.

BISON. A band of about 70 bison was seen in the Lamar Horseshoe on December 12 and 18. On December 31, 78 bison, which probably included the group from the lower Horseshoe, were on the main trail between lower Hellroaring and Little Cottonwood Creeks. It is very possible this group will continue down river toward the north boundary. Only two bulls were seen in Lower Slough Creek Meadow on December 17.

Several old bulls in the Soda Butte area afford the park visitor a good opportunity to observe them. Six bulls are wintering near Madison Junction, and our one resident remains in the vicinity of Stevens Creek.

DEER. A large harvest of deer north of Gardiner has reduced their numbers somewhat. However, a group of 62 was observed along Reese Creek on the 29th. The extended deer season in Park County, Montana, remained open through December and is scheduled to close on January 5. Biologist Kittams reported relatively few deer seen on the trip from Hellroaring to Gardiner: 22 in Little Cottonwood, one in Big Cottonwood, and five between the lower Yellowstone canyon and Gardiner.

ELK. Elk in the Yellowstone drainage moved downward up to about mid-December, then remained rather stationary, Biologist Kittams reported. Between December 12 and 17 at least 200 elk moved out of the basin immediately north of the east end of Lamar Canyon. Probably they crossed to the Slough Creek Transfer area. About 350 elk were seen by Park Ranger Don Guiton and the Biologist in Lower Slough Creek Meadow on December 17. Almost no signs of elk were seen during a ride two miles above the meadow that day. The next day about 500 elk were observed from Slough Creek Transfer westward to the high trail and about 300 were estimated from there to Hellroaring Creek, from Hellroaring to Little Cottonwood, 100, and in the Big Cottonwood drainage, 30. Snow on the river trail from Big Cottonwood Creek to Crevice Creek had been packed by elk prior to the trip made on December 18. About 35 elk were seen in the Crevice Mountain area. Reports indicate very few elk, perhaps not over 25, had moved out of the park by the end of December. Protection personnel report a group of about 100 moved out of the Glen Creek area toward Mammoth Village and several large bands are located in the higher country on Stevens Creek. They reported 126 counted at Pebble Creek near the end of the month and 150 counted near the boundary on Slough Creek on the 27th.

In a discussion of the Gallatin elk herd between the Montana Fish and Game Department, U. S. Forest Service and National Park Service at Helena on December 3, it was brought out that 864 elk had been harvested by hunters in 1956, 801 had been counted in the park and Gallatin Game Preserve on November 28 and only 63 were found in the area open to hunting. It was agreed the National Park Service would haze the elk in the park, killing a few, in an attempt to move them to better range some distance north of the park. On December 7, the State counted 1,352 elk, 848 being in the park and 256 in the State Preserve.

Direct reduction was carried on in the Gallatin herd on December 6 and 17. A total of 22 animals was killed in an attempt to cause the herd to move out of the park. This attempt to move the herd was unsuccessful. Also attempts to move the herd by horseback failed. At the end of the month more than 300 animals remained within the park on the critical winter range of that area. The Montana Department of Fish and Game has decided not to reopen the Gallatin hunting area again this winter.

A total of 68 elk was killed by a two-man crew working from the Lamar Unit in addition to the 22 taken at Gallatin.

Traps were baited all month for live trapping but we were not successful in trapping enough to make a shipment. The week before Christmas we were fortunate enough to capture twelve elk, Two animals injured themselves in the traps and had to be destroyed. Their carcasses were turned over to the Montana State Fish Hatchery at Emigrant for fish food. The other ten animals, eight cows and two calves, were released as the State of Montana did not wish to send a truck for the two calves and had no authority to release the cows on Montana ranges. The ten animals did not justify a truck trip to New Mexico.

The elk hunting season which closed in the Gardiner, Montana, hunting area November 15 remained closed throughout December as a sufficient number of elk did not move into the area from the park to justify the reopening of the season.

District Rangers Murphy and Way report a very light colored cow elk west of Yancey's. It was first observed on the 17th. It is almost entirely white, the exception being a slight darkening in color under the belly.

Assistant Professor Richard D. Taber of Montana State University has requested permission to collect biological data from elk which may be killed in the park this winter for a study of effects of herd reduction on reproduction and survival of the herd. Arrangements were made to assist him as much as possible in his study.

Biologist Kittams, assisted by rangers Murphy, Peterson and Guiton, classified 3,646 elk, by age and sex, of the northern Yellowstone herd between October and December. The calf to cow ratio in this sample was 28.3 : 100.0, slightly below the average for the past eight years. Yearling bulls were represented only half as often in the sample this year as in previous years, suggesting an unusually high loss of at least males which started as calves in the spring of 1955.

MOOSE. A bull calf was hit by a vehicle near Grayling Creek on the 27th. It was killed and dressed out the next morning and turned over to Montana State Game Warden Sears who was to give it to the orphanage at Ennis, Montana.

SWAN. Nine trumpeter swan are wintering on the Madison River.

Range. Biologist Kittams reported temperatures about average for the month except for a rather warm period extending through the first four days followed by an unusually cold period of four days. High winds prevailed from December 8 to 10, removing the snow from most of the ridges and packing the snow over a considerable portion of the remainder of the winter ranges. Precipitation at Mammoth, most of which fell between December 5 and 16, aggregated 1.39 inches, slightly above the normal of 1.30 inches.

The crust which existed in the bottom layer of old snow early in the month crystallized somewhat and appeared to be less restricting to grazing animals by the end of December. Snow depths at the end of the year were 15 inches in Lower Slough Creek Meadow, 8 inches in Lamar Valley and 3 inches by Stevens Creek Ranger Station. Elk appeared to be feeding over all of the range except those areas where snow has deposited in deep drifts. An unusual amount of use of forage on critical areas free of snow can probably be attributed to the extremely coarse texture of the snow which hampers foraging in the areas where forage is most abundant.

Forest Fire Protection. The forest fire protection and building fire protection sections of the Annual Forestry Report were prepared by the fire dispatcher and fire chief. These were typed and ready for transmittal at the close of the month.

Material was collected for use in reviewing the 1956 fire season. This includes fire logs, weather records, fire reports and other sources of information having a bearing upon the past fire season.

Tree Diseases. A meeting at the Regional Office has been scheduled during the week of January 28 to discuss and determine the 1957 blister rust control program. Forester John C. Gynn of the Division of Blister Rust Control, U. S. Forest Service, Missoula, Montana, will attend this meeting as will Forester Barrows from Yellowstone.

Forest Insects. On December 10 a conference was held regarding the spruce budworm situation at Yellowstone with Messrs. Garrison, Hamilton, Condon, Brown, Kittams, Edwards and Barrows participating. Philip Johnson of the Missoula Forest Insect Laboratory visited the park on December 14 and discussed the current budworm situation in a meeting with Messrs. Garrison, Hamilton, Brown, Condon and Barrows. As a result of the meeting Mr. Johnson will prepare a special budworm appraisal survey report with recommendations on the Yellowstone infestation. The Laboratory personnel will also sample the overwintering budworm population by collecting bole sections in January.

Design and Construction

New Construction. The activities of the McNeil Construction Company, contractor for the Yellowstone Park Company and Hamilton Stores, Inc. building construction at the new Canyon Village, were terminated December 11 because of the inclement weather. The roads to Canyon were kept open through December 15 in order that the contractor could move out and the Park Service could close things up for the year. It is estimated that the late season operation of the Canyon water system for the contractor cost in excess of $1,700, the operation of the electrical generators and the power system cost an additional $1,085, and the cost of keeping the roads open until December 15 (Mammoth to Canyon and West Yellowstone to Norris) was $6,300. Thus the extended maintenance and operation season which was brought on by the accelerated construction season in the Canyon and Lake areas was cause for expenditure of $9,085 above ordinary operation.

All other construction projects were closed down for the winter except the Reconstruction of Walks in Thermal Areas. A small crew was engaged in the fabrication of wooden walks for this project. When the fabrication is completed, the walks will be dip-treated with a preservative and installed early next spring.

Robert Boyce, Architect, WODC, spent two days in the park from December 13 to 14 to confer with park officials and the contractor on details in regard to the proposed government buildings to be constructed in the Canyon Village next summer.

Utilities. The bid of Land-Air, Inc. of Chicago, Illinois, for the Engineering, Furnishing and Installing of FM Radio Equipment in the park was accepted and Contract No. 14-10-243-252 awarded December 3. The bid, opening date of which was October 4, was accepted with exception of Alternate Item No. VIII, "Winter Patrol Repeater". Total non-recurring charges amount to $31,160.16 and the annual leasing costs total $28,471.35.

Lemuel A. Garrison
Superintendent

Monthly Progress Report Forms attached

In triplicate

Copy to Region Two w/c Forms
Files (2)✓
Joffe Office Files
ekm

FORM 10-24

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

REGION Two

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

REPORT FOR December, 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					
321.2 and 521,2 Guard Rail Construction			116,000.00	95%	C
521.3 Bituminous Surfacing and Parking Areas, 1-F1, F2, 1-G4, and Norris-Canyon Cutoff, Sec. 12A	R-92-9 R-168-1 R-210		554,515.00	5%	C

FORM 10-771
(Revised December 1950)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

REGION Two

* ~~NPS ROADS AND TRAILS~~

REPORT FOR December, 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					
331.17 Comfort Stations, Fishing Bridge Campground	B-52-3 (por.)	YEL-2126-B 3429	123,510.03 8/10/56	70%	C
331.18 Buildings and L.P. Gas System, Canyon	B-5-1 31-5 90 263 281 311 U-27-2	YEL-3402-E 3410-C 3411-C 3412-C 3421-B 3422-C 3423-C 3424-C 3433 PG-3030	656,725.22 10/10/56	0	C Cop Construction Company Billings, Montana
332.19 Main Electric System, Canyon	U-10-7	YEL-3418 3419	106,536.00	40%	C
332.21 Utilities, Main Sewer System, Canyon, and Water Supply System, Canyon Hotel	U-44-8 U-43-8 (por.)	YEL-3405	371,863.74 9/14/55	90%	C
332.22 Water, Sewer, Power; Employees' Trailer Court, Lake	U-170	YEL-2288	8,585.17	70%	DL
332.23 Water Extension, Government Area, Lake	U-94	YEL-2288	17,000.00	60%	DL
332.24 Cabin Area Water and Sewer Systems at Lodge Area, Lake	U-147-3 U-148-3	YEL-3420	74,963.00 8/1956	60%	C
332.25 Reservoir No. 2, Canyon	U-[illegible]	YEL-3426	113,6[illegible] 7/1[illegible]	70%	C

* Cross out the one not being used

(Revised December 1950)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

* ROADS AND TRAILS

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

REGION TWO

REPORT FOR December, 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					
332.26 Water and Sewer Systems, Employees' Trailer Court and Government Area, Canyon	U-176-1 U-176-1	YEL-3417	46,420.00 8/1956	15%	C Work Order 11/29/56
332.27 Purchase and Installation of Diesel Generator, Canyon	U-185	YEL-2530-A	40,423.16	0	Work Order 10/16/56
333.3 Campground Facilities, Tables, Fireplaces, etc., Fishing Bridge	M-61-2	YEL-2573 YEL-3316	34,061.83 9/27/54	76%	DL
333.4 Campground Facilities, Tables, Fireplaces, etc., Canyon	M-5-3	YEL-2385	22,842.41 9/27/54	86%	DL
333.5 Grading and Planting, Campground, Fishing Bridge	M-37	YEL-2284	8,500.00	50%	DL
333.6 Fencing Water Supply, Lake Fishing Bridge	M-52-1		12,619.59	0	C AA-43-19 $772.59 Transfered from 333.4
333.8 Amphitheater, Canyon	M-43	YEL-2199	500/00	0	AA-43-19 $53,900.00 Transfered to Acc. 331.18
333.9 Campfire Circles, Mammoth and West Thum	M-42-3 M-75-2		17,000.00	20%	DL

FORM 10-771
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MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7-5

*~~BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES~~

REGION TWO

* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

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REPORT FOR December, 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						
523.1 Roads, Campsites, Barriers: Route 152, Fishing Bridge Campground, Grade and Surface 2148 feet Drives & 8073 feet of Camp Loop Road	R-26-1 (por.)		96,000.00	68%	DL	
523.2 Lake Lodge Area Roads, Route 151: Grade and Surface 2.75 miles	R-149-2 (por.)	YEL-2576	160,000.00 8/55	41%	DL	
523.4 Trail, Canyon Village to Hotel and Canyon Rim	R-171	YEL-2285	25,920.00	65%	DL	
523.5 Walks, Thermal Areas	R-164-1	YEL-5657	10,000.00	65%	DL	Materials purchased and partially fabricated.
523.6 Trail to Lower Falls from North Rim, Canyon	R-162	YEL-2257	20,000.00	50%	DL	
523.7 Grading and Drainage of Roads, Employees' Trailer Court and Government Area	R-169	YEL-3409	11,638.00 8/17/56	15%	C	
523.8 Interpretive Structures and Striping Center Line and Parking Areas, Grand Loop 1-F1, F2, 1-G4 and Norris-Canyon Cutoff, 12-A	R-60-8 R-92-9		13,810.00	0	DL	Approval of Work Order pending.

* Cross out the one not being used

(Issued December 1950)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT [illegible]

REGION [illegible]

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

REPORT FOR December, [illegible]
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					
YELLOWSTONE PARK COMPANY					
Canyon Cabin Office Building				72%	Work closed down for winter.
Canyon Village Cabins, 500 Cabin Rooms				84%	Work closed down for winter.
Canyon Lodge		YEL-8485	7/31	65%	Work closed down for winter.
Canyon Dormitories		YEL-8487	7/31	80%	Work closed down for winter.
HAMILTON STORES, INC.					
Dormitories, Canyon		YEL-8490	7/31	76%	Work closed down for winter.
Store, Canyon		YEL-8448	7/31	80%	Work closed down for winter.
YELLOWSTONE SERVICE STATIONS					
None					

Cut-out [illegible]
anford Hall [illegible]
itated by [illegible]
front of [illegible]
at smooth [illegible]

Cut-out figures of [illegible] and [illegible] made [illegible] Hanford [illegible] in the [illegible], are [illegible] and rehabilitated by [illegible] group [illegible] tions at [illegible] for the holiday season. [illegible] holiday spirit.

[illegible] by [illegible]