











# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

#### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE No. 143

MONTHLY REPORTS

April, 1927



Dear Sir:

The following is my report on conditions in Yellowstone Hational Park, and on the activities of the National Park Service, for the month of April, 1927:

000 - General

Superintendent Albright was absent from the park during the entire month in connection with his duties as Assistant Director (Field), and in his absence Hr. Lordy Hill was acting, except for a couple of days (April 12 and 13) when he was on annual leave. In Hr. Hill's absence Hr. Joffe was acting Superintendent.

Road Conditions: There were no roads open to motor travel beyond park headquarters prior to May 1st. However, on May 1st a work crew employed by Mr. J. E. Raynes, park concessioner, went through with a truck from park headquarters to his store at Tower Falls, and on May 2nd Mr. C. A. Hamilton, park concessioner, traveled by motor truck from Old Faithful to West Yellowstone. These roads are not in good condition, but they are passable for necessary travel between these points. The Cooke City road has been passable for motor trucks as far as Seda Sutte since May 1st. The Cody road will be opened to Sylvan Pasa Station at an early date. The first car arrived at Pahaska Inn on May 2nd. The Gallatin highway was opened to auto travel to Gallation Station during the last week of April and offorts are now being made to open the road between West Yellowstone and Ashton, Idaho, at an early date. The snow is receding rapidly between Snake River station and Moran, Woming. There are some washouts along Pacific Creek that are now being repaired. The road will be opened to auto travel to Snake River station at an early date. The park highways extending from the loop road to Sylvan Pass and Snake River stations will probably not be opened to travel before June 15th.

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#### 100 - Administrative

#### 120 - Park inspections by

- 123 National Park Service officers: Mr. Noble J. Milt, Accountant of the Mational Park Service, who was here assisting with the installation of the new bookkeeping system, left on April 13th. Mr. Moen of Crater Lake Mational Park and Mr. Oscar W. Carlson of Mt. Rainier Mational Park, who were here for instruction in the new system of accounting, left for their parks on April 10 and April 12 respectively.
- 124 Other Interior Department Officers: Inspector William A. Blossom of the Interior Department and Er. Felix E. Cristofane of the General Accounting Office, who were here giving instruction in the installation of the new system, left here on April 13th. They went to Rocky Mountain Park from here.

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130 - Finance and accounts:

The total amount of the combined appropriations available to Yellowstone Mational Park for the current fiscal year is \$537.472.89. The status of the appropriations for Yellowstone Mational Park as of April 30th is as follows:

APPROPRIATION 46433 THILOSOTORS HATIONAL PARK, 1926.

	Allotments	Expended	Balance
	353.083.00	352,903.85	179-15
Expended during April	353,083.00	352,903.85	179.15
APPROPRIATION 45453	THLL STORE	MATIONAL PARM,	1926-27
Previously reported Expended during April	28.700.00	27,341.21	1,358.79
completenance were really colour an	28,700.00	27.345.74	1,354.26
APPROPRIATION 47453	YMLLOUSTONS	NATIONAL PARK,	1927
Previously reported	340,586.00	282,790.05	57.795.95
small denoted or never week ville ville wa	340,586.00	303.446.08	37.139.92
APPROPRIATION 4×436	ROADS AND T	RAILS, MATTOMAL	PANKS
Previously reported Expended during April	137.876.37	103,261.61	34.614.76
expenses carries obert	137.876.37	111,957.02	25.937.55
APPROPRIATION 474%	INDICT INTE	PATION, MAC'1	Parks, 1927
Previously reported Expended during April	2,500.00	1,041.10	1,458.90
	2,500.00	1,041,10	1.458.90
appropriation 42433	ANTTOMASOM:	NATIONAL PARK,	1927-28
(Previously)reported	30,000.00	1,169.27	26,630.73

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## 150 - Equipment and supplies

Amployees of the transportation department were engaged during the month in hauling rations and freight from Gardiner to Massoth (44 tons), hay and cats from Massoth to ranger station at Gardiner, hay for feeding elk, and gasoline and market supplies from Gardiner to Massoth. Amployees of the store-house were engaged in receiving and storing supplies and equipment. Some equipment was painted, also some counters, etc.

## 200 - Maintenance, improvements and New Construction

#### 210 - Noad maintenance

Road maintenance was started around Hammoth this month on the 28th. The work was more of a try-out of new equipment, but all the roads in Mammoth were reshaped and prepared for the spring travel. New cast steel wheels were received for the Wehr grader and those were put into use.

During the past month our mechanics have been building an oil distributor for experimental purposes and one barrel of oil was applied to a section of the road to try out the machine and also to try out the oil, which was a sample audmitted by the Gilmore Oil Company of Los Angeles, Calif., and which was recommended as being a very good dust layer. Due to low temperatures, only a very light application of the oil was made, and only time and traffic will tell us the results.

The road to Tower Falls was opened April 24th and 30th, by the Haynes Company. Some attention was given this road during the week in diverting water and keeping the road from being eroded. The road has come through the mouth in very good shape and except where there is actually know is dry and hard and able to take traffic. It will be kept closed to traffic until entirely free of snow.

The mail stage will start May 1st with auto stage to Soda Butte.

#### 220 - Improvements - Buildings:

Oarpenter Shop: The two carpenters spent most of the time making or repairing our freight truck bedies. They repaired three bedies this menth and worked on two others. Some maintenance was required on different buildings, but this has required but little carpenter work. The remainder of the saws were filed and 10 mass chests were repaired.

Painting Department: The following work was done by the Master Painter during the month: Finished painting, varnishing and paperhanging in dining and living rooms at Dr. Brady's quarters, including pointing and varnish-staining of floors; sanded all floors on second floor of Mr. Albright's quarters and refinished same with three coats of varnish; waxed first floor floors and varnished floor and stairway of back hallway in same quarters; New equipment for museum and ranger office varnished and stained; miscellaneous work about Massmoth glasing, etc.

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Plumbing department: The following work was done by the plumbing department during the month: Six steam plants and four hot water plants were operated during the month, consuming one cord of wood and 43 tons of coal; repaired refrigorators, camp ranges, Sibley stoves and oil truck; installed two new flush toilets, one in bunkhouse and one in Sachelor Building; installed 5 12" packless radiator valves in Mr. Albright's quarters; repaired sprayers for mosquito control; minor repairs to inside plumbing and heating systems at Manmoth; maintenance to water and sewer systems at Manmoth. Also constructed new concrete manhole in sewer system; repaired wall on new reservoir, the comprete of which had decomposed. 80 x 10 feet of wall was rebuilt, using 16 yds. of concrete and 600 feet of minforcing steel. Commenced work of mosquite control at Manmoth.

Electrical department: The following work was done by the Electrical Department during the menth: Repaired 6 old telephones; elemed and painted truck; inspected and took down all old wiring and attachment cords in bunk-house; hung 1 3 KW transformer at Mr. McParland's quarters; reset 6 street lamp poles.

Garage: The following work was done in the shops and garage during the month: Completely overhauled 1 gravel truck (F.W.D.No. 551), three freight trucks (White No. 536, Mack No. 557 and Ford 541), 1 touring car, No. 12, Mr. Joffe's personal car, 2 motor road graders (Wehr and Russell No. 3), 1 Holt 75 Caterpillar and 6 dump wagons; rebuilt 4 road oil tanks; assembled on F.W.D. truck 1 Kinney oil distributor for experimental purposes.

#### 230 - New construction - roads

Special equipment is being placed in condition for our new work this season but no work has been done in the field.

#### 240 - Improvement of roads outside park:

The letting of the contract for Project 239-A, which is the road out of Wilsall, will be at an early date, it is amounced by County Commissioner Mnox. This road will extend 5.68 miles from Wilsall north. This will be immediately followed by the letting of the contract on Project 239-3, which is the continuation of the Park county project, and runs into Meagher County about 2-1/2 miles. The construction and surfacing of these two projects are to be completed this year and in addition to this north county program it is planned to complete at least half of the construction work between Maigrant and Carbella this year. This means that Park county will enjoy a completed north and south road by the end of 1928. With the construction of the bridge at Sardiner, for which \$50,000 has been allotted by the Forestry Department in 1928, and with the cooperation of the county, the State Highway Cosmission and U.S. Bureau of Public Roads, barring unforseen complications, the road from Livington to Gardiner will be completed next year. The Solton-Glacier cut-off, for which \$160,000 has been allotted this year and \$100,000 for next year, will be completed next year, and when this out-off is completed Park county hopes to get some of the enormous traffic which will come from the northwest over this highway.

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Sheritan-Levell Righway: This highway over the Big Horns will be open to travel this year. Sheridan County appropriated the \$12,000 necessary to complete the read to Steamboat Rock, the summit of the Big Horns, and the Forest Service appropriated \$78,000. Bids will be called for immediately and the work started so on.

## 260 - Landscape work:

The Yellowstone Park Camps Company started work on the new cabins for the Massoth auto camp. The locations of the cabins were made from maps furnished by the Landscape Engineer. Employees of the Camps Company were also engaged in painting some cabins and some tables were made. The Haynes Company started the construction of a studio in the Massoth auto camp and the location of this building was made from instructions from the Landscape Engineer.

The Yellowstone Perk Transportation Company completed the planting and landscape work around the shops and dwellings at Gardiner. The planting was done excording to a map which Mr. Vint made last fall. An effort was made to rush the results of this work and trees with most of their branches left on were transplanted. If the trees live it will be only two or three years when they will show maturity and effectually change the landscape.

#### 300 - Activities of other agencies in the park

Mr. George Whittaker, operator of stores in the park, arrived in the park on April 10.

Mr. C. A. Hamilton, who also operates stores in the park, arrived on April 3rd and left headquarters for Old Faithful on the 16th with two helpers.

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#### 400 - Flora, fauna and natural phenomena

#### 410 - Ranger service

Chief Ranger Woodring was absent from the park from the 1st to the 15th. His absence was pursuant to arrangements with Superintendent Albright to meet him at Grand Canyon Mational Park on April 3rd for the purpose of discussing plans for the spring season work in Yellowstone and other mattess relating to ranger appointments, forest fire prevention plans. etc. He made this trip at his own expense in order to facilitate the spring season work. His activities since the 15th have consisted principally of repairs to pack and saddle horse equipment, supervision of ditch cleaning and repairs to fences at the Gardiner and Hoppe Hanghes, spring cleanup work at blacktail Cabin and the stretching of a wire cable across the Yellowstone at this point to provide a means of crossing the river when it cannot be safely forded. Strong supports have been provided on each shore of the stream. The conveyance consists of a box, specially built for the purposes, suspended from two pulleys attached to the cable. An endless rope attached to each and of the box makes it accessible at all times from either shore of the stream. This arrangement will greatly facilitate ranger patrols during periods when the river camet be safely forded, particularly during the flood water period of the spring season, and during the winter season when fording is dangerous on account of the ice.

Assistants Chief Ranger Trischman, Douglas and Lick were on special patrol in the Upper Lamar River District during the first week of the month. Douglas returned to headquarters via Buffale Banch and Tower Falls. Trischman returned via Tellowstone Lake and Grand Canyon. Lick returned to Lake Station and proceeded from themos on the regular ten day patrol of the Upper Tellowstone country. He has since returned to his duty station, patroled from thence to headquarters and is now on 18 days' annual leave beginning on the 25th. Trischmen and Douglas were in charge of all ranger activities in connection with the removal of Park Ranger Charles Phillips, deceased, from Old Faithful to West Yellowstone, Montana. This was a very difficult task on account of snow conditions, stormy weather and temperature variations. The remains were transported on a toboggan by man-power (7 rangers) for a distance of 30 miles, immediately following the arrival of the mon from distances varying from 30 to 50 miles. This work was accomplished from the 13th to 16th inclusive. Douglas returned to headquarters on the 21st and has since been assisting the Chief Ranger with spring season work in the headquarters district. Trischman was on special patrol and other duties in the Western Supervisory Territory from the 17th to 25th. He was granted 16 days amual leave beginning the 27th.

Assistant this Ranger Greer was in charge of all protection department activities during the absence of this Ranger Woodring (April 1st to 15th). His other activities have been in connection with the detail work of the Chief Ranger's office, consisting in part of report compilation, correspondence with applicants for ranger appointments, preparation of requests for these appointments and all paper work incident to the same. There has been an unusually large volume of correspondence throughout the month.

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The duties of rangers in the various station districts have consisted principally of routine work, which included regular and special patrols, snow removal from buildings, observing and reporting water gage heights, precipitation, snow depths, temperatures, etc., winter season repairs and maintenance of telephone lines, predatory animal hunting, cooking, washing, cleanup and other household work at their duty stations.

Very little spring cleanup work has been accomplished on account of snow depths and weather conditions. Travel conditions have been difficult throughout the month but all patrols have been made with only slight variances from the regular schedules although 10 men have been granted amual leave at intervals consistent with their duties. This is the preferred period of the year for the granting of amual leave as it enables us to have all men available for the spring season work.

#### 470 - Animals

Wild animal and forage conditions have been adversely affected by weather conditions during the second and third weeks of the month. This period was generally stormy, unusual snowfall occurred and the temperatures were the lowest of record for this season of the year. Night temperatures ranged from 11 to 22 degress below zero at all points on the higher elevations for 5 successive nights beginning on the 17th. The elk and deer losses were in excess of normal during this period. Severe losses were averted by the mild weather conditions of the closing week of the month. Large areas of good forage have been uncovered and fresh grasses are growing profusely on the lower elevations. Wild animal conditions have materially improved.

Elk: There were no unusual elk movements during the month. Large bands are now ranging the slopes of Everts and Sepulcher Mountains, the entire Blacktail District and along the east side of the Yellowstone River from Crevice Basin to Slough Creek. Considerable numbers have moved up on the slopes of Specimen Ridge, and the exposed ridges east of the lamar in the vicinity of the Buffalo Banch. The following winter season losses occurred during the month: Blacktail District 8, Hellroaring District 75. Sellatin District 67. Soda Butte District 12. Riverside District 4. Crevice District 25. Slough Creek District 32. Masmoth District 28. Gardiner District 30. Reece Creek District 38. and Tower Falls District 18 - total for the month 337. This total consists of 13 bulls. 30 cows. 148 calves add 146 that have not been classified. The previously reported losses. exclusive of shipments and the kills made by hunters, are 103. The total winter season loss to date is 440. All dead animals examined were covered with ticks which are regarded as one of the principal causes for the losses of the past two months.

The following article appeared in the Jackson Hole Courier for March 24, 1927; "Although the recount of the elk is not quite completed, present totals reported show slightly above 19,000 elk. As a whole the elk are in better condition than expected, and while losses have occurred, particularly among the calves and no doubt quite a few will die yet before the green grass arises, such losses will not materially reduce the herd. Of the number counted 6,953 are on the Biological Food Grounds and 2,205 are being

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fed by the State, which makes a total of 9,158 head being fed. Even considering the most severe weather possible, the probabilities of at lesst 50 per cent of the elk off the feed grounds getting thru is without doubt; and there is no question that the hunting will be as good as ever. As far as we can see now, our great-grandchildren will enjoy elk steak, killed by themselves in Jackson's Hole, just as much as we do now."

Deer: There were no unusual counts submitted during the month, although they were observed in their usual numbers by rangers on patrol. The winter kills during the month were in excess of normal on account of siverse weather and forage conditions and the tick infestation. The losses have been noted as follows: Gordiner District 5, Reece Creek District 12. Mammo th District 3, Crevice District 1, Hellroaring District 2, and Soda Sutte District 1, total 29. The previously reported losses, emclusive of the kills made by hunters, were 32, making a total this season to date of 61. The total loss from all causes is 171. The estimated total in the park as submitted last Sop tember was 1850.

antelope: The antelope losses have also been in excess of normal during the month, as indicated by the following reports by rangers on patrol: Winter range outside the park 7, and Gardiner District, within the park, 6, total 13, which, together with 5 previously reported, makes a total loss of 18 this season to date. Five of this number were destroyed by coyetes, one was accidentally killed, and 12 apparently died from natural causes. The tick infestation and adverse weather conditions were, no doubt, contributing causes to the loss. The heri appears to be in excellent condition at the present time. They are moving up along the Tellowstone as the snow recedes from the higher elevations and there are very few on their winter range outside the park. A band of 14 crossed Hellroaring Greek an route to the lamer River District on the 12th. No unusual counts were submitted during the month. The largest count of recent years, consisting of 641, was submitted in the March 1927 report.

Sheep: A loss of 3. two rams and a ewe, were observed in the Tower Falls District during the month, which, together with 3 proviously reported, makes a total loss of 6 from natural causes this season to date. Ten were killed by hunters last fall in areas adjacent to the park. The total loss from all causes is 16. The largest sheep count secured during the past winter season was 346, which is the largest actual count submitted in recent years. The various bands observed during the month were in good condition.

Moose: There is nothing of interest to add to the moose counts submitted in previous reports. A loss of 2 was reported during the month. The carcass of a young bull was found near Glen Greek, Mammoth District, and a large bull was killed in a snowslide near the head of Cache Creek. The total reported losses this season to date are noted as follows: One from natural causes and one from socidental causes within the park, 25 were lawfully killed by hunters in the State of Montana, resulting, in one conviction, and two were unlawfully

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killed by hunters in the State of Idaho, total 40. Moose conditions are excellent and they are quite generally distributed throughout the park. They have been frequently seen in the headquarters district during the past winter season.

in progress since early in the month to newly uncovered forage areas along the lamar from the Canyon to its junction with the Yellowstone. These movements resulted in the complete abandonment of the feed ground on the 25th and feeding was concluded on this date. One hundred and eighty-five come were observed to be with ealf early in the month and the first calf of the 1927 crop arrived on the 13th. A total of 39 arrived during the month but unfortunately much of the calving occurred in the night time during the cold wave of the 17th to 21st, resulting in a loss of 19 from freezing. This is another instance of unusual losses by reason of the adverse weather conditions of the second and third weeks of the month. A loss of one adult bull from natural causes occurred in the Slough Creek district during the month. The herd total at this time exclusive of the 1927 calf crop, is 818. The winter season losses, exclusive of the 1927 calf crop, cansist of the following: Winter kills 2, shipments and animals killed because of alvanced age or other infirmities 35, total 37. Herd conditions, except as above no tod, have been excellent.

Buffalo, Cold-Greek-Pelican Greek Herd: A special count of this herd was in progress when the March report was submitted. Patrols of this District by Assistants Chief Ranger Trischass Donglas and Liek and Ranger Anderson were made during the period March 29th to April 7th inclusive. They found snow depths ranging from 3-1/2 to 5 feet. The snow was heavily crusted and there were no exposed ridges in the entire district. All wild animal life observed was in very poor condition. This consisted entirely of buffalo, although a few signs of moose and elk were seen. The count as indicated by location is submitted as follows: Outlet of Death Gulch 3, at mouth of Bouth Fork of Cache Creek 3, on middle fork of Cache Creek 5, on plateau between Cache and Miller Creeks 16, along Lamar Hiver below junction with Miller Creek 3, along Timothy Greek 2, along Willow Creek 5, on divide between Willow and Cold Creeks 2, along Pelican Creek 6, along Raven Creek 1, and 2 were observed in the vicinity of Turbid Lake, total 48.

The largest count of recent years was submitted in the December 1926 report. The total count submitted at that time was 72, which is 24 in excess of the recent count, but in view of the recent tendency of some of these bands to move down to the Lamar River feed grounds it is quite probable that the animals comprising the difference between these counts were mingling with the Lamar River hard at the time. This is a reasonable conclusion when the deep mow and forage conditions are considered as it is almost inconceivable that buffale can remain in this district and survive the conditions observed in the patrols above noted. Deep snow conditions will probably prevent any considerable movements by those bands and a high percentage of loss is anticipated.

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Bears: Bears of the black and brown variety are now seen almost daily in the vicinity of all stations along the loop road. Their spring season appearance is usually attended by minor depredations in connection with their search for food, but no property loss or damage has been reported this season to date. Signs of a grizzly bear were first observed by rangers on patral in the vicinity of Twin Lakes on the 13th. Additional signs were observed in the Canyon and Loke Districts late in the month.

Predatory Animals: No signs of wolf or lion were observed during the month but coyotes are numerous, as usual, throughout the park. It is not unusual to see them in groups of from three to five. A total of 12 were destroyed by rangers during the month which, together with 226 previously reported, makes a total of 238, as compared with 243 to May 1st last year and 172 to May 1st, 1925.

Small animals: There is no thing of special interest to report con-

Water Fowl: Dunks and goese are abundant, as usual, along the various streams in the park and ll swam are frequently seen at the outlet of Yellow-stone Lake.

Park arrived by express from Fort Wayne, Indiana, on the 29th. The consigner. Mr. Harry H. Soughers, captured a golden eagle about 6 months ago that was disabled because of a wing injury. It was kept in captivity pending recovery and pursuant to arrangements with Acting Superintendent Hill, was shipped here for release in the park at Mr. Sougher's expense. Mr. Soughers is of the opinion that by reason of it being comparatively tame there is a chance of it remaining in the park where it will have the desired protection from hunters. The bird was seen two days after its release at a point within a mile of park headquarters. The observer approached to within a distance of 50 yards without causing him to fly from his perch. He was well fed and extensively photographed before his release. We have written the consignee with full particulars and expressed our appreciation for his interest in this magnificent bird.

the bird life for the month has been about as usual for the place and season.

The small lake, Ice lake, between Mannoth and Gardiner has had its usual flock of courting Barrow goldeneyes, with mallards, toal, an occasional goose and presumably the other usual materfowl. As the month ends, the goldeneyes have dwindled to a fraction of their number earlier in the month.

The ospreys of so-called Magle Most Rock near Gardiner first were no ted on the 23rd, one of the pair being them seen on the edge of the nest.

By the 23rd blackinds, robins, song sparrows, sparrowhawks and large souring hawks were numerous, as were thick-billed red-winged black-birds and Cassin purple finches.

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The coming of the first swallow is always un event worthy of note, swallows being so closely identified with summer or at least summer-like weather. The first was noted on the 25th of the month. On that date two or three tree swallows were seen about our mess house.

There have been, apparently at least, more than the usual numbers of Clarke nutorackers about. They have been very much in evidence daily all through the month. On one occasion I counted fourteen in, under, and about the large solitary pine in front of the Weather Bureau.

Buffalo and Other Ranch Operations: The activities at the buffalo ranch have consisted principally of buffalo, alk and horse feeding. All wild animal feeding was concluded on the 25th. Other activities have consisted of ditch cleaning, repairs and maintenance of fences, buildings, and equipment. Rik feeding was concluded at the Blough Creek Ranch on the 25th. Other activities have consisted of horse feeding, cleanup and maintenance work.

There were no activities at the Yancsy Ranch during the month. One man has been employed at ditch cleaning and repairs to fences on the Hoppe Ranch throughout the month. The water was turned on the hay fields at this point on the 30th.

One man has been employed at the Gardiner Ranch since the 17th. His activities have consisted principally of ditch cleaning and the irrigating of hay lands. Spring season work at the various ranches has been considerably delayed on account of adverse weather conditions. A statement of the balance of hay on hand at each of the ranches and the tournage fed during the winter season will be submitted in the May report.

## 480 - Matural Phonomena

Masmoth Hot Springs: The greatest change in the appearance of the hot spring formations during the month of April is due to the fast-disappearing snow. It is now possible to cover nearly the entire territory without wading in snow banks. There has been quite a neticeable increase in the volume of water from all of the springs reported active last month but as yet Angel. How Highland and White slophent remain entirely dormant.

A number of pink-sided juncos were found in cracks and small caves, overcome by carbonic said gas. Stygian and Stalactite Caves are filled with great sheets of ico, inicles and broken travertine which have thered loose and dropped into them from above. Another olk, a cow, was found dead in the road north of Orange Spring. There are still no bats in Devil's Kitchen.

The most besatiful terrace, outside of Jupiter itself, at Munmoth at the present time, both in coloring and delicate tracery of its travertime, is the newer portion of Hymon.

Eight robins were counted feeding within one small, marshy area and in enother place in a grove of shrubby codars twelve or fifteen Clarks nutcrackers were seen flitting through the trees or over the ground and calling noisily to each other.

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Bath Lake is still quite dry and there is still no water in Seda Spring.

490 - Miscellaneous: The following live mounts were added to the Park Museum exhibits during the month: I buck antelope, I buck deer, I red for and a beaver. These mounts were prepared by Jonas Bros., Eaxidermists, of Livingston, Mont. They are all unusually fine specimens.

Pursuant to the pelicy of the Service of preventing traffic in elk teeth the Chief Park Ranger destroyed in the presence of Acting Superintendent Hill (May 4. 1927) 41-1/2 pairs of cow teeth and 14-1/2 pairs of bull teeth recently extracted by rangers from dead animals observed on patrols.

The first public auto camper of the season spont the night of April 27th at Marmoth Camp.

Assistant Chief Hanger Liek had the experience, on March 28th, of being lost while on a ski patrol across Yellowstone Lake. He was overtaken by a blizzard when about midway of the lake, all landmarks were lost to view and he traveled in circles continuously for about four hours. The shore line finally became visible and he arrived safely at the ranger station at 10 p.m.

- 510 Increase or decrease in travel: all entrance and exit travel during the month was via the Gardiner Gateway. There was no travel beyond perk head-quarters. Preseason visitors are not registered and we have no exact check of the travel. Road conditions have been good between Livingston, Mont., and park headquarters and the wild animal life so abundantly seen in the Masmoth District has attracted increasing numbers of visitors. One hundred and forty-seven visitors traveling in 49 cars are known to have journeyed to Masmoth Not Springs during the month. The total preseason travel to date consists of 1585 visitors in 574 cars as compared with 827 visitors in 224 cars during the same period of preseason travel lest year.
- 520 General weather conditions: THEP ERATURE: Monthly mean, 33.90 is 3.10 below normal. The first week was near normal in temperature, followed by two weeks of unprecedently cold and generally stormy weather for so late in the season. However, comparatively warm sunshing weather prevailed during the last week. The highest temperature was 690 on the 26th; lowest 20 on the 20th. PREDIPITATION: Total 1.53 inches, is 0.15 inch above normal. It practically all occurred as snow. SWOWFALL: Total 13.8 inches; no mal 8.1 inches. In the storm of the 17-18th, 6.8 inches of snow occurred, which is the greatest 24-hour snowfall for the past two winters, or since December 16, 1924. However, the snow soon dis appeared under the influence of the warmer weather that followed. Will: Average hourly velocity was 9.3 miles; normal 8.1 miles. There were no excessively high winds, the maximum velocity being 35 miles per hour from the south on the 18th. SUMS HINE: Percentage of possible 51; normal 57. The first 19 days were markedly deficient in sumshine, while the remainder of the month was generally fair and sunshing. Number of days alear 7, partly cloudy 11, cloudy 12, with precipitation 18.

Form 1030 is attached hereto.

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521 Snow Depths: Snow depths throughout the park with comparative figures for 1925 and 1925 are noted as follows:

Station			Inches 1925		hes 326	Inches 1927
Lake Smake River Sylvan Pass Riverside Gallatin Slough Creek,		Ranch Ranch	29 30 16 Drifts only 15 6 Drifts only	Drifts	only	28 47 24 16 15 16 12 28
Canyon  Bechler River  Cooke City Str  Old Faithful	tion		30 42 24 Drifts only	Drifts	8 only "	28 55 22 24

Enow depths along the highway from Golden Gate to Norris vary from 24 to 34 inches. There is 30 inches at Virginia Meadows, 34 inches on Blanding Hill and an average depth of 26 inches from the summit of Blanding Hill to Canyon Junction. The depths at Sylvan Pass, Dunraven Pass and on the Continental Divide between Thumb and Snake River are known to be in excess of normal but actual measurements have not been secured. There was 158 inches at the Seven Mile Post north of Snake River on April 12th. There was a rapid decrease in snow depths during the closing week of the month. A decrease of 18 inches was reported from Soda Butte Cabin, 24 inches at Slough Creek, 19 inches at Canyon, 16 inches at Lake, 26 inches at Sylvan Pass, 25 inches at Snake River, 27 inches at Old Faithful and 29 inches at Riverside. The ice is breaking up at the outlet of Yellowstone Lake and flood water conditions prevail in all the streams. The roads from Gardiner and West Yellowstone to Old Faithful, Canyon, and Yellowstone Lake will be opened to tourist travel on or about June 1st.

## 600 - Protection

## 630 - Accidents

Death of Charles Phillips, Park Ranger. The circumstances in connection with the death of Mr. Phillips are related by Ernest Bauer, Caretaker at Old Faithful Inn, as follows: Mr. Phillips called at the Bauer residence about 8 o'clock on the evening of April 11th, 1927. He had been making daily calls at this hour to hear the radio weather reports and frequently stayed until quite late in the evening when the radio entertainment was good. On this evening (April 11th, 1927) he was shown some root specimens of a wild plant that Mr. Bauer had collected near a warm spring in the vicinity of the Inn. There was some discussion as to whether or not the plant was edible and Phillips assured him the specimens were roots of the Camas Plant that the Indians commonly collected as food. Bauer and his wife pursuant to this assurance ate sparingly of the roots. Phillips ate freely. This occurred about 8 p.m., and no ill effects were experienced by the survivors until 2 o'clock the following morning when they were both attacked by maseau and other violent symptoms of poisoning.

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They were greatly distressed and weakened and were confined to quarters throughout the following day. It never occurred to them at the time that their illness was caused by eating the plant. It was attributed to something they had eaten at the evening meal. Phillips returned to the ranger station about 11:15 p.m. There was nothing unusual in his failure to appear before 5 p.m. the following day but when he did not appear at this hour it was considered unusual, and at 9 p.m. Mr. Bauer decided to investigate, and upon entering the ranger station found him lying on the kitchen floor mear the sink! he had been vomiting, was partly undressed and apparently dead. He immediately reported by phone to Assistant Chief Ranger Greer at head-quarters station, and Dr. Richard A. Brady, park physician, was promptly consulted. Emergency treatment was prescribed and the body was immediately examined for signs of life. Bauer's report on the condition of the body at 9:30 p.m. indicated that he had been dead several hours.

His death is attributed to the fact that he are considerable more than either Bauer or his wife, that his stomach was probably empty at the time, as he rarely are in the evening until immediately before retiring at night, and there was nothing in his stomach to neutralize the effects of the poison. It appears that he was stricken suddenly while preparing a light lunch and that he was smable to get to his bed.

Arrangements were made to remove the body to West Yellowstone, Montana, a distance of 30 miles, and on account of snow conditions this was a formidable task. The snow depth at Old Faithful on April 13th was 54 inches, at West Yellowstone 45 inches, and an average depth of 30 inches between these points. The body was removed on a toboggan drawn by a crew of 7 rangers. The personnel of this crew consisted of Assistant Chief Ranger Trischman and Douglas, and Rangers Cottrell, Duncan, McCarty, Poore and Miller.

The rangers arrived with the bedy at West Yellowstone at 6:30 a.m. on April 16th. It was shipped by train to Ashton, Idaho, on the afternoon of the same day where it was embelmed and reshipped to Minnespolis, Minn., pursuant to shipping instructions by his mother. The remains arrived at Minnespolis on Wednesday, the 18th, and interment took place the following day. Mr. J. S. Haynes, Acting Director of the Yellowstone Park Museum, attended the funeral service as the representative of the Matienal Park Service and Mr. Phillips' Yellowstone friends.

Samples of the root were mailed to the Montana State College of Bozoman for identification and a response was received to the effect that the plant could not be readily identified until it was planted and the top parmitted to grow. We will receive a report at a later date concerning this plant.

Mr. and Mrs. Bauer are slowly recovering from the effects of the poison.

Mr. Phillips was appointed as Park Ranger in Yellowstone on April 21st. 1925, and was continuously in service since that date. He was highly

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esteemed by the members of the ranger organization and all residents of the park. He performed excellent services as a ranger naturalist and photographer, and was one of our most careful observers of het springs and geyser activities. His notes on thermal activities have been published monthly in our Nature Notes publication. His untimely demise is sincerely deplored and our heartfelt sympathy is extended to his bereaved mother, relatives and friends who mourn his loss.

Re. James P. Jackson, Telloustone Park Camps Company employee. decessed. The circumstances connected with Mr. Jackson's death were first announced by Mr. 3. M. Moorman, General Manager of the Camps Company by a phone conversation with Assistant Chief Ranger Greer at park headquarters. This conversation occurred at 7 p.m. on May 3rd. Mr. Greer and Ranger Bruce immediately proceeded to Masmoth Cump and in company of Mr. Moorman inspected the premises where evidence of bloodshed had been discovered. They were informed that Mr. James F. Jackson who has been employed at the Camp since April 1st had not been seen since the supper hour on Saturday evening (April 30th), but in view of his expressed intention to go to Livingston, Montana, for a few days there was no comment concerning his absence from duty. The first evidence discovered consisted of blood-stained bedding in a disordered cabin at the outskirts of the Camp, a ceas pool containing about 6 feet of water was next inspected. This pool was about 30 feet back of the cabin at a lower elevation on the hillside - a black felt hat was found floating on the pool, a bloodstained razor was found on the bank, and a razor box was found lying mear the water's edge. A pool of blood was also observed on a small gress mound near the water. The bottom of the pool was carefully dragged by Er. Greer and two of the men employed at the Camp out nothing additional was found. The hat was identified as belonging to Mr. Jackson and a search of all of the cabins in this section of the Camp was begun. The body was found about 7:30 p.m. in one of the cabins of the third row above the pool. It was in a direct line between the cabin nearest the pool and the one where he had been assigned to quarters. The body was lying on its back with the head and trunk prosswise of the bed; the feet were resting on the floor, one chair was turned over, the bedding was in disorder and stained with blood. The head was thrown back at a sharp angle and there was a deep cut across the front of the neck that partly severed the traches. He appeared to have been dead for several hours.

Arrangements were immediately made, through Dr. C. A. Vindsor of Livingston, Montana, for the removal of the body and it was delivered to Undertaker Selby together with all his personal effects about 11 p.m. on May 3rd.

Mr. Moorman advises that the deceased was an employee of the Camps Company last season, that he returned to work this year on April 1st. He was regarded as a good, faithful worker. It was remarked that he appeared to have been greatly troubled during the past week and that on former occasions he

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suffered from despondency. All the circumstances noted in connection with his death indicate that it was caused by a self-inflicted wound with suicidal intent. The only known relative of the deceased is a sister. Hrs. John Dodge of 802 - 9th Avenue, Helena, Montans. She was notified by Undertaker Selby concerning her brother's death and funeral arrangements will be made as directed by her.

900 - Missellancous

Empital and Medical Service: Dr. Richard R. Brady, the Resident Physician, reports 49 office calls and 35 house calls during the month.

Post Office: Nothing unusual to report this month.

Church Services: At. Rev. H. H. Fox. Bishop of Montans, held mpiscopal Services in the ledge room evening of Sunday. April 3rd. Rev. John f. Como. of Emigrant, Mont., held community Master services in the Chapel Sunday morning. April 17th. Episcopal services were held in the Chapel on Wednesday evening. April 27th, by Rev. H. Cowley-Carroll, from Livingston, Mont., assisted by Rev. John F. Como. and Rev. Cowley-Carroll also held a communion service in the chapel the following morning at 10 o'clock. Me denomination except the Episcopal was represented in the park during the month of April.

Izask Valton League: The regular monthly meeting of the Yellowstone Park Chapter was held in the Post Exchange building on the evening of April 5th. with Assistant Chief Ranger Julius L. Greer, prosiding. The business transacted consisted principally of routine matters. The Secretary announced a paid ap membership of 71. Mr. Joffe amounced that the moving ploture "The Canyon of Light" had been secured for exhibit here, under the suspices of the local chapter. The picture was secured through the courtesy of the Tom Mix Company as an expression of appreciation for the consideration shown them while on location in the park last season. The picture was shown on the evening of April 8th and the net proceeds were approximately \$70.00. There was a large at tendance. The treasury now has a balance in excess of \$100. Two now memberships and 5 remewals have been received since the last report making a total membership of 78 at this time. The next meeting will be held on a date not yet determined during the week beginning May 22nd. The rangers will then be in conference at Park Headquarters, Superintendent Albright will be here. and a large attendance is expected.

Cordially yours,

LERCY HILL
Acting Superintendent.

The Director, National Park Service, Dept. of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

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### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## STATUS OF PERSONNEL

YELLO NE 20 National Park for the	Month of	WRIL 1927
	This Month	This Month Last Year
Number of employees beginning of month,	66	66
Number of additions,		
Total,	67	66
Number of separations,	1	
Number of employees close of month,	- 66	66
Number of promotions during month	0	
Aggregate amount of annual leave taken, _	183	146-1/2
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### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### REPORT OF PARK REVENUES

Yellowstone National Park for the Month of	April	•••••
	!	ast ear
k revenue on hand beginning of month	. 90 00	)
eived	27.66 277	-97
Total	21.66 277	.97
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k revenues received this year to date	\$216,319.38	
k revenues received last year to date	342,800.32	
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Percent of increase		

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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### TRAVEL REPORT

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	This Month	This Travel Year	This Month Last	Last Travel	1	Increase for Travel Year		
		To Date	Year	To Dat	e Nu	umber	Percent	
IVATE TRANSPORTATION:								
rs first entry	47	574	60	22	£ 3	55"	15%	
rs reentry								
torcycles		1741				1 200		
Total motor vehicles	<u>-t 1</u>	574	20	22	1 =	- ^	156	
rsons entering via motor vehicles	147	1375	211	82	7	/o-1	13	
rsons entering via other private transportation								
Fotal persons entering via private transportation	141	15/5	217	12			12	
HER TRANSPORTATION:							e de la companya de l	
rsons entering via stages								
rsons entering via trains								
rsons entering otherwise				1			and the second s	
Fotal other transportation								
	111-1	11.816-	1217	17		75-8		
GRAND TOTAL ALL VISITORS	141	/=8=			4	10		
		-	1				1	
			This Year	Last Year		Increa	ase	
			234.	2001	Numb	er	Percent	

utomobiles in public camps during month ......ampers in public camps during month .....

# UNITED STATES UNITED

### TRAVEL REPORT

National Park for the Month of

	Levert.	Last Tr ve Y	on h	This Traver Year	Tlis Month	
103117	Temporal	To Dete	Year	To Date		
		REA.	75	17.4	14	A ILLS TAION:  f s enry  reentry
3530						otal mose vhicles
		381	-		TH	ens en en e va motor
						rir via ther
5	13	Nat 1				'ur ring via
						- NOTTATROSENATT TEL
1						ouns entering via stages .
	1					entains via trains
						reuma embertog ettervise
		951				COM COMOR CREESPORTATION
		ua Hamiliana				THOTAL TON THE COM
1010000	nerconi I redim	Last Year N	This Year			

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## \*ELECTRICITY GENERATED, SOLD, USED, ETC.

	This	This   Travel	This   Month	Last Travel	Increase for Travel Year	
	Month	Year    To Date	Last   Year	Year To Date	Number	Percen
rent generated,	45900.0	590932.	43270.	565480.0	25452	4
d to park operators,	1294-1	81132.5	559-3	75564.6	5567.9	7
d to others,						
nished to other Governmental gencies,						
d by National Park Service, ost in transit, etc.,		509799.5	42710.7	489915.4	19864-1	4_
otal current generated,	45900.0	590932.0	43270.0	565480.0	25452.0	4
ount receivable from the sal	e of elec	etricity,			\$64.7	0

Indicated by K. W. H.

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### NATIONAL PAR SERVICE

12	) dimeu	SOLD,	GTIERAT ,	*ESS TRICITY

- 179	month, 18	nth e	r h Mo	l Park for	Kation	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	n r ravel	L. Town T	This	ie     T vel	- irr	
Percent	nester	Ve V	Last   Yar	Yer   To De	din M	
4	XONES.	p. uspege	12570	Parasse	0.0050	rrent generated,
+	6-1966	2.13067	555.5	(A1132-1)	1.0051	ld to park operators,
						d to others,
						nished to other Governmental gencies,
an find the control of the control of	1,9884.1	4-91569h	Quella la	dicebert.	ent dip	ed by National Park Service, lost in transit etc.,
	0.500	D. O. S.	0.0/201		Catholic	Total current generated, .
		delina) game				
0	1 64.7F			ricity,	of ele	ount receirable from the col

Indicated by K. W. H.

### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### REPORT OF TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH BUSINESS

YELLOYS TO ME National Park for the	ne Month	of .	PRIL 1927	
	This Month	This     Month    Last Year	Increase	   Percent   Increase
CAL BUSINESS				
les of circuit maintained	391 141	363 133	28 8	.077 .06
. of other local calls	7112 352	6554 274	<b>45</b> 8 78	•7 28
ceipts from measured service calls		· ····		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	ik ing salahan salahang manggabahan di abas sanggabahan di abas sa		Annual Control Control Control	
NG DISTANCE BUSINESS				
. Outbound calls		99	-41 -10	-41
TOTAL LONG DISTANCE CALLS				
ak load in calls per day	12 26.56	16 35•25	8-69	-25 -24
LEGRAPH BUSINESS				
ssages via Western Union				
ceipts from telegraph business				

TAL RECEIPTS TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH DEPT-













