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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

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MONTHLY REPORT

May 1941

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYOMING

June 6, 1941

MEMORANDUM for the Director:

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of May, 1941.

Weather Conditions. Despite a considerably rainy month, which was a boon to the fire situation, the travel was not affected as all previous records for travel for that month were exceeded by 17.7%. The precipitation, while considerable, was 0.40 below normal, but exceeded all Mays since 1932 with the exception of 1936. With the contemplated closing of the Weather Bureau Station at Mammoth some time during the month of June, weather observations by the Weather Bureau were discontinued at the end of the month.

Special Activities. All flags in the park were flown at half mast from noon May 2 to sunset May 3 in memory of the passing of former Director Arno B. Cammerer, who died at his home at Cherrydale, Virginia, on April 30.

The collection of the motor vehicle license fee for the year was started on May 5.

Superintendent Rogers went to Livingston on May 5 to meet Regional Director Allen, who was returning from attendance at the funeral of Arno B. Cammerer at Janesville, Wisconsin. On May 9 the Superintendent went to Cody, Wyoming, with Park Naturalist Bauer to meet with members of the Cody Club. From May 17 to May 21 he was on a trip to Thompson, Utah, to meet Director Drury. On May 27 he went to Livingston with Mr. Nichols, President of the Yellowstone Park Company, to meet Colonel John C. Pegram who was coming into the park to make an investigation with regard to stationing a troop of soldiers in the park.

The south gate and Dunraven Pass were open to travel on May 1, making all park roads and all entrance roads, except the northeast entrance from Red Lodge to Cooke, open for travel. The latter was opened May 23.

The Mammoth school term ended on May 23 and the new school board consisting of Richard J. Smith, Chairman, Mrs. Icel Wright and Albert E. Long, Secretary-Treasurer, appointed for the ensuing year, assumed charge of activities.

A fire of considerable proportions, which destroyed several buildings along the main street in West Yellowstone, broke out early on the morning of May 25. The government fire engine from Mammoth, as well as the fire engine from Gardiner, responded to the call for help.

The fishing season was open on May 30.

Inspections. The following National Park Service and other government officials visited the park during the month: Regional Director Thomas Allen, May 5; Major A. F. Sullivan, District Commander CCC, Missoula, May 2; Charles E. Fiske, Junior Hydraulic Engineer, Geological Survey, Boise, May 11; Wilson H. George and Martin A. Cannon, Senior Accountants, NPS, Washington, D.C., May 16; Howard Baker, Regional Landscape Architect, Omaha, May 17; George R. Morgan, Assistant Equipment Engineer, Region Two, Omaha, May 18; Bernard Anderson, Prison Inspector, Bureau of Prisons, Washington, D.C., May 25; Colonel John C. Pegram, Chief of Staff, Seventh Corps Area, Omaha, May 27.

Status of Private Lands. Information was received advising that on April 28, 1941, the Commissioners, who had been appointed for the purpose of appraising the tract of land belonging to Roy M. Armstrong in Park County, had filed a return that they appraised this parcel of land at $1,750,000. This amount is seven times the amount placed as the value by the government on this property. We have been in touch with Special Assistant to the U.S. Attorney C. W. Buntin and notice of appeal has been filed in the U.S. District Court. There is no change in the status of the other three parcels of land in this purchase program, since they have all been included in the condemnation proceedings. However, most of the approved work in this area has been accomplished.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. Surveys were made for the Old Faithful and Canyon Sewer Systems and Fishing Bridge and Old Faithful Cabin areas. Supervision of Project F.P. #722 continued and further construction program sheets were worked up. A topographic map was made of the Armstrong 40-acre tract in the Game Ranch Area.

General Publicity. Press releases were sent out from the park regarding the Tri-State - Yellowstone celebration on May 11 and concerning the opening of the Red Lodge-Cooke road.

Forty thousand copies of the new 1941 Yellowstone booklets were received on May 5.

General Complaints. Several written complaints regarding services in the park were received in the Superintendent's office and copies thereof sent to the operators affected, copies of which were furnished the Director.

Maintenance. Rainfall retarded the resuming of oiling operations and principal maintenance consisted of cleaning up many rock and dirt slides. About 100 new trail signs were distributed in seven ranger districts for erection at trail junctions. Ranch maintenance work continued in the Lamar Valley and at the Game Ranch.

[illegible] are considerable [illegible], [illegible] several [illegible] along the [illegible] coast in [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of May 23. The government [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]


Birds

New Construction. Marking the park boundary was the main work in the Game Ranch Area. The comfort station at Old Faithful was almost completed. Every phase of work on the Old Faithful Sewer was resumed, with the lower pumphouse line being completed; about 700 feet of 12-inch pipe to be laid to complete the main trunk sewer; manholes built, pumphouse floor poured, one set of pumps installed; pumphouse # 2 was roofed, much backfilling done around the septic tank and most of the spray field pipe installed. All power cable was installed and a start was made for reconstruction of the Old Canyon area pumphouse, which was destroyed by a snow slide.

Special Improvement Activities. During the month of May there were five CCC companies in Yellowstone National Park: Camp NP-1, Mammoth; Camp NP-7, Glen Creek; Camp NP-8, Cascade Creek, reoccupied May 7; Camp NP-15, Old Faithful, reoccupied May 1; Camp NP-16, Yellowstone, reoccupied May 3. The main jobs for the five camps were as follows: Nursery, Game Ranch; Cottage, Mammoth; Grading, Housekeeping Cabin Area Mammoth; Development work Old Faithful Lodge Cabin Area; Development work Fishing Bridge Housekeeping Cabin Area; Water Line, Canyon; Campground, Canyon.

Progress on all jobs was fair due to the shortage of personnel. There are eleven supervisory positions not filled to date, not including any personnel for Camp NP-8, Cascade Creek, which is due to be moved before July 1, 1941. Job No. 512, Sewer Lines Fishing Bridge, was completed during the month.

Improvement of Approaches to Park Area. Work was resumed on the East Entrance Approach Road under the Kiewit contract.

Park Operators. The Canyon gasoline station opened May 3; Haynes' Tower Falls store May 7; Old Faithful tourist cabins and cafeterias May 10; Haynes' Old Faithful store May 16; Haynes' Fishing Bridge and Canyon store May 20; Pryor Coffee Shop May 24; Fishing Bridge cabins and cafeteria May 24; Mammoth, Canyon and West Thumb tourist cabins and Canyon cafeteria May 29.

The price of gasoline was advanced 1/2-cent at all points in the park, effective May 29.

Cooperating Governmental Agencies. The Mammoth Post Office began May 10 to keep open Saturday afternoons until 6 p.m. and the Sunday mail service started on May 15 to be continued to October 15, which is two months longer than previous seasons.

Cooperating Non-governmental Agencies. A meeting of the Tri-State Yellowstone Civic Association was held at Old Faithful Lodge on May 11, some 150 persons being in attendance. The following day the organization sponsored a celebration marking the early opening of the park at which Governor Chase Clark of Idaho and E. V. Robertson of Cody, Wyoming,

representing the Governor of Wyoming, were the principal speakers. The Tri-State - Yellowstone Civic Association has been instrumental in promoting the idea of a longer Yellowstone season from May 1 to October 15, and has released considerable publicity on this subject.

Public Roads Administration Projects - Work was resumed on the Lowdermilk Brothers Canyon contract; Kiewit began the Old Faithful-Isa Lake job, driving two test piling at the bridge site; E. A. Studer started West Thumb Development work on May 25.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. The travel for the month of May showed an increase of 17.7% over May of last year and almost 50% over the same month in 1937. Twenty-two thousand, two hundred forty motorists entered the park for May of this year as against 18,897 last year; 17,605 in May, 1939; 12,814 in May, 1938; and 11,700 for May, 1937. The pre-season travel from October 1, 1940 to the end of May showed 47,614 visitors as against 47,648 a year ago, a loss of thirty-four.

Visitors. May 25 - Grover C. Sherrod, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, Washington, D.C..

Ranger Service. All permanent rangers and nine seasonal rangers were on duty at the close of the month. Most of the protection department personnel attended the advanced fire training school from May 1 to 7 and devoted much time during the balance of the month in training CCC enrollees in fire suppression work. A large majority of operators of government-owned motor equipment was given written and oral examinations covering the general rules and regulations, accident procedure and first aid, safety practices and road courtesy.

Police Protection. Two cases of speeding and reckless driving by CCC enrollees driving army trucks brought jail sentences totaling eleven days. One case of reckless driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor by a park visitor resulted in the defendant paying a fine of $200.

Wildlife Protection and Fish Cultural Activities. Four bear damages were reported during May and it was necessary to trap several animals for release to isolated localities.

Buffalo in the Lamar Valley migrated to the lower portions of the summer range during the last two weeks of May and are not now generally seen from the roadways. A check up to and including May 24 of the 1941 calf crop revealed a total of 136 new calves among a group of 538 older animals, Thirty-four adult animals and several 1941 calves are being held in corrals for transfer to the Antelope Creek Buffalo Range about June 12 for summer display purposes.

[illegible] the Governor of Wyoming, were all scheduled speakers. The Tri-State - Yellowstone [illegible] in promoting the idea of a larger Yellowstone [illegible] and was released [illegible] subject.

Public Roads Administration Projects - [illegible] Northern Entrance [illegible] drilling [illegible] started [illegible].

Increase of [illegible] in Travel. [illegible] showed an increase of 17.7% over May of last year [illegible] the same month in 1939. [illegible] entered the park [illegible] 17,508 in May, 1939; [illegible] The [illegible] travel from October 1, 1939 to the end of May totaled 17,544 visitors as against [illegible].

Visitors. May 29 - [illegible] Attorney General, Washington, D.C.

Ranger Training. All permanent rangers and [illegible] were on duty at the close of the month. [illegible] government personnel attended the advanced fire training school from June 7 [illegible] enrollees in fire suppression work. [illegible] government-owned motor equipment [illegible] covering the [illegible] rules and regulations [illegible] safety practices [illegible].

Police Protection. The number of speeding [illegible] CCC enrollees [illegible]. The case of [illegible] of $200.

Wildlife protection and [illegible] were reported during [illegible] release in [illegible] localities.

Buffalo in the Lamar Valley [illegible] summer range during the last two weeks of [illegible] calf crop revealed a total of [illegible] animals. Thirty-four adult animals [illegible] held in corrals [illegible] June 15 for summer display purposes.