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10-23
(June 1941)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

	ROBINS	
✓	EMERY	
✓	JONES	
	NELSON	
✓	SMITH	
	ALBERT	
	SAUER	
✓	LANGE	
	BARROWS	
	SKINNER	
	ELLIOTT	
	PEYTON	
✓	BAJER	
	LORD	
	ROBINSON	

FILE NO. 207-023

MONTHLY REPORT

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

JUNE
1942

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone Park, Wyo.

July 3, 1942.

MEMORANDUM for the Director

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of June 1942:

Weather Conditions. There was an unusual amount of precipitation during the month, in the form of both rain and snow, which was similar to the weather for June last year and which was more or less a continuance of the wet weather received in the park during April and May. The wet season has considerably aided in reducing the fire danger but it has, on the other hand, been rather unpleasant for the park visitor. There were only three clear days during the month, two of which occurred on the 29th and 30th, 14 cloudy days and 13 partly cloudy. The maximum temperature was 77° on the 30th, the minimum temperature 30° on the 13th. The total precipitation was 1.21 inches.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers spent the entire month in the park, making trips outside only on June 17 to Cody to interview Army authorities on personnel matters and on June 22 to appear before the Rotary Club in Livingston.

All roads in the park were open throughout June, and all approach roads were open before the first of June, with the exception of the northeast entrance road from Red Lodge to Cooke, over which travel was not permitted until June 24, it having been opened by plows of the Montana State Highway Department. The late opening of this highway accounted for the large decrease in travel via this entrance for the month of June.

The tire and car rationing throughout the country, gas rationing in the Eastern States, restrictions on travel by air, rail and bus, and the war in general, had a very material effect on park travel and business. The month of June experienced a loss of 61.6% from that of last June, while the total travel from the close of the travel year on September 30 to the end of June recorded a loss of 56.8%. None of the lodges were open for the season, the Lake Hotel was closed, and the only tourist cabins and cafeterias operating were at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge. A very decided decrease in travel was experienced during the last 4 days of June and if conditions continue in July park operators may request authority to close some of their other operations. The park transportation system was permitted to operate its buses on their regular

schedules but no side sightseeing trips were permitted. This allowed the buses to travel from the various railheads to the hotels and around the Grand Loop road, using the same or any other gateway for exit.

Bob Hart, of the Dot S Dot Ranch at Melville, Montana, took over the operation of the Silver Tip Ranch, just outside the northeast corner of the park, on lease from the Bliss family, on July 1, 1942.

On June 20 a fourth member, Associate Park Engineer Philip H. Wohlbrandt, was added to the Yellowstone Park School Board, making the board consist of Albert E. Long, Chairman, Albert E. Elliott, Secretary-Treasurer, and Richard J. Smith and Philip H. Wohlbrandt, Members. It was felt that an additional member was necessary in order to aid with the transportation problem involved in getting high school students from Mammoth to Gardiner.

An unusual accident occurred in the park on June 24, when Kent Watson, 4, son of Park Ranger and Mrs. W. Verde Watson, was attacked, without provocation, by a black bear near the family residence at Old Faithful. The youngster was badly mauled, bitten through the skull, and about a quarter of his scalp was taken off, one of the bear's teeth penetrating into the brain. Kent was removed to the Park Hospital in Livingston and by the end of the month was making satisfactory progress. This is the first case of its kind known to have occurred in the park. The guilty bear was dispatched.

W. H. Jackson, pioneer photographer, a member of the Hayden Survey Party which visited the park in 1871, died in New York at the age of 99 on the night of June 29. Mr. Jackson's photographs of the park aided greatly in having the Yellowstone established as the first national park in 1872.

The Fifth Selective Service Registration for men born on or before January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924 was conducted in the park on June 29 and 30. Registration offices were set up at the headquarters office at Mammoth Hot Springs, the Museum at Old Faithful, the Museum at Fishing Bridge, and the Ranger Station at Canyon. A total of 239 men were registered, 149 at Mammoth, 80 at Fishing Bridge, 32 at Canyon, and 78 at Old Faithful.

Due to high and muddy water, fishing was poor during the month of June, particularly in the streams, some of the lakes offering good fishing. A total of 22,045 fish were reported caught as against 41,746 to the end of June last year.

Inspections. Robert Bond, Chief Park Engineer for N.R.A., arrived June 2; Ansel Adams, Photographic Muralist, N.P.S., in north June 12, out north June 22; William Marshall, Assistant Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Boise, Idaho, in June 15; Noble P. Hollister, Field Supervisor, C.C.C., Denver, and George Walker, Assistant Regional Forester,

Region Two, in south June 17; Carl P. Russell, Supervisor of Interpretation, N.P.S., in Washington, in east June 29th, out northeast 30th.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. The greater part of the month's field work was devoted to surveys for the Purple Mountain Lookout Trail and the Pelican Creek telephone location, proposed C.C.C. projects in the 1942 program. Office work was routine in character.

General Publicity. For the first time in more than 20 years no publicity was sent out from the park during the month and no Publicity Director was employed for the season. The policy has been adopted of refraining from sending out general publicity but to send out stories only of unusual occurrences to protect the news services. The comparative travel figures for the month of June are to be issued and such figures for the season are to be gotten out monthly instead of semi-monthly as in the past and no travel by States figures will be released until the close of the season.

The Yellowstone Park Company printed and furnished the National Park Service, free of charge, some 10,000 copies of a leaflet on the accommodations and services at the disposal of park visitors, which contained the latest up-to-the-minute information for park visitors. Additional copies of this leaflet are to be issued by the company as needed for distribution to park visitors. It is the only publication that is up to date, as many changes have been made since the season got underway and since the Government folder was prepared.

250,000 of the 1942 Yellowstone folders were received on June 20. However, as the proof for this folder was prepared last October, the material contained therein is considerably out of date. Also, due to reduced travel, the number received will be considerably more than will be needed.

General Complaints. Several complaints of a minor nature were received at the Superintendent's Office and these were all called to the attention of the operators involved for the necessary action.

Road Maintenance. The Dunraven Pass section maintenance crew was organized on June 8, the last of the crews to be installed. Snow removal was started on the Mt. Washburn section on June 15 but after Several days work, operations were abandoned for the time being due to adverse weather and snow conditions. Weather conditions throughout the month have been extremely unfavorable and sufficient experienced labor difficult to obtain. In general all sections are in good to fair condition.

New Construction. Mammoth Comfort Station, Project No. 401, was completed during the month and opened to public use. A small amount of work was accomplished on the Canyon Power System in the way of general cleanup and drainage work but so far it has not been possible to organize a construction crew.

Park Operators. The telegraph office at the Mammoth Hotel, the Pryor Coffee Shop at Mammoth, the Haynes finishing shop at Mammoth, and the Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge repair shops opened on June 1, the Haynes Fishing Bridge Shop, the Thumb gas station, and the Tower Falls gas station on June 3, the Thumb store on June 10, Old Faithful Inn on June 15, and the Canyon Hotel on June 20. The railroads started delivering passengers to the various gateways on June 20. No air passengers were brought to West Yellowstone during the month and the Western Air Lines were not operating their planes bringing passengers to the park.

Mr. C. A. Hamilton, who has been quite ill most of the winter and who went to Mayo's in Rochester, Minnesota, for observation and treatment, returned to the park on June 24. His condition appeared to be greatly improved.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Thirty-six thousand nine hundred and twenty-five persons entered the park during June of this year as compared to ninety-six thousand two hundred and two during June of 1941. The total persons entering the park for this travel year to date are 62,154 as compared with 143,816 for 1941, a decrease of 81,662, or -56.8%.

Eleven thousand three hundred and four motor vehicles entered the park in June of this year as compared to twenty-nine thousand four hundred and twenty-three during the same month in 1941. The total motor vehicles entering the park for this travel year to date are 20,192 as compared with 46,034 for 1941, a decrease of 25,842, or -56.1%.

June 1942
Travel by Entrances for Month

	First Entry		Re-Entry		Total	
Entrance	Cars	Pass.	Cars	Pass.	Cars	Pass.
North	1632	4927	195	567	1827	5494
West	3066	9910	166	540	3232	10450
East	3470	11175	216	782	3686	11957
South	2213	6902	84	258	2297	7160
Northeast	188	570	20	58	208	628
Totals	10569	33484	681	2205	11250	35689

Motorcycles: 54 motorcycles - 79 passengers

Other transportation:

Bechler - 258
Miscellaneous (horseback, hitchhikers, etc.) - 25
Rail and bus - 874
Totals - 1157

Rail and bus travel to the park during the month reached a total of 874, as compared with 2152 for the month last year, a decrease of 1278, or 59.4%. The total visitors during June showed a heavy decrease over June 1941. This month 36,925 people visited the park, compared with 96,202 for the month a year ago. This is a decrease of 59,277, or -61.6% for the month.

All the states, Canada, Alaska, Mexico, and Hawaii are represented to date.

Cooperating Government Agencies. Peter Kiewit Sons' Company continued from last month with little more than a skeleton crew on the Isa Lake Bridge and placing base course surfacing on the Old Faithful-Isa Lake section. Lowdermilk Brothers contemplate no work on the Canyon project other than fine grading and oiling the parking area at the Canyon Hotel and have had a small crew on this work for the last half of the month.

Visitors. As there have always been prominent visitors in Yellowstone each June, the month has been unusual in that no visitors of prominence came to the park during the month.

Ranger Service. The pre-season trip for seasonal park rangers was held on June 14 for 25 new rangers, including several park rangers. Thirty-five seasonal rangers were on duty at the close of June.

Police Protection. Eleven cases were held before the U. S. Commissioner during the month. The types of violations and penalties are as shown below:

Charge	Fines & Jail Sentence	No. of Persons Involved	No. of Cases
Speeding	50.00	3	3
Reckless Driving	90.00	5	5
Unsealed Fire Arms	1.00	1	1
Simple Assault	1.00	1	1
Fishing in Closed Waters	2.00	2	1
	$144.00	12	11

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. Bears. Considerable difficulty has been experienced with black bears this season, especially in the Old Faithful, Lake and Canyon areas. During the latter part of the month a few grizzly bears were frequenting developed areas at Lake and Canyon and it is anticipated that some control measures will be necessary in these localities.

Comparative Bear Injuries and Damages

	1942 Season to June 30	1941 Season to June 30	Ten Year-Average 1931-1940
Personal Injuries	9	6	7
Property Damages	24	17	10
Total Incidents	33	23	17
Bears killed	9	0	2

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Causes of Injuries from Bears

Cause	No. of Injuries	% of Total
Victim taking pictures	5	55.6
Victim feeding bear	2	22.2
Too close approach	1	11.1
Unprovoked	1	11.1
Totals	9	100%

The most serious injury caused by a black bear this season occurred on June 24 at Old Faithful, the following report of which is quoted in part below:

> "Kent Watson, aged four, was playing with young friends on the creek just west of the Old Faithful naturalist cabins when a medium to large sized bear started toward him. Mrs. Bieberdorf stated that her children ran away. The bear struck Kent down, took a bite on the back of his head, and started dragging him from the little island where he was playing to the opposite bank where his foot caught and the bear lost his hold. Kent apparently was not afraid of bears and did not attempt to run away. Mrs. Truman and Mrs. Beal heard the cries and ran to rescue the child in time to see the bear making a second attempt to regain his victim. Mrs. Truman rushed in and drove the bear away from the boy by screaming. With help from the other ladies she carried the injured boy to his home.
>
> "Mrs. Eggler and Mrs. Bieberdorf stated that the bear circled around, following them toward the cabins where the crowd had gathered. No other attack was made, however."

The Watson boy was given first-aid treatment and rushed to the Park Hospital at Livingston, Montana. He was suffering from the loss of about one-quarter of his scalp, two skull fractures caused by tooth punctures and other minor cuts and abrasions. At the hospital it was necessary to give two blood transfusions, but at the close of the month the youngster appeared to be out of danger and recovering.

Kent Watson is the son of Park Ranger and Mrs. W. Verde Watson who reside in the employee's residential area at Old Faithful.

Based on descriptions by eye witnesses, a search of the area was made for the bear responsible for this attack. Two bears of similar characteristics were found, both of which were bold and one of which charged when approached. Both animals were dispatched.

Buffalo. During the early days of June all of the buffalo drifted out of the Lamar Valley into the higher summer range.

On June 8 and 9 a group of thirty-seven buffalo, including 19 bulls, 11 cows and 7 young calves, was transferred from the holding corrals to the Antelope Creek Buffalo pasture above Tower Falls.

Fish Culture and Planting. Spawn collection activities of the Fish and Wildlife Service at Yellowstone Lake were hampered by cold temperatures and high water. Near the close of the month conditions became more favorable and it is likely that the desired quantity of eggs will be obtained by mid-July.

Spawn collection work at Trout Lake and Grebe Lake was completed in June, with more than a million rainbow eggs being secured at Trout Lake and more than four million at Grebe Lake.

Special Improvement Activities. CCC Activities. On June 1 CCC Company 560 from Downey, Idaho, was moved in to reoccupy the Yellowstone NP-16 camp at Yellowstone Lake. Company strength was 133 enrollees with Mr. Scott Moore as company commander and Mr. George Sandlin as sub-altern.

A new work program outline was drawn up to conform to the new CCC objectives based on protection work and job application forms were submitted for approval. Due to the uncertain future status of CCC and the CCC appropriation, approvals were not received for these projects, with one exception, but as a matter of practical expediency considerable work was performed on these jobs in order to keep enrollees occupied and to accomplish much needed protection maintenance work. Lack of supervisory personnel resulted in decreased efficiency on some projects but progress was generally rather better than might have been expected. Supervisory CCC personnel for the two Yellowstone camps consisted of one camp superintendent and two foremen. One foreman (carpenter), Mr. Merle Engdahl, resigned with the understanding that his last day of duty would be June 30. He plans to enter defense work.

Among the active projects during the month were the following: Trail Maintenance at Mammoth, Old Faithful, and Lake; Telephone line maintenance in Pelican Valley; Fire pre-suppression, including fire training for all enrollees and establishment of four smokechaser enrollees at Canyon; Campground Maintenance; Moving and planting trees from park nursery; Base camp clearing of stumps at the Yellowstone NP-16 Camp at Lake; Minor road at Mammoth; Rock crusher preparation of materials; and miscellaneous clean-up jobs in connection with other projects.

A considerable number of CCC enrollees from each camp left the organization for various reasons during the month and company strength of each camp was about 50% by July 1.

Forest Fire Protection and Control. Two fire guards were hired on the fourth and were assigned to the fire cache on the tenth. 10 fire guards were employed and were given 3 days of training in forest

fire prevention, control and civilian defense. They were then assigned to their respective ranger districts. No lookouts were manned during the month due to low fire danger but were used to clear trails and repair protection facilities. Fire equipment has been checked and distributed to the various fire caches in the park.

All of the employees of Mammoth and vicinity were classified and a training program instituted that gave all of them ten hours and special groups 14 hours of forest fire training. All of the CCC units in the park have had from 5½ to 6 days of fire training.

Trails. The trails in all districts have been cleared as far as snow conditions will permit. A regular 4-man trail crew cleared the trails from Obsidian Cliff to Gibbon River and to Canyon Ranger Station and have cleared all trails in that area to the snow line. Two trail men were employed and are working in the Bechler District.

The fire guards in the Snake River area have cleared the trails to Cascade Creek and repaired the telephone line and are now working in the vicinity of Heart Lake. The trail and telephone line to Mt. Holmes has been repaired to a point near the top by the fire guard and CCC smokechasers. Trails in the Old Faithful area are being cleared by CCC's. A trail was surveyed to the top of Purple Mountain in the West Yellowstone District and a project instituted for the completion of it by CCC's.

Forestry. The Yellowstone Forest Nursery was closed on June 1 and all operations in connection with the nursery were discontinued; however, on June 10 about 5000 Englemann transplants were removed from the nursery and planted in the vicinity of Fishing Bridge at Lake Ranger Station. A few shrubby plants were removed from the nursery during the month and planted in the vicinity of the post office and museum at Mammoth. The irrigator who has been employed to take care of the fields in the Game Ranch area has been instructed to keep water running through the ditches and shelter belts as long as this can be accomplished without interfering with his other work.

Work was renewed on a cleanup of the storm damage area near the Yellowstone River Cascades on June 1. There was approximately $739.00 remaining in the Emergency Reconstruction funds which were allotted for this purpose. The funds were exhausted and the project was terminated on June 14. There remains about 50% of the damaged area which should be cleaned up as a fire hazard reduction measure.

Accidents. There were eleven traffic accidents reported and investigated during June, four of which involved government vehicles and the remainder involved private vehicles. Most of the accidents were of a minor nature as to personal injury and with considerable damage to a few vehicles.

Kent Watson, 4, son of Park Ranger and Mrs. W. Verde Watson, suffered severe injury as a result of a bear injury which occurred near the Watson's Old Faithful residence on June 24.

Superintendent.

cc- Region Two Headquarters