10-23
June 1941)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

	ROGERS	
✓	JOHNSTON	
✓	JONES	
✓	SOLE	
	AUSTIN	
	SHOTT	
	QUIST	
•	TOWNSELL	
✓	BAUER	
✓	BARROW	
✓	ELLIOTT	
✓	EVAS	
✓	Peyton	
✓	WAHLGREDT	
	ROBINSON	

FILE NO. 207-02.3

MONTHLY REPORT

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

MARCH

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IMPORTANT

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

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

FICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

April 4, 1945.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of March 1945:

Weather Conditions. The mild winter which has been experienced during November, December, January and February continued in March. However, there were a number of stormy days but less than normal precipitation. Storms occurred during the early part of the month, around the middle of the month, and at the end of the month, a real blizzard hitting the park on the 31st. There were three sub-zero temperatures recorded at Mammoth during March, on successive mornings, -3° on March 4, -14° on the 5th, and -2° on the 6th. Lower temperatures and more frequent storms occurred in the higher elevations. Up to March, only two sub-zero temperatures were recorded in February, two in January and two in December. The many warm days resulted in a heavy run off and practically all the snow had disappeared around Mammoth by the end of the month.

The light snowfall required very little road opening. The section from Gardiner to Mammoth and Cooke was open throughout the month.

Total precipitation for the month was 1.12 inches, as compared with 1.21 inches last March and .56 inch for February 1945. The mean precipitation for March is 1.35 inches. The maximum temperature at Mammoth for the month was 56° on the 22nd and the minimum -14 on the 5th. There were 5 clear days during the month, 15 partly cloudy, and 10 cloudy.

The snow depths at the end of the month for some of the main points in the park are shown in the following 10-year table:

Location	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Lamar	24	19	20	6	8	3	11	28	10	Drifts
Bechler	84.1	68	91.4	49	56	40	57.5	82	46	61
Northeast	40	42	52	25	23.4	17	29	55	29	24.4
Gallatin	36	-	-	12	10	16	24	40	22	10
Lake	53	35	62	27	28	22	29	60.5	33.7	29
Lewis River Divide	-	92	104	89	87	54	45	135	74.5	84
Mammoth	10.9	1.0	2.0	0	0	0	0	19	12	0
Old Faithful	72.5	0	51	21	28	18	27	70	50	37
Snake River	80	54	69	46	36	32	40	70	40	51
Tower Falls	26	17	21	10	6	8	13.8	35	22	5.5
West Yellowstone	52	39	51	23	24	50	50	56	29	27
Canyon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56.9	38
Norris	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52.8	28

YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYOMING.

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Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers spent the entire month in the park, making short trips therefrom as follows: To Bozeman on March 8 with Chief Ranger Barrows for a post-war mapping program meeting; to Helena on March 14 with Assistant Chief Ranger Evans to meet with the Montana Fish and Game Commission, returning evening of 15th; to Bozeman on March 20 to speak before a joint meeting of the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs and to attend a meeting of the 2X Club, returning on the afternoon of the 21st; to Livingston on the 26th with Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe and U. S. Commissioner Wilcox to attend a joint meeting of the Livingston and Bozeman Rotary Clubs.

Assistant Superintendent Johnston was on special assignment in the Chicago Office throughout the entire month, having departed from the Yellowstone on February 14. He expects to return on April 2.

Dick Johnson, private flier, and Orange Olsen, of the U. S. Forest Service, were killed in a plane crash while counting elk in the Jackson Hole country on March 2. Deputy Game Warden Robert C. Brown, who was also in the plane, was seriously injured. Pilot Johnson was well known as a flier for the U. S. Forest Service in this region and had done considerable flying over the Yellowstone in connection with forest fires.

The Union Pacific snow plows arrived at West Yellowstone on March 6, clearing the track from Ashton, Idaho to West Yellowstone. The arrival of this snowplow was an event of considerable importance when the town of West Yellowstone was isolated for the winter, but since the road from Bozeman to Ashton had been kept open throughout the entire winter, this arrival is of but little interest.

First Aid courses were conducted in the park from March 20 to 28 by George Gates, Field Representative for the American Red Cross, with headquarters at Omaha, Nebraska. Thirty-one persons took the Standard Course, 16 the Advanced Course, and 14 the Instructor Course. Practically all these were park employees.

Karl Hochstrasser, Park Blacksmith, was injured at the north gate during the night of February 28 and was taken to the hospital on March 2. His pelvis bone was dislocated and he was confined to the hospital in Livingston until the 29th. He will be incapacitated from work for several additional weeks.

Hugh Peyton, former Assistant Chief Ranger of the park, returned to the Yellowstone on the 9th, following his release from active duty with the U. S. Coast Guard. He was returned from military furlough to his old position on the 26th.

Word was received on March 10 that Richard J. Smiley, Bozeman, Montana, a temporary ranger in the Yellowstone for several seasons, was killed in action with the U. S. Army in the European war.

James Somerville, former Yellowstone Park employee and husband of Clerk-Cashier Verna M. Somerville, visited in the park for several weeks on leave from the U. S. Navy.

Aubrey Haines, former Yellowstone Park Ranger, was discharged for disability from the U. S. Army on March 22 and expects to return from military furlough about May 1. Mike George, First Lt., U. S. Army, who was formerly employed on Yellowstone road maintenance work for a number of seasons, returned to the park on March 25, following his discharge for disability from the U. S. Army.

Mrs. Frances J. Ayers departed from the park on March 19 for transfer to Grand Canyon National Park. She entered on duty at Grand Canyon on the 23rd.

Lon Abo, an old-time employee of the Yellowstone, who resided at Duck Creek near West Yellowstone, died on March 23.

The Hammond organ, donated to the Yellowstone residents for the Mammoth Chapel, arrived in the park on March 28 and was installed the same day by a representative of the Chas. A. Wells Music Company of Denver, from whom the organ was purchased. The entire cost of the organ, $1702.00, was donated by Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Hamilton as a gift to the park people, in commemoration of their 25th wedding anniversary. They were married in the park chapel on September 20, 1920. The organ is to play an important part in the special Sunrise Services to be conducted in the chapel on Easter morning, April 1, by Reverend A. W. Seebart of Livingston, Montana.

As has been the case in every Red Cross drive, the park employees responded most generously during the one just completed and contributed $531.50. All available employees were solicited and the 104 who contributed averaged $5.11 each. The funds were turned over to the Park County, Montana Chapter. Assistant Chief Ranger Albert E. Elliott was chairman of the Yellowstone drive.

Inspections. Warren K. Laland, former Yellowstone Ranger and recently Custodian of Badlands National Monument, visited the park on March 1, en route to California for transfer to the Fish and Wildlife Service; Captain E. S. Luce, Superintendent, Custer Battlefield National Cemetery, and Mrs. Luce, arrived March 6, departed on the 8th; A. [illegible] Homer, U. S. Geological Survey, Boise, Idaho, in March 15 and Tom Lethleen, U. S. Geological Survey, Boise, in March 18 to read water gauges, out 20th; George Gates, Field Representative, American Red Cross, Omaha, in March 19 to conduct First Aid courses, departed on the 28th.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. Revised Project Construction Program sheets were worked up for both Yellowstone and Custer Battlefield National Cemetery.

A revision of the list of building numbers for the park was worked on and signs with regard to load limits on the Gallatin section were placed.

General Publicity. No press releases were sent out during the month, but a feature article on the park, prepared by Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe appeared in the special edition of the Casper Tribune-Herald issued in early March. The edition also contained some park pictures.

A number of pictures was furnished the John C. Winston Company of Philadelphia for use in illustrating new elementary geography texts, and pictures were also furnished Mr. J. Russell Smith of Strathmore, Pennsylvania, for illustrating a third grade reader which he is publishing.

Road Maintenance. The road to the Game Ranch was bladed and shaped. The snow plows made four trips to Cooke during the month. The heaviest snow fell on the 24th and 25th, with about 12 inches of very wet, compacted snow at Cooke.

Routine patrols to remove rock were made almost daily. With several warm, thawing days, large quantities of rock rolled to the pavement in almost all the exposed rock cuts. During the winter several hundred yards accumulated in the ditches of the road in the Gardiner River Canyon.

Other Maintenance. Building maintenance consisted of routine operations throughout the month.

Park Operators. The 1945 schedule of rates for Haynes, Inc. was submitted on March 5 and approved on March 16. Mr. Haynes visited the park on March 10 and 11 and again on March 16, the latter visit in company with three professors from Montana State College in Bozeman for a discussion of park historical matters with the Superintendent. Mr. Haynes has purchased a building in Bozeman and will move all his equipment and supplies from St. Paul. The building in Bozeman has been remodeled by Mr. Haynes and will serve as his office during the winter and as his store house for the park.

June 20 was approved as the date on which the Yellowstone Park Company will start the operation of its tourist cabins and cafeterias for the 1945 season at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge.

The general store at Mammoth remained open throughout the month to take care of local residents.

Research and Observations. Preparation of the Information Manual for Yellowstone National Park was carried forward and some of the stencils have been prepared. It is planned that the work will be completed in April. It is hoped to make this a manual of value to all employees of Yellowstone Park and of the National Park Service interested in the Yellowstone, rather than just for the use of the Naturalist Division.

The Chief Naturalist has also done some work on the Basic Development Outline for the park and in revising the interpretive statement so that these parts of the Master Plan may be submitted again in the near future for inclusion in the Master Plan.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. One hundred fifty-three persons entered the park during March, as compared with 168 for the same month in 1944. The total persons entering the park for the travel year is 5,087, as compared with 3,897 persons for 1944, an increase of 30.5 per cent.

Thirty-two cars entered the park in March, as compared with 50 for the same month in 1944. The total cars for this travel year, 1,422, as compared with 976 for 1944, shows an increase of 45.6 per cent.

Ranger Service. Rangers making regular ski patrols visited most of the interior areas of the park, and checked the park boundaries wherever possible. Snow surveys were conducted for the Reclamation Service and snow was removed from Government buildings where damage might result if the excessive weight were not removed. Considerable effort was devoted to securing complete census figures for bison and bighorns.

All rangers who were able to do so participated in the first aid training program conducted by Mr. George W. Gates, Field Representative, American Red Cross. Two rangers completed the Standard Course, one completed the Advanced Course, and eleven completed the 45 hour training course and will receive Instructor's Certificates.

Accidents. Two motor vehicle accidents occurred during March. One took place at the north gate on the night of February 28, resulting in hospitalization of the driver, and minor damage to the automobile. The other accident involved a semitrailer and truck which left the Gallatin road and turned over. Most of the load of gasoline was lost, but no personal injuries resulted.

Wildlife: Bison - The feeding of bison at Lamar was started on February 24 and discontinued on March 12, after favorable weather had made natural forage available and the animals left the feed grounds. Twenty-eight tons of hay were used during the period of 19 days. All hay remaining in the stack yards in the fields at Lamar has now been used and all stack yard fences have been removed. This completes the landscape restoration program started in the Lamar area nearly a year ago, as the fields are now clear of hay stacks and all fences.

A complete census of the bison in the park was made during February and March, with the following results:

Lamar and Lower Falls areas . . .	445
Fountain - Madison Junction . . .	50
Mary Mountain - Hayden Valley . .	113
Pelican Valley	324
Total	932

Bighorn. All accessible and known bighorn ranges were checked, and 206 bighorns were actually counted. The total number of these animals in the Park is estimated at 280. A detailed report of the bighorn census was submitted on March 23.

Hunting Season. The elk hunting season in Park County, Montana, officially closed at sundown on March 1, but the count was completed on February 28 when the Hanigan checking station, operated by the Montana Fish and Game Department, closed. As reported in the February Monthly Report, the total reduction of the Northern Yellowstone elk herd by hunters was 403.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union was held in the Canteen on March 3.

Miss Phyllis Wohlbrandt, Telephone Operator, who resigned on March 18, was married in Livingston on March 20 to Mr. Don Barn of Gardiner. Miss Wohlbrandt is the daughter of Park Engineer Philip H. Wohlbrandt.

Edmund A. Rogers,
Superintendent.

cc: Region Two
File (2)
JJ:san