10-23
(November 1954)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone National Park
(Area)

file

FILE CODE: A2823

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

MARCH 1956

FROM:

TO:

IMPORTANT

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge. All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room. Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371-3

A2623

Report 1ml

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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Summary of the March 1956 Monthly Narrative Report

		Page
WEATHER:	Cold first half month, then much warmer. Park minimum -40° at W. Yell., maximum 62° at Tower. Snow depths. Earth tremors at Lake, Old Faithful & Mammoth.	1
TRAVEL:	872 visitors incl. 104 Bombardier, 60 snowplane, 15 skiers. Gardiner-Cooke only road open. Bombardier snowmobile breakdown.	1-2
VISITORS:	Stewart Jewell, Disney photographer, in for winter scenes.	2
INSPECTIONS:	Ralph McFadden, Elec. Engr., WODC, in for meeting re telephone proposal. Fred & Mrs. Bussey & Mrs. Meinzer, Glacier, en route to & from Classification & Wage Conf., Denver. Supt. Emmert of Glacier & Mrs. Emmert in. S. C. Cordes, USGS, in for river surveys.	2
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Rogers to Helena meet Emmert from Glacier; to Custer BNM with Haynes confer with Luce. Edwards back from blister rust meet at Missoula. Everett to Classification & Wage Conf. at Denver. Kittams to Bozeman re fish mortality, etc. Reynolds to Bozeman & Butte confer with FBI re law enforcement training. Condon to WODC re new Canyon public use building. Barrows to Glacier & Missoula re forestry etc. Garry back from Public Admin. School. Brown military & annual leave. Staff meetings. Yellowstone's 84th birthday.	1-3
MISCELLANEOUS:	NFFE meeting & birthday party for park. Sunday School picnic. AFGE meeting.	4
DEATHS:	Willard Lindauer, Wash. Design Office, former Regional Highway Engineer, died.	4
BIRTHS:	Son born to Mr. & Mrs. Foster Freeman.	4
PERSONNEL:	Chas. Moore, Payroll Supervisor, left for appt. to Labor Dept. Edmund Gnuse new Personnel Officer. Alice Murphy resigned as Clerk-Steno. Richard Ketcham, Engineer, transferred to WODC. Advice received transfers John Schmid to WODC, Philip Wohlbrandt to Reg. Engr., Reg. 3, Norman Herkenham to Park Naturalist, Rocky Mtn. Leonard Selle, Janitor, resigned. Geo. Tracy, fire cache supervisor, furloughed & returned to duty. Seasonal appointments Beulah Kitchens to Payroll Clerk & Shirley Epperson & Shirley Van Gilder to Clerk-Steno.	4-5

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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

April 10, 1956

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Monthly Report for March 1956

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

General

Weather Conditions. Winter weather continued through the first part of March with heavy snowfall and cold weather. The rapid change to Spring brought temperatures at Mammoth headquarters up to 58 degrees causing a heavy run-off from the melting snows. The Gardner River was particularly muddy on March 17 and 18. The maximum temperature at Mammoth, 58°, occurred on March 25 and the minimum of -25° was recorded on the 11th. The total precipitation at this station was .70 inch, total snowfall 15.5 inches, and snow depth at end of month 0 except for drifts.

The coldest temperature recorded in the park during the month was -40° at West Yellowstone on March 11 whereas 59° was recorded there on the 19th. The park maximum was 62° at Tower Fall on the 25th.

The snow course averages for the end of the month are as follows: 52.8 inches at Lake, 61.0" at Canyon, 35.7" at Norris, 50.6" at Lupine Creek, 34.7" at Northeast Entrance, 40.2" at East Entrance, 51.3" at Sylvan Pass, 72.4" at Snake River, 80.2" at Coulter Meadow, 143.3" at Lewis River Divide, 113.0" at Aster Creek, and 122.0" at Grassy Lake.

Earth tremors were reported by Yellowstone Park Company winter-keepers, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Bateson, at Lake Yellowstone on March 23, 24 and 25 and again on March 30 and 31. They recorded a total of 75 separate and distinct tremors. Although some shook the buildings, no damage has been found. Earth tremors were also recorded at Mammoth and Old Faithful between 12:15 and 12:30 a.m. on March 30.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. North Entrance recorded 99 first-entry cars and 34 re-entry cars carrying a total of 437 visitors. Northeast had a total of 78 re-entry vehicles including 5 commercial trucks with a total of 256 visitors. The Bombardier snowmobile from West Yellowstone made 18 trips into the park carrying 104 passengers. There

were also 8 snowplane trips from West Yellowstone with 19 visitors. South Entrance recorded 41 snowplane trips with 41 visitors and East Entrance reported 15 skiers entering the park. The total number of visitors during the month was 872 compared to 744 in February 1956 and 2,046 in March 1955. The road from Gardiner to Cooke, Montana, was the only road open to travel during the month. One of the snowmobiles from West Yellowstone broke a track while traveling through the Firehole Canyon on the 2nd. Passengers were returned to West Yellowstone the same day but the machine had to be left until an additional track could be obtained.

Visitors. Stewart Jewell, photographer, Walt Disney Productions, and Mrs. Jewell, arrived March 23 to take motion pictures on Winter in the National Parks. The following day Mr. Jewell accompanied by three members of the Protection Division departed via Park Service Sno-Cat and Weasel for Canyon, Lake, West Thumb and Old Faithful to photograph scenes and wildlife. They returned to Mammoth the 30th and the Jewells left the following day for Mount Rainier National Park, having filmed at Yosemite and Grand Teton National Parks prior to coming to Yellowstone.

Inspections. Ralph D. McFadden, Electrical Engineer, Western Office, Division of Design and Construction, San Francisco, arrived March 19 for a meeting with Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company, Yellowstone Park Company, and Yellowstone officials regarding the Telephone Company proposal to take over telephone facilities in the park and to confer on other matters. He departed the 22nd.

Fred G. Bussey, Administrative Officer, Mrs. Ethel Meinzer, Personnel Assistant, and Mrs. Bussey, Glacier National Park, arrived March 3 and departed with Personnel Assistant Everett of Yellowstone, the following day to attend the Classification and Wage Administration Conference of the Department of Interior in Denver March 5-9, inclusive. They returned with Mr. Everett the night of March 12 on return to Glacier.

J. W. Emmert, Superintendent, Glacier National Park, and Mrs. Emmert, arrived March 23 for conference with Yellowstone officials on matters affecting both parks, departing the following day.

S. C. Cordes, Agricultural Aid, U. S. Geological Survey, Boise, Idaho, was in the park March 30 to take water readings on the Lamar and Gardner Rivers.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers departed March 6 for Helena for a conference with Superintendent Emmert of Glacier National Park on matters affecting both areas. He returned the following day. On the 28th he and Mr. J. E. Haynes made a trip to Custer Battlefield National Monument for a conference with Superintendent Luce.

Assistant Chief Ranger Edwards, who had attended a meeting at Missoula, Montana, February 28 and 29 of blister rust control representatives in the U. S. Forest Service office, returned to the park March 1.

Personnel Assistant Everett departed March 3 with Administrative Officer Fred Bussey, Mrs. Bussey and Personnel Assistant Ethel Meinzer of Glacier National Park to attend the Classification and Wage Administration Conference of the Department of the Interior in Denver March 5-9, inclusive. They returned the night of March 12.

Biologist Kittams made a trip to Bozeman March 12 to discuss fish mortality in the Yellowstone River with personnel in the Entomology Office at Montana State College and obtain elk tagging records from Dr. Quimby in the Zoology Department of the College.

District Ranger Reynolds departed March 12 for Bozeman and Butte to confer with Federal Bureau of Investigation personnel regarding law enforcement training, returning the 14th.

Park Naturalist Condon left March 16 for San Francisco for a conference in the Western Office, Division of Design and Construction, in connection with the public use building to be constructed in the new Canyon village area. He returned the afternoon of March 23.

Forester Barrows left March 26 for Glacier National Park on matters affecting that area and Missoula where he contacted Forest Service personnel regarding cooperative blister rust, forest insect and fire control matters. He delivered to Glacier a Pontiac station wagon from Rocky Mountain National Park and about eight miles of emergency telephone wire surplus at Yellowstone.

Assistant Chief Ranger Garry returned March 1 from attendance on annual leave throughout February at the Eleventh Annual School of Public Administration sponsored by the Montana State University at Missoula.

Chief Ranger Brown started on military and annual leave on March 11, to continue until April 10. He was recalled to duty for training in the Mountain and Cold Weather Training Command at Fort Carson, Colorado, holding the rank of Major, Infantry, U. S. Army Reserve, assignment lasting to March 25, following which he entered on annual leave. Assistant Chief Ranger McComas was designated Acting Chief Ranger during his absence.

Staff meetings of various division heads and other park officials were held in the conference room on March 1 and 15.

Yellowstone National Park celebrated its 84th birthday on March 1, President Ulysses S. Grant having signed the bill on March 1, 1872, creating Yellowstone as the first national park of the world "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people".

Personnel Management Specialist [illegible] March 3 with [illegible] officer Fred Bussey, Mrs. Bussey and [illegible] of Glacier National Park to attend the [illegible] Conference of the Department of the Interior [illegible] inclusive. They returned the night of March [illegible].

[illegible] made a trip to [illegible] March [illegible] in connection with [illegible] Office at [illegible] State College and [illegible] Zoology Department of [illegible].

[illegible] Supervisor [illegible] and [illegible] to [illegible] with Federal Bureau of Investigation personnel regarding law enforcement training, returning [illegible].

[illegible] Management Specialist [illegible] left March [illegible] conference in the [illegible] Office, Division of [illegible] in connection with the public [illegible] to be [illegible] Canyon Village area. He returned the afternoon of March [illegible].

[illegible] left March [illegible] to confer [illegible] on matters affecting [illegible] personnel regarding [illegible], forest insect and fire control matters. He [illegible] that the [illegible] training [illegible] of Yellowstone.

Assistant Chief Ranger [illegible] returned March [illegible] on [illegible] Public Administration sponsored by the [illegible] University of [illegible].

[illegible] Ranger [illegible] March 11, to continue until April [illegible]. He was [illegible] in the [illegible] and [illegible] the rank of [illegible] to March 29, following which he [illegible] Ranger Holmes was designated acting [illegible].

Staff meetings of various divisions [illegible] were held in the conference room on March [illegible].

Yellowstone National Park celebrated its 100th birthday on March 1, President Ulysses S. Grant having signed the bill on March 1, 1872 creating Yellowstone as the first national park of the world "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people".

Miscellaneous. The National Federation of Federal Employees held its regular monthly meeting March 5 followed by a celebration of the park's 84th birthday participated in by the wives as well as members. The center of attraction was a large birthday cake. Superintendent Rogers talked on the park's origin and other historical data connected with the area and cards were played and lunch served.

The Yellowstone Park Sunday School held its Annual Picnic at Lamar Unit on March 11.

On March 12 the American Federation of Government Employees held its regular monthly meeting in the Canteen.

Deaths. Willard P. Lindauer, Division of Design and Construction, Washington Office, passed away March 10 at the Circle Terrace Hospital in Alexandria, Virginia, following a heart attack. Funeral services were held March 14 with interment in Arlington National Cemetery. "Dutch" for a number of years was Highway Engineer in the Region Two Office and visited Yellowstone on numerous occasions.

Births. A son was born March 29 to District Ranger and Mrs. Foster R. Freeman at the Park Hospital in Livingston. He has been named David Ralph.

Administration

Personnel. Charles E. Moore, Time, Leave and Payroll Supervisor, GS-5, left March 7 for Casper, Wyoming, on Separation--To accept appointment as Wage and Hour Investigator, GS-7, Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Division, Department of Labor, effective at the close of March 10.

Edmund H. Gnuse, who came to the park for interview March 12 and 13, was selected for the position of Personnel Officer, GS-9. He arrived and entered on duty March 26 by Transfer (Career) from Employee Relations Assistant, GS-7, Naval Ammunition Depot, Hastings, Nebraska, effective March 25.

Mrs. Alice B. Murphy resigned effective at the close of March 23 from her temporary appointment to the position of Clerk-Stenographer, GS-4 in the Chief Park Naturalist's office.

Richard W. Ketcham, Engineer (Civil), GS-9, left March 27 on promotion and change of headquarters to Engineer (Civil), GS-11 in the Western Office, Division of Design and Construction, San Francisco, California.

Advice was received March 12 of promotion and change of headquarters for John A. Schmid, Engineer (Civil), GS-9, to Supervising

Installations. The National Federation of Federal Employees held its regular monthly meeting March 4 followed by a celebration of the park's 84th birthday participated in by the majority of all members. The center of attraction was a large birthday cake. Superintendent Rogers talked on the park's origin and other historical facts connected with the area and cards were played and lunch served.

The Yellowstone Park Company [illegible] held its annual dinner at Lamar Unit on March 11.

On March 12 the American Federation of Government Employees held its regular monthly meeting in the museum.

Deaths. [illegible], Director of Design and Construction, Washington Office, passed away March 1 at the [illegible] Hospital in Alexandria, Virginia, following a heart attack. Funeral services were held March 4 with interment in Arlington National Cemetery. [illegible] for a number of years was Highway Engineer in the [illegible] and visited Yellowstone on numerous occasions.

Births. A son was born March 27 to [illegible] and Mrs. Lester R. Freeman at the Park Hospital in Livingston. He has been named David Ralph.

Administration

Personnel. [illegible], Supervisor, GS-5, left March 7 for [illegible], on separation-in [illegible] appointment as [illegible], GS-7, [illegible] Public [illegible] Division, Department of [illegible], effective as of date of March 10.

[illegible] R. Brown, who came to the park for interview March 15 and 16, was selected for the position of Personnel Officer, GS-9. He arrived and entered on duty March 26 by transfer (change) from Employee Relations Assistant, GS-7, Naval Ammunition Depot, Hastings, Nebraska, effective March 26.

Mrs. Alice B. Curtis resigned effective at the close of March 9 from her temporary appointment to the position of Clerk-Stenographer, GS-4, in the Chief Park Naturalist's office.

Richard A. Peterson, Engineer (Civil), GS-9, left March 17 on promotion and change of headquarters to Engineer (Civil), GS-11 in the Western Office, Division of Design and Construction, San Francisco, California.

Advice was received March 19 of promotion and change of headquarters for John L. [illegible], Engineer (Civil), GS-9, to Superintendent

Highway Engineer, GS-11, at the Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction, Philadelphia, to be effective May 20.

Philip H. Wohlbrandt, Engineer (Civil), GS-12, received notice March 13 of his selection for promotion to the position of Regional Engineer, GS-13, Region Three Office.

Norman B. Herkenham, Park Naturalist, GS-9, received travel orders on March 29 on his promotion and change of headquarters to Park Naturalist, GS-11, Rocky Mountain National Park, to enter on duty at that area on April 22.

Leonard A. Selle, Janitor, Ungraded, resigned at the close of March 30 to enter into business in Idaho.

George J. Tracy, seasonal Fire Control Aid (General), GS-5 (fire cache supervisor), was furloughed effective at noon March 2 and returned to duty March 26.

Mrs. Beulah M. Kitchens received a temporary appointment as Time, Leave and Payroll Clerk, GS-4, effective March 19 and Shirley Rae Epperson and Shirley Ann Van Gilder received similar appointments to Clerk-Stenographer, GS-3 on March 21 and 26, respectively.

In-Service Training. Seventeen members of the Protection Division and one member of the Interpretive Division received 30 hours of training in First Aid, completing the Instructor's Course during the week March 19-23. American Red Cross Field Representative John Kolpacoff of Boulder, Colorado, conducted the course.

District Park Ranger Freeman received in-service training in timekeeper and payroll work at the Fiscal Office Payroll Section March 12-14.

On March 13, manuals and training literature including the information manual, manual on talks, on conducted trips, campfire programs, and information services were sent to six new seasonal park ranger naturalists who will enter on duty in June. These manuals were sent to the men so they could use them in preparing for their summer's work.

On Friday, March 30, Equipment Supervisor Robinson projected three reels on 16mm. motion pictures. These were on equipment operations and safety. They were shown to members of the mechanical division and others.

On each Thursday Yellowstone's Weekly News was issued to keep personnel, concessioners and others currently informed of park happenings.

Accidents and Public Safety. One Class A and one Class B motor vehicle accident were reported during the month on the Gallatin Road north of West Yellowstone. The occupants of the cars involved in the Class B accident received only minor injuries.

Building Fire Protection. Considerable time was spent by fire control personnel in making up plans for in-service training and a conference program for building fire suppression training of service personnel.

Cooperative Activities

General Publicity. An interesting article on Yellowstone in winter and the life of a winterkeeper appeared in the Sunday March 11 issue of the Billings Gazette. The article was written by Mrs. Marjorie C. Matross of Gardiner and featured Mr. and Mrs. Dolph Egger. It was illustrated with a number of excellent winter pictures supplied by Mr. Egger.

On March 29 an article on the park was prepared and sent with pictures to the Spokane Daily Chronicle for its spring vacation and travel section.

A press release on the elk census was sent March 30 to the major portion of the park's mailing list.

A total of 91,200 Yellowstone broadsides remained on hand at the close of March.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. The regular Sunday School services were held in the Yellowstone National Park chapel each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. except March 11, when it was dismissed so that they could hold their Sunday School picnic at Lamar. The church services sponsored by the Gardiner-Mammoth church committee were held each Sunday in the Chapel at 10:00 a.m. with the Rev. Duane Murphy conducting the services. On March 25, as part of the regular services, Baptismal services were held and Mr. Huntley Child was baptized. The Superintendent's Church Committee, after carrying out negotiations with the Whittemore Association, Inc., ordered from them, a complete communion service for 160 persons. This service consists of three trays of communion glasses with a base and lid, a glass filler and two bread plates. These were given by the employees of Hamilton Stores in memory of May Spence Hamilton, late wife of concessioner C. A. Hamilton. The service will have engraved upon it: "In Memory of May Spence Hamilton, 1897 - 1955 by Hamilton Stores Employees."

On March 1 Superintendent Rogers designated the following to serve on the Church Committee until further notice: David de L. Condon, Chairman, Ernest Anderson, Secretary-Treasurer, Frank Mattson, Joe Kurtz, Aleda Joffe and J. Stanley Fillmore. Mr. Rogers will serve as

ex-officio member. The functions of the Committee include the arrangement of religious services of the various faiths in the park during the travel season.

Interpretive Services. Park Naturalist Condon presented a talk to 28 rural school teachers in the Park County Court House, Livingston, on March 2. Park Naturalist Beal presented a program to 250 young people on the afternoon of March 24 in Bozeman, Montana. This program was part of the Montana Wildlife Jamboree which was sponsored by the Bozeman Chamber of Commerce.

On March 29, 30 and part of the 31st, Dr. A. V. Pulling and Dr. Saul of Idaho State College, Pocatello, visited the north side of Yellowstone with a group of students on a field trip. Biologist Kittams spent the day of the 29th with the group visiting sections of the Northern Yellowstone elk range. On the morning of the 30th Park Naturalist Condon gave the group a 1½-hour talk on the development of the National Parks and the significance of the resources found in Yellowstone National Park. Park Naturalist Beal spent the balance of the 30th with the group on a field trip to the northeast entrance and return. There were eighteen in the party.

Several motion pictures were shown to members of the Mammoth community and others during the month. On March 9, the movie "People's Heritage" was shown to 120 people. On March 24, 140 people saw the motion pictures "In The Beginning" which pertained to Grand Canyon and "Yosemite National Park".

Park Naturalist Herkenham presented a program using the motion picture "Your Yellowstone" to 160 people at the annual Eagles Banquet in Gardiner on March 17.

Kodaslides and 16mm. motion pictures were sent to various places throughout the country for interpretive purposes outside of the park.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. A great deal of time was devoted to thought and planning for the exhibits which will be included in the Canyon Visitor Center. Some work has been done on the exhibit planning for the Old Faithful Courtyard Exhibits.

Park Naturalist Condon went to San Francisco on March 16 and returned on the 23rd. While in San Francisco, conferences were held with Mr. Ralph Lewis, Chief of the Museum Branch, and Mr. Sanford Hill, Chief of the Western Office of Design and Construction, on the museum requirements for the Canyon Visitor's Center Building.

The painters began painting the walls and woodwork in the main exhibit room of the Mammoth museum on March 19. During the month, new stair treads were placed on the stairway which goes from the office to the basement.

Kodaslides and 8x10" black and white prints of the Yellowstone winter subjects were sent to the Chief of the Branch of Information, Washington, D. C. for use in the National Geographic Magazine.

Natural History Association. The Yellowstone Library and Museum Association installed and put into operation, a new bookkeeping system during March to conform to the recommendations of the Auditor's report.

The galley proof for the book "Yellowstone Bannock Indian Trails" by Wayne Replogle was received from the Smith-Brooks Company.

Operations

Concessioners. The Yellowstone Park Medical Service permit was submitted by the Secretary of the Interior to the Committees of Congress for review on March 13. If found to be in order the permit will be approved by the Superintendent on May 19 (67 days after March 13). This permit covers a three-year period, January 1, 1956, to December 31, 1958, and is signed by the partnership of Drs. Alfred M. Lueck, John A. Pearson, L. M. Baskett and Thomas Clemons of the Park Hospital in Livingston.

An increase in the price of gasoline to be sold in the park was approved on March 28, changing the price for Regular gasoline from 35¢ to 35½¢ per gallon and that for Ethyl gasoline from 38¢ to 38½¢ per gallon to be effective May 1 with the opening of the Hamilton Old Faithful Lower Store and Service Station.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack E. Haynes were in the park March 14 from their winter headquarters at Bozeman, Montana.

The Yellowstone Park Company repair garage at Gardiner reopened March 5, having been closed down since December 23.

W. M. Nichols, President, Yellowstone Park Company, and John Q. Nichols, Vice-President of the Company, were in the park March 22 and 23 to observe the new pilot motel cabin built by their contractor, McNeil Construction Company, preparatory to the prefabrication of 300 room units for Canyon and to confer with Superintendent Rogers and others on the Company's operation and construction program. On March 10, Bruce McNeil, General Manager for the McNeil Construction Company, Mrs. McNeil, Assistant General Manager Franz, and Superintendent of Construction R. H. Westlund, and Gilbert Lord, Architect of Welton Becket and Associates, Los Angeles, Architects for the Yellowstone Park Company, made inspection with Yellowstone officials of the model cabin unit.

Maintenance. March weather was about normal, with high winds and snow, a few days of sunshine and quite a few cold and snowy. Snowplows opened to the water supply intake at Indian and Panther Creeks March 16. Two rotary snowplows left Mammoth on March 26 heading out toward Old Faithful to afford the Yellowstone Park Company opportunity

to complete the floor in the main lodge building and beginning the spring opening of the park roads. Snowplowing has not been too difficult to date; however, this section was plowed late in December, which eliminated much of the heavy early snow.

Frost boils are numerous this spring and there is evidence we will have considerable spring breakup of roads. A small amount of patching was done the past week between Mammoth and Gardiner. During the few warm days the snow settled and melted, causing some damage to road shoulders at several locations. Some high water and possible damage to roads are anticipated when warm weather gets here for any length of time.

A large entrance sign for the East Entrance has been roughed out; also an entrance sign for the South end of the Gallatin road section. Painters are working at the Mammoth Museum and Mammoth mess house.

Protection and Ranger Service. Winter patrols from Mammoth were completed during the first part of the month with the Lamar patrols completed on the 6th, and the Thorofare patrols, including South Entrance, on the 9th. These patrols were taken to Lake by Weasel and Sno-Cat, and the Thorofare patrol was transported back to Mammoth on the 10th-11th. Other patrols included a 4-day trip from South Entrance to Heart Lake and Harebell 10th-13th, patrols from West Yellowstone to South Riverside, 1st-3rd, to Old Faithful 10-14, Cougar Creek 19-21, and to Sportsman Lake and Mammoth 28-30. Due to unusually heavy snowfall special attention was given to clearing snow from Government buildings at outlying stations. Chief Ranger Brown and District Ranger Coleman accompanied the men on the two major patrols and, with oversnow equipment operators, cleared snow from buildings at the interior stations. The regular snow course readings were taken.

A successful count of the northern Yellowstone elk herd was accomplished late in the month with the cooperation of the Montana Fish and Game Department, U. S. Forest Service, the Park Biologist and members of the Protection Division. With the use of both helicopter and plane it is believed that more than 90% of the elk were actually counted. This total count amounted to 6,963 animals of which 5,904 were inside the park. The Chief Ranger's Office assisted in getting out for wide distribution releases and statements regarding the count.

Special assistance, including use of oversnow equipment, was given to Walt Disney photographer Stewart Jewell for a trip to Lake, West Thumb, and Old Faithful, March 24-30 for winter pictures of Yellowstone.

Acting Chief Ranger McComas attended the Superintendent's staff meetings on the 1st and 15th. Assistant Chief Ranger Edwards returned on the 2nd from a meeting at Missoula, Montana, with U. S. Forest Service and Blister Rust Control personnel regarding the 1956 blister rust control program. He also made several inspection trips to

the Lamar Unit. Assistant Chief Ranger Garry returned to duty on the 2nd from attendance at the Annual School of Public Administration at Montana University at Missoula on annual leave. District Ranger Reynolds conferred with FBI personnel at Butte, Montana, March 13-14 regarding the law enforcement training section of the annual Ranger Conference and a proposed extended course of training. He also attended a safety meeting on the 26th. District Ranger Gilbert worked with Montana State Biologist Joe Townsend the 28th on a survey of elk winter kill in the Gallatin area. Assistant Chief Ranger Garry and District Ranger Grimm inspected elk damage and provisions for protection of grounds in the Mammoth area on the 5th.

The Chief Ranger's Office prepared numerous replies to inquiries for special information, kept records and reports current, and began assembling mimeographed and other materials for summer use at entrance and other ranger stations. Considerable correspondence was also necessary lining up seasonal rangers and other seasonal employees. This added considerably to the workload placed upon the Chief Ranger's Office clerk-stenographer. Work is well started on motor vehicle accident summaries for the past three years. District Ranger Reynolds completed a manual for a comprehensive system of reporting criminal offenses, copies of which were forwarded to the Director and the Regional Office.

Law Enforcement. No persons were charged with offenses during the month. Only one offense was reported, that concerning a case of vandalism at North Entrance. Assistance was rendered cooperating state and federal authorities by park rangers in the field investigation of personnel and offenses. The Park County Sheriff of Livingston recently apprehended two youthful burglars outside the park who admitted committing several larcenies in the park last summer. Special agents of the FBI are cooperating with us in returning the stolen property to the lawful owners.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. BEAR. No observations of bear have been reported as yet but tracks were noted near Indian Creek on the 30th and at Madison Junction on the 18th.

BISON. Buffalo have moved back to exposed ridges at higher elevations. A lone buffalo spent several days in the vicinity of Gardiner and now appears to be making his headquarters at Stevens Creek. During the census and as observed by men on ski patrols, buffalo were noted around small hot spot areas and seemed to have suffered from the hard winter. On one of the patrols into Old Faithful by rangers at West Entrance, 162 bison were counted between Nez Perce Creek and Old Faithful. These animals appeared in good condition although two dead were noted near Ojo Caliente hot pool. One was an old bull and the other a calf which had fallen into the pool. Eight bison were near lower Eagle Creek by Gardiner on March 19 but within the next few days they had moved back into the park. A considerable number of bison were seen along the lower Yellowstone River during the elk count but figures have not yet been compiled. Biologist Kittams prepared a report on his analysis of the changes in populations of bison herds as indicated by the aerial census of late January.

ELK. Pressure for feeding elk in the Gallatin area north of the park became so great that the Montana Fish and Game Department distributed 150 bales of hay between March 7 and 22. State biologists observed use of the hay made by elk and also examined all dead elk they could find outside as well as inside the park. They took samples of paunches, saved jaws for aging and took sections of bone to determine animal condition. On March 23 the State Warden counted 160 elk in and near the park in the Gallatin drainage.

Additional data on tagged elk have been tabulated.

Generally the condition of elk is poor near the end of a severe winter, but warmer weather has exposed some areas which may provide enough forage to allow better survival than was thought likely at first. Another bad storm or two would be critical. Montana State Game officials reported finding about 50 dead elk outside the park in the Gallatin area and park rangers found 23 other animals dead within the park boundary in the same area.

Elk are numerous along the Madison River to Madison Junction. Over 100 were counted. Four dead were noted.

Antler shedding appears later than usual. Elk, as well as other ruminants have moved back to higher elevations in the Lamar area.

ELK CENSUS. A census of the Northern Yellowstone elk was conducted March 20-22. Helicopters were expected to arrive in the park in early March for the census but were delayed by weather which slowed up work in Idaho and finally arrived early on March 20. Using the two machines, it was possible to complete the census in three days. Total time flown over the park was 34.2 hours; the time, 5.8 hours, for the area outside the park was handled by the Montana Fish and Game Department, with assistance of Forest Service personnel. One small area at the lower edge of the elk range, where only 81 elk were counted, was covered by the State plane. Elk counted in the park, 5,904, plus those outside, 1,059, make a total observed of 6,963. Trails, distribution of the animals and observed changes in locations of bands indicated elk were moving upward during the counting period from March 20 to 22. However, observers believed this did not reduce accuracy of the count since the time span was short, good area divisions were generally reached by the end of each day and two areas where movement was suspected were recounted. The two pilots, from Johnson Flying Service of Missoula, were very cooperative in flying long days and were very considerate of the observers for the park, Ranger Harold Jones, Smokejumper-Squadleader Tom Milligan and Biologist Kittams.

MOUNTAIN GOAT. A male of this species was seen from a helicopter on the west side of Sepulcher Mountain on March 20. Warden Supervisor Sherman believes this animal wandered into the park from a plant made in the Spanish Peaks of the Madison Mountain Range.

MOOSE. On the 18th it was necessary to destroy a cow moose with a broken leg east of the Northeast Entrance Station. On one occasion travelers were held up on the road near the station for about 45 minutes when a bull moose refused to leave the highway.

FISH. On the 23rd Montana State Fish Biologists Opheim and Nelson, accompanied by Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman and District Ranger Coleman, took fish samples from Lava and Blacktail Creeks for study of possible effects of DDT aerial spraying.

Personnel in the Entomology office at Montana State College are interested in continuing studies on insect populations in streams within the area sprayed with DDT and want to sample streams above the spray area. They hope to make a collection of bottom fauna in April before water levels rise with heavy runoff.

TRUMPETER SWAN. Information on wintering habitat for trumpeter swans in Yellowstone was prepared for the Fish and Wildlife Service which plans to initiate a study of wintering grounds in the near future.

Three trumpeter swan were observed near Tower Fall on the 21st. Three more were seen near Lewis River road camp on the 10th.

Range. During the first half of the month temperatures were low, with minimums below zero on seven days at Mammoth. Temperatures were relatively high during the last half of the month, with a maximum of 58 degrees and with minimums above freezing on four days at Mammoth. Precipitation of 0.70 inch at Mammoth was less than half the normal of 1.59 inches.

Definite melting of snow began on March 17; within four days all of the critical range was free of snow. By the end of the month snow had melted from some non-critical range. Although old snow was generally so hard that grazing animals were unable to paw through it, a considerable amount of forage was available on snow-free areas. Forage removal on critical range below Mammoth has been nearly complete. Higher up, onlysmall spots within critical sectors show heavy utilization; the remainder of the critical sectors have light to moderate utilization.

Elk and bison on the northern Yellowstone range were feeding over most of the range until mid-March. Probably this was due to the rather even snow cover. Only a very small part of the critical range was free of snow until mid-March, which probably explains the unusual utilization pattern for the past winter.

Two illustrated talks on the northern Yellowstone range were presented by the Biologist to 68 students in the fifth to twelfth grades of the Gardiner School on March 15. The Biologist spent March 29 with 14 students and two professors, of Zoology and Botany, from Idaho State College. The northern Yellowstone range problem was first reviewed indoors by the use of slides, then the group drove to Pebble Creek and observed the wildlife, range condition and study plots.

On the Gallatin range, a small amount of non-critical range is free of snow but considerably less forage is available for elk than on the Yellowstone drainage area.

Forest Fire Protection. Bids were made up for securing a plane to use in conjunction with our smokejumper program. Bids were sent to ten concerns that are in air service business. These bids are to be opened April 5. The Western Air Lines was contacted regarding the availability of their hangar at West Yellowstone for use as a smokejumper loft again this season.

After receiving the 1955 forest fire reports for Yellowstone, Forester Barrows submitted a memorandum suggesting improvements.

Blister Rust Control. Notice was received March 23 that $7,400 was being released for our spring blister rust control program.

A 30-man crew has been selected and advised on what dates to report for duty, 24 experienced men, and only 6 inexperienced men have been selected.

Expansion of blister rust control units in Region Two areas was approved by the Washington Office on March 9 which adds 19,980 acres to the present program.

Forest Insects. It was decided not to control the spruce budworm infestation on some 5,427 acres at Yellowstone. Arrangements were made for personnel from the Forest Insect Laboratory to check both the budworm area treated last summer at Yellowstone and the new infestation to determine larvae populations. This will be done early in May.

Ranch and Corral Operations. In addition to the regular feeding and caring for the horses and mules, personnel at Lamar Unit did considerable work on repairing riding and packing equipment.

One horse and 2 mules were purchased during the month as replacements of condemned animals sold last fall. These were purchased from Jed Smith, Livingston, Montana. The entire herd of horses and mules was given the phenothiazine worm treatment. Also, some animals were treated for mange and ticks. No. 49 horse, Danny, was treated for Azoturia, but he still suffers from stiff joints.

Trails. Work on trail signs was started the latter part of the month and signs for the Old Faithful, Lamar and Canyon Districts are in various stages of partial completion.

The screening of applications for trail maintenance positions continues and to date 5 men have been selected. At the close of the month 3 of these had accepted our offer of employment.

Design and Construction

Plans, Maps and Surveys. An up-to-the-minute compilation of programming for the Canyon, Lake and Fishing Bridge areas was prepared by Park Landscape Architect Mattson in collaboration with Park Engineer Wohlbrandt for submission to the Director to picture the situation in regard to utilities and especially power for these areas. Mr. Mattson prepared plans NP-YEL 2482 on Rental Trailer Court Layout at Fishing Bridge and NP-YEL 2372, Sheet 8 on Eight Studies and Working Drawing for Entrance Sign for Yellowstone Entrances, as part of sign program.

Hamilton Stores, Inc. has submitted plans for its Canyon Store and Employee Dormitory and these have been routed to the Regional and Washington Offices.

New Construction. All Park Service and Government contract projects remained closed down for the winter and the only concessioner construction consisted of the completion and inspection of the pilot cabin constructed at the Yellowstone Park Company repair shop at Gardiner by their contractor, McNeil Construction Company, preparatory to the prefabrication of 300 room units for Canyon.

Utilities. On March 20 a meeting was held in the Superintendent's office of officials of the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company, Yellowstone Park Company and National Park Service to discuss a proposal being made by the Telephone Company to take over the telephone facilities within Yellowstone National Park. The proposals are contingent upon acceptance by both the Yellowstone Park Company and National Park Service. The staff here was favorably impressed and is of the opinion that negotiations should be continued, details to be worked out to the satisfaction of all concerned. A proposed integrated radio system was also discussed and a proposal will be submitted by the Telephone Company in early April.

Conferences were held among Service personnel on power for the Canyon area and with Park Electric Cooperative representatives to consider the use of power for heating cabins at Canyon.

Edmund B. Rogers
Superintendent

Forms 10-24 and 10-771 attached

In triplicate
Copy to Region Two w/c Forms
Files (2)
Joffe Office files
ekm

FORM 10-24

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

REGION Two

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

REPORT FOR March, 1956
Month Year

Prepared by the Planning and Construction Division

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	PCP NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED PROGRAM APPROVED	CONTRACT EXECUTED WORK STARTED	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK					
No uncompleted work in progress.					

FORM 10-771
(Revised December 1950)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7mc

[redacted]

REGION Two

* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

REPORT FOR March, 1956
Month Year

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK					
521.2 Guard rail construction			19,649.95		
521.2 Guard rail construction			97,100.05		
523.3 Observation Platform, Inspiration Point	R-115-2	YEL-2395	18,000.00 8/13/53	95%	DL
523.19 Fishing Bridge Campground Road	R-26-1 (por.)	YEL-2284	43,117.49 6/16/54	99%	DL
523.1 Roads, Campsites, Barriers, Route 152, Fishing Bridge Campground, Grade and Surface 2148 feet Driver and 8073 feet Camp Loop Road	"		136,000.00	25%	DL
523.2 Lake Lodge Area Roads, Route 151, Grade and Surface 2.75 miles	R-149-2 (por.)		76,480.00 8/55	40%	DL
523.3 Grading and Drainage of Roads, Parking Areas and Walks, Canyon Cabin Area	R-31	YEL-2578-A	176,320.00	25%	C

* Items out of use not being used

FORM 10-771
(Revised December 1950)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

REGION Two

* [redacted]

REPORT FOR March, 1956
Month Year

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

AREA	PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	P.O.P. NO	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK						
331.16	Comfort Stations (9) and Pumphouse, Canyon Campground	B-36-4	YEL-2138 3/31/34	155,840.00 11/16/54	98%	C
331.17	Comfort Stations, Fishing Bridge Campground	B-52-3 (Por.)	YEL-2126-B	48,037.03 9/55		Bids will be opened April 4
332.16	Main Sewer System, Lake	U-13-5	YEL-5669 6/22/50	39,222.87 9/2/53	100%	DL
332.18	Utilities connections for House Trailers			5,201.93	90%	DL
332.19	Main Electric System, Canyon	U-10-7		30,000.00		Plans being prepared by WODC
332.20	Utilities, Water, Power and Sewer Extensions, Camp Ground, Fishing Bridge	U-27-2	YEL-2584-A	76,360.00 9/14/55	0%	C
332.21	Utilities, Main Sewer System, Canyon, and Water Supply System, Canyon Hotel	U-44-8 U-43-8 (por.)	YEL-3405	351,325.00 9/14/55	15%	C A.V.3-303 3/6/56 added $43,200
333.3	Campground Facilities: Tables, Fireplaces, etc., Fishing Bridge	M-61-1	YEL-3316 7/14/49	30,000.00 9/27/54	30%	DL 150 Tables out on contract. 150 Fireplaces partly prefabricated.
333.4	Campground Facilities: Tables, Fire places, etc., Canyon	M-5-3	YEL-2385	32,215.00 9/27/54	86%	DL

FORM 10-771
(Revised December 1950)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

CONCESSIONERS' PROJECTS

REGION Two

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES
* ~~XXXX~~ ROADS AND TRAILS

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

REPORT FOR March, 1956
Month Year

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Yellowstone National Park					
YELLOWSTONE PARK COMPANY					
Renovation, Old Faithful Lodge Floors				80%	
Tourist cabin office and dormitory, Public baths and laundry, Old Faithful		YEL-8436 Approved			
Comfort Station--Wash House, West Thumb				75%	
Winterkeeper's House, Lake Lodge		Approved		95%	
Lake Boat Dock Residence		Approved		70%	
Canyon Village Cabins					Pilot cabin on display.

* Strike out the one not applicable