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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

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ROGERS
✓ JOHNSTON
✓ JEFFS
✓ ERICKSON
NOVICKI
GILLIAM
✓ Mattson
✓ Condon
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SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

FOR

NOVEMBER 1946

IMPORTANT

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

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SUMMARY OF THE NOVEMBER 1946 MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

FOR YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, WYOMING

Supt. Rogers leaves for extended assignment to Branch of Concessions. . . . . page 1

Johnston and Barrows attend annual meeting of Rocky Mountain Ski Assoc. . . . page 1

Civil Service Examination (Stenographer-Typist) held in Yellowstone . . . . . page 1

Joffe celebrates his 30th year of Government service (ten more to go) . . . . . page 1

Transfers or Promotions - Bauer, Condon, Haines, and Proper . . . . . page 1-2

Six pcs. very good heavy road maintenance equipment rec'd from W.A.A.etc. . . . page 2

Thermal Area Rehabilitation project discontinued early in month. . . . . page 3

Hamilton's book "History of Yellowstone National Park" sent to bindery. . . . . page 3

Cody business men offer plan for operation Shoshone Caverns NM . . . . . page 4

Yellowstone coyote pup travels 75 miles - collected by F&WS . . . . . page 4

Unusually heavy kill of buck deer made during hunting season just closed. . . . page 5

Elk hunting season very poor . . . . . page 5

1946 Lewis River Fire reviewed by Forester Childs and Park personnel. . . . . page 5

Elliott attends meeting held by Forest Service, Park Service, and Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine for planning control of mountain pine beetle epidemic in areas adjoining the Yellowstone. . . . . .page 6

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December 6, 1946.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of November 1946:

Weather Conditions. Frequent storm periods, above-normal temperatures and normal precipitation and snowfall were recorded during November. At Mammoth, 8 days were clear, 3 partly cloudy and 19 cloudy. Total precipitation at this station was 1.64 inches as compared to .60 inch in 1943, 1.67 inches in 1944, and 1.59 inches in 1945. The maximum temperature was 47° on the 5th and 6th and the minimum temperature of 0° was recorded on the 3rd. A maximum snow depth of 9 inches was recorded at Mammoth on the 21st, but this had been reduced to 4 inches by the end of the month.

Special Activities. Supt. Rogers and Asst. to Supt. Joffe returned from the Dude Ranchers Convention at Casper, Wyoming, on November 1, stopping enroute at Custer Battlefield National Monument for routine inspection and conference with Supt. Luce. On Nov. 9, Supt. Rogers left for Denver and Chicago at which latter place he has an assignment of three months in the Branch of Concessions. Asst. Supt. Johnston and Asst. to Supt. Joffe were Acting Superintendent during the remainder of the month.

Asst. Supt. Johnston and Chief Ranger Barrows attended a meeting of the Northern Rocky Mountain Ski Association on Nov. 23-24 in Bozeman, Montana, where skiing in the national parks was discussed. They also met with Forest Service officials in that town to discuss hunting and game matters in the Gallatin section.

The Local Civil Service Board held an examination for Stenographer-Typist on November 27, in which there was one competitor for clerk-stenographer-typist, and two for typist.

Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe celebrated the anniversary of 30 years of continuous Government service on Nov. 20, having commenced as an employee of the Washington Office of the Panama Canal Office on Nov. 20, 1916. He has been stationed in the Yellowstone since May 1, 1922.

Dr. C. Max Bauer departed for Chicago Nov. 13 for transfer to the position of Geologist P-5, in the Director's Office, entering on duty effective Nov. 15. David deL. Condon was promoted to fill Dr. Bauer's vacancy as Chief Park Naturalist, P-4, effective Nov. 17. Aubrey L. Haines entered on duty as Engineer (Civil) P-2, effective Nov. 17, by transfer from a park ranger position here. William G. Proper

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the record of activities for [illegible] during the month of November 1944:

Weather conditions. Frequent storm periods, [illegible] normal precipitation and snowfall were received during [illegible]. [illegible] days were clear, 5 partly cloudy and 19 cloudy. Total precipitation was 1.94 inches as compared to [illegible] inch in 1943, and 1.77 inches in 1942. The maximum temperature was [illegible], and the minimum temperature of 20° was recorded on the 1st. [illegible] of 9 inches was recorded at Yamouth on the 21st, but this [illegible] 4 inches by the end of the month.

Special activities. [illegible] Rogers and [illegible] the Pole Mandore Convent on 11 Dealer, Wyoming, on November 1, after [illegible] at Dater Battlefield Memorial Museum for routine measures [illegible] with Supt. Hugo. On Nov. 9, Mrs. Rogers left for [illegible] to visit [illegible] latter place on the assignment of [illegible] months in [illegible] last. Supt. Gorsdon and Asst. to Supt. Duffy were [illegible] the remainder of the month.

Asst. Supt. Gorsdon and [illegible] arrives [illegible] Tombstone Rocky Mountain National Monument on Nov. 2[illegible], [illegible] making in the national parks [illegible]. For [illegible] officials in that area to discuss [illegible] section.

The local civil service board met on a [illegible] on November 27. In addition there was an examining for [illegible] and two for typist.

Legislation in the Superintendent's office celebrated the [illegible] of continuous Government service on Nov. [illegible] giving [illegible] the resignation notice of the [illegible] effective on Nov. [illegible], 1944. [illegible] established in the following since Nov. 1, 1920.

Dr. E. Max Bauer departed for Chicago on Nov. 13 [illegible] of geologist P-3, in the Director's office, Washington, [illegible] David del. Condon was promoted to Fill Dr. Bauer's vacancy [illegible] P-4, effective Nov. 17. Harry L. Gaines entered on duty as [illegible] effective Nov. 17, by transfer from a park ranger [illegible].

arrived Nov. 23, and entered on duty Nov. 25 as Clerk-Stenographer, CAP-4, by transfer from the Region Two Office.

Inspections. Halsey Davidson, Region Two Landscape Architect, left the Park for Omaha on Nov. 2. Lansing Parker, F&WS, Chicago, Robert Boom and Len Springer, F&WS, Portland, in with Robert Cooney and Faye Couey, Wildlife Restoration Division, Montana Fish and Game Department, to look over game in the Park, Nov. 6. Frank Childs, Region Two Forester, in Nov. 13, for review of 1946 fires, out Nov. 16. Supt. & Mrs. E. S. Luce, Custer Battlefield National Monument, in Nov. 20 to confer with Yellowstone officials and secure supplies, out Nov. 22. Fred G. Bussey, Chief Clerk, Glacier NP, in Nov. 27 for conference with Yellowstone officials on various fiscal and personnel matters.

General Publicity. On Nov. 7 Asst. to Supt. Joffe spoke before the Butte Rotary Club luncheon-meeting on Park travel and operating conditions during the 1946 season. One hundred twenty-two persons attended.

Complaints. During November five letters, containing twelve written complaints on operations during the 1946 season, were handled by the Superintendent's Office, with copies furnished your office, park operators, and Region Two. Briefly, the complaints were: 3 on cabins, unmodern and unsatisfactory; 3 on inability to secure or method of handling reservations; 1 on high rates for cabins; 1 on concession monopolies; 1 on condition of trails; 1 on condition of roads; 1 on general highway hazards; and 1 on opening and closing dates for accommodations in the Park, unsatisfactory.

Maintenance. ROAD AND TRAIL. The following equipment for road and trail maintenance was received during the month:

1 Littleford bituminous distributor complete with all fittings, mounted on a Ford truck
1 3-auger rotary Snogo
1 7½-ton dump truck with push type snow blade and wing
1 Nelson truck loader
1 4-ton 6 x 6 truck tractor
1 20-ton Trailer.

All of this equipment is in very good shape.

Snowplow operations, Gardiner to Cooke, were required intermittently throughout the month. Sanding operations on icy roads were required more than usual. The small stream beside the road at the Yellowstone River crossing near Tower Falls froze to the bottom and water flooded a section of the road, then froze. Considerable difficulty was encountered before the situation could be corrected.

The log rail on the Gardiner river bridge, 7 miles above Mammoth, on the Mammoth to Norris road, was replaced. A small crew of five to six men spent most of the month in getting out logs for guard rail. These were hauled to Mammoth where they will later be peeled and shaped.

All regular road maintenance crews have been laid off. Snow removal operations were carried on by our two permanent heavy equipment operators and the only other men employed on road and trail work are six men on the guard rail crew mentioned above.

MAJOR REPAIR AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM. Construction work on projects 401.2, 401.3, and 401.4, all temporary houses at Mammoth, continued throughout the month. On project 401.2 the foundation is complete and walls and roof sections are in place. On project 401.3 the excavation is complete and concrete foundations poured. On project 401.4 the excavation is 90% complete.

Work was started on project No. 103-2, Renovation of Museum Specimens.

Concessioners. Mrs. Anna K. Pryor, Manager, Pryor & Trischman, left the Park for California November 4.

Mr. J. E. Haynes, President, Haynes, Inc., closed his Mammoth Shop and left the Park for Bozeman on Nov. 14.

Interpretive Service. The only program presented during the month by the naturalists consisted of showing of some special movies to the Gardiner Commercial Club in Gardiner, Montana on November 26 by Chief Park Naturalist Condon. There was an appreciative audience of 49 people present.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. An extensive cleanup program of all mounted bird and mammal specimens has been under way in the Mammoth Museum during the month. George Marler has been employed as a laborer-foreman to do the work and has been assisted by the regular naturalist staff. The beneficial effects of this work are very apparent when contrasting the specimens which have been worked over with those not yet touched. New bases have been placed on many of the specimens and in some instances the material on display in the cases has been altered to provide more desirable effects.

The Mammoth Museum basement was thoroughly cleaned and reorganized. Also, the storehouse of accessioned items was thoroughly cleaned and organized.

The extensive work carried on during October on thermal area rehabilitation had to be discontinued early in November due to adverse weather conditions and blocking of roads by the fall of snow. Much of this work remains to be done in the spring and, it is hoped, carried to a satisfactory finish.

Mrs. George Marler, a highly-trained librarian, was hired by the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association to work on the library and to place all material in proper order and accession and file publications which have accumulated for sometime.

Five copies of the History of Yellowstone National Park by James M. Hamilton were sent to the Dieter Bookbinding Company in Denver, Colorado, for binding. These will be distributed to Mrs. Hamilton, the Montana State College Library at Bozeman, Mr. J. E. Haynes, and the Yellowstone Park Library.

All regular road maintenance [illegible] operations were carried on by the maintenance [illegible] and the only other men employed on road [illegible] guard rail crew mentioned above.

MAJOR MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT [illegible]. [illegible] 401-C, 401-D, and 401-E, all terminal [illegible] the month. On project 401-A the foundation [illegible] sections are in place. On project 401-B the [illegible] foundations poured. On project 401-E the [illegible].

Work was started on project No. 401-F, [illegible].

Concessions, etc. Mrs. Anna L. Tyler, [illegible] the park for California Governor [illegible].

Mr. A. E. Eggers, President, [illegible], left the park for Sacramento on [illegible].

Interpretive Service. The only [illegible] naturalists consisted of showing of some [illegible] Commercial Club in Coalinga, [illegible] Condon. There was no specialized [illegible].

Among Activities and Exhibits. [illegible] mounted with the usual [illegible] during the month. George Barker has been [illegible] the work and has been assisted by the regular [illegible]. [illegible] effects of this work are very apparent [illegible]. The [illegible] have been worked over with those not yet [illegible] on many of the exhibits and in some instances [illegible] cases has been altered to provide more [illegible].

The Lamoth Museum basement has [illegible] the storehouse of accessioned items [illegible].

The extensive work carried on during [illegible] tion had to be discontinued early in November [illegible] and blocking of roads by the fall of [illegible] done in the spring and, it is hoped, [illegible].

Mrs. George Barker, a [illegible] librarian, [illegible] Alpine Library and Travel Exhibition [illegible] material in proper order and assessing and file [illegible] accumulated for months.

Five copies of the Library of Natural [illegible] Exhibition were sent to the Fisher Scientific [illegible] binding. These will be distributed to [illegible] College Library at Sacramento, Mr. A. E. Eggers, [illegible].

A 1600 ft. colored motion picture on Yellowstone National Park was loaned to the Iowa State College for showing to a special group. This picture was presented on November 9 and was well received by all in attendance. More than 300 people were in attendance at this special program.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Early snowstorms closed the roads in the interior of the park so that travel during November was possible only over the road between the north and northeast entrances, which is kept open all winter. A total of 515 visitors entered the park in 224 vehicles as compared to 896 visitors in 314 vehicles for the same month last year.

Visitors: Walter Hoffman, President, and Marlin Kurtz, Secretary, Cody Club, Cody, Wyoming, came to park headquarters on November 3 to confer with Superintendent Rogers and Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe in connection with the proposed operation and development of Shoshone Caverns National Monument.

Ranger Service. Patrol activities were continued on an intensive basis through November. The open elk hunting season in Montana areas adjacent to the north boundary continued to require regular patrols. Deer and elk seasons closed in Idaho and Wyoming but trapping seasons opened. Two rangers traveled to the remote Thorofare area on skis and will remain there until the trapping season ends late next month. Three elk were killed by poachers along the Gallatin road and vandals fired two shots through the front doors of the ranger's private car which was parked near the road. To handle this situation night patrols of the highway through the Gallatin area and the road from Gardiner through the Game Ranch to the north boundary were continued.

Extensive revisions of the park ranger's administrative, report and checking station manuals were started but completion of this undertaking will require considerable time. Rangers completed repairs of the Mammoth elk trap and constructed a new horse corral at Tower Falls.

Police Protection. One case, which involved the killing of a buck deer inside the park near the north entrance Roosevelt Arch was presented before the United States Commissioner. The defendant entered a plea of guilty and paid a fine of $50.00 which was assessed against him.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. BUFFALO. Due to mild weather and light snow conditions, very few buffalo have moved down into the Lamar Valley at this time.

COYOTES. On Nov. 21, a coyote bearing ear tag number 136 was killed by a F&WS hunter near Big Timber, Montana. Records show that this animal was tagged as a pup in June 1946 near the Game Ranch in Yellowstone Park. Travel distance is approximately 75 miles. The Fish and Wildlife Service has recommended that all ear-tagged coyotes seen during January, February and March be collected for purpose of the migratory habit study, and instructions have been issued to the rangers in accordance therewith.

A 1500 ft. colored [illegible] [illegible] loaned to the Iowa State College [illegible] [illegible] was presented on November [illegible] [illegible] than 300 people were in attendance at this annual [illegible].

Increase or decrease in travel. [illegible] the inspector of the park [illegible] over the road between the north and [illegible] all winter. A total of [illegible] visitors entered the [illegible] [illegible] to 636 visitors in the vicinity for the same [illegible].

Visitors: [illegible] club, Dod, [illegible] department [illegible] with the proposed [illegible] [illegible] movement.

Ranger service. [illegible] through November. The open [illegible] the north boundary continued to require regular [illegible] closed in June and October but [illegible] season [illegible] to the remote [illegible] [illegible] season made late [illegible] [illegible] ranger's private car which was [illegible] [illegible] right patrols of the highway through the [illegible] [illegible] patrol or through the [illegible] [illegible].

Extensive revisions of the park ranger's [illegible] [illegible] shooting station manuals were started [illegible] will require considerable time. [illegible] trap and conducted a [illegible] [illegible].

Police protection. [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] the United States commissioner. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a fine of $50.00 [illegible] [illegible].

Wildlife and fish [illegible]. [illegible] and light snow conditions, very few [illegible] have been seen [illegible] Valley at this time.

[illegible]. On June [illegible] a [illegible] a [illegible] hunter [illegible] tagged as a cup in June [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] distance is approximately 75 miles. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] collected for purpose of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] issued to the rangers in accordance therewith.

DEER. An unusually heavy kill of buck deer was made during the hunting season in Montana adjacent to the park, October 15 to November 15. At close of the season a buck deer was rarely seen in the area outside the park. While the total kill has not yet been estimated, it is believed to have been 400 or more. Within the park buck deer are plentiful in normal numbers.

ELK. The early elk hunting season in the Cooke-Slough Creek-Hellroaring areas extended from Sept. 15 to Nov. 30. Early snows at high elevations apparently tended to push some of the elk into rather than out of the park and the total number of elk taken was less than that of a year ago. While final estimated kill has not yet been made, it apparently will be about 40, as compared with 125 in 1945.

Regular hunting season for elk in Park County, Montana, opened on Oct. 15. A very small number of elk resident to this outside area, plus occasional animals which have drifted from the park, have been taken by hunters. Due to mild weather conditions, there has been no migration of elk from the park and very little concentration of these animals along the northern winter range. Up until Nov. 20, the whole upper range from Blacktail Deer Creek to Soda Butte was comparatively free of snow, while more normal winter conditions prevailed in the Mammoth and Gardiner areas. A snow and wind storm occurred in the Lamar River area on Nov. 24, and migration trails observed on the following day indicated that a considerable drift of elk from the upper Lamar River country to the Slough Creek and Hellroaring areas had occurred. Mild weather during the remainder of the month was unfavorable to further down-country drift.

Acting upon recommendation of a special committee of the Absaroka Conservation Committee, the Montana Fish and Game Commission proclaimed an administrative closure area embracing the drainages of Pole, Phelps, Little Trail, and Bassett Creeks on November 16, this area to remain closed to hunting until a designated four-man committee determines that a sufficient migration has occurred to warrant opening to hunters. Members of the committee who will make this determination are:

H. O. Mitchell, Park County Rod & Gun Club, Chairman
E. E. Redman, U. S. Forest Service
Curtis K. Skinner, Yellowstone Park
John Burke, Deputy State Game Warden

They plan to meet on Dec. 3 in Livingston, Montana, to discuss the situation.

A few requests for live elk, totaling only a few animals, have been received, and two of the elk traps are being repaired for use probably in January.

FISH. The Annual Fish Planting Report was prepared and submitted during the latter part of the month.

Forest Fire Protection. A review of the 1946 Lewis River Fire was held on November 15 at Mammoth and was attended by Regional Forester Childs and twenty-three park employees. A number of constructive suggestions were made during the review and an attempt will be made to incorporate them in plans for next year.

[illegible]. In unusually heavy fall of [illegible] season in counties adjacent to the park. Since 19[illegible] of the season a buck deer was recently [illegible] the total kill has not yet been established, [illegible] more. Within the park, bear [illegible].

[illegible]. The early elk hunting season in the [illegible] areas extended from Sept. 17 to Nov. 2. Early [illegible] apparently tended to [illegible] the total number of elk taken [illegible] estimated kill has not yet been made, [illegible] compared with 125 in 1[illegible].

Regular hunting season for elk is now [illegible]. A very small number of elk residing in this [illegible] animals which have strayed from the park. [illegible] mild weather conditions, [illegible] very little [illegible] to until Nov. 20, the whole upper range from [illegible] was comparatively free of snow, with more normal weather [illegible] in the Yellowstone and Gardiner areas. [illegible] lower River area on Nov. 3, and directors [illegible] day indicated that a considerable drift of elk [illegible] country to the Slough Creek and Gardiner areas [illegible] during the remainder of the month [illegible] drift.

Acting upon recommendation of a special committee of the Conservation Conservation Committee, the Superintendent [illegible] strictly closure area surrounding the drainages of [illegible] and Cascade Creeks on [illegible] 15. [illegible] a designated four-year [illegible] considered to warrant closing to hunters. [illegible] this determination are:

R. C. Aldcroft, [illegible]
T. E. [illegible], [illegible]
Curtis K. [illegible], [illegible]
John Burns, [illegible]

They plan to meet on [illegible].

A few requests for live elk, totaling only a few [illegible] received, and two of the elk [illegible] January.

Fish. The annual [illegible] the latter part of the month.

Forest fire protection. [illegible] on November 15 at Mammoth and was attended by [illegible] twenty-three park employees. A number of conservation [illegible] during the review and an attempt will be made to [illegible] for next year.

Considerable work was done on inventory of equipment at the Mammoth fire cache and on assembling data for the fire atlas.

The bill for fire losses resulting from a flare dropped by a plane of the Western Airlines was forwarded to that company.

Insects and Tree Diseases. WHITE PINE BLISTER RUST CONTROL. Several maps have been prepared showing the vegetative types and extent of control work completed in the Mt. Washburn area. Maps of the Craig Pass area and the survey of the area, which was conducted during the summer, were also prepared. A statement of funds expended during the 1946 working season was prepared and submitted to the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. A report of the entire 1946 blister rust control operations was also prepared.

FOREST INSECTS. Assistant Chief Ranger Elliott attended a two-day meeting at St. Anthony, Idaho, on Nov. 26-27, where U. S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine officials discussed the existing conditions and the possible threat to other areas if the mountain pine beetle epidemic which has developed on the Caribou, Targhee, and Teton National Forests is not controlled. The National Park Service areas which might be affected if the epidemic is unchecked and continues its past trend of spread are Grand Teton National Park, Jackson Hole National Monument, and Yellowstone National Park. The threat of epidemic developments in these areas appears to be imminent but, not as yet, actual except in Grand Teton National Park. Control work in this area has been in progress each summer for the past several years. It was recommended that maintenance control work be continued in Grand Teton and that biannual aerial surveys be made of sections of Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks and Jackson Hole National Monument to determine whether there may be a spread of the known existing epidemic and to locate any possible epidemic outbreaks which may be developing in isolated sections of the three areas.

Accidents. One motor vehicle accident was reported during the month. This accident, which was not of a serious nature, occurred on the highway which extends through the Gallatin area of the park.

Miscellaneous. On Nov. 5, Supt. Rogers appointed the Yellowstone Park Chapel Committee, consisting of David deL. Condon, Ladd S. Shorey, Frank E. Mattson, and Mrs. Joe Joffe. Mr. Condon was elected President and Mr. Shorey Secretary-Treasurer.

A carnival was staged in the Canteen on Nov. 30, sponsored by the National Federation of Federal Employees, Local 465.

Mr. Bert Vink, retired, age 74, died at Bozeman, Montana, Nov. 6, and was buried at Livingston Nov. 9. He was the NPS blacksmith in Yellowstone from 1923 to 1933.

Mr. Charles Novicki, father of Personnel Clerk Victoria Novicki and Mrs. Susan Bowman, former clerk-stenographer in the Superintendent's Office and now wife of Assistant Postmaster Alfred A. Bowman, died at Sheridan, Wyoming, Friday, Nov. 29, at the age of 75. Mr. Novicki had been confined at Memorial Hospital in Sheridan for several weeks.

Fred T. Johnston,
Acting Superintendent.

In quintuple.

cc: Region Two (in dupl.)
File
JJ/weh