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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 207-02.3

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

MARCH 1950

	ROGERS
✓	JOHNSTON
✓	JOFFE
✓	ANDERSON
	STANTON
	FULLER
	MATTSON
✓	CONDON
✓	SKINNER
✓	EVANS
	CHAPMAN
	FINCH
	JAY
	KITTAMS
✓	WOHLBRANDT
	ROBINSON
	WIGGINS
	McMULLIN

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

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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 1950 Monthly Narrative Report for
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

UNITED STATES
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FICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

April 7, 1950

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Monthly Report for March 1950

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of March 1950.

Weather Conditions. The month of March was characterized by weather typical of this time of year, with considerable variance of temperatures and blustery periods with intermittent snow storms of great intensity. The maximum temperature recorded during the month at Mammoth was observed on March 6, with a reading of 51 degrees and a minimum temperature of 17 degrees below zero was recorded on March 11. Precipitation for the month totaled 1.60 inches as compared to 0.87" in 1949, 1.46" in 1948, 1.35" in 1947 and 2.56" in 1946. Skies were predominantly cloudy with only seven days recorded as clear. Snow depths at various locations within the park were reported as follows:

	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944
Mammoth	4.87	11	8	4	12	--	12
Tower Falls	18.0	28	28	13	18	4	22
Lamar	5.0	18	22	8	10	--	10
Northeast	33.0	47	38	33	25	24	29
Lake	44.5	53	48	41	41	29	33
Lewis River Divide	146.0	132	99	120	116	84	75
Snake River	61.0	68	60	53	52	51	40
Old Faithful	51.0	63	48	51	55	37	30
West Yellowstone	49.0	42	40	38	39	27	29
Cascade	109.0	124	85	65	80	52	36
Gallatin	25.0	21	28	--	43	10	22

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers returned to the park on March 6 from Denver where he had been assigned during the winter on research work in connection with the project covering the legislative history of the National Parks. He made a trip to Livingston on March 13 to confer with Mrs. Pryor regarding seasonal operations, Mrs. Pryor having come to Livingston to visit her brother Harry Trischman who was confined to the hospital there. He attended Mr. Trischman's funeral in Livingston on the 18th. Trips were made to Bozeman on March 21 to obtain material from the library there in connection with his research study and to attend Rotary and on the 30th to do research work in the library

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and to attend the "Heritage of Freedom Exhibit" in the Haynes Studio there.

Assistant Superintendent Johnston returned March 17 from a trip to Washington, D. C., which started February 27, for an assignment in the Director's Office.

Resident Landscape Architect Mattson returned to the park on March 3 from a trip starting February February 25 to Casper and Denver where he conferred with the Superintendent of Grand Teton National Park, Bureau of Public Roads officials and interested parties in connection with the South Approach Road to the park.

Biologist Kittams departed on March 29 for Jackson, Wyoming, for a conference with Federal and State officials in connection with wildlife matters following which he expected to take 15 days military leave in connection with his Naval Reserve training.

As usual, the park made an excellent showing in the Red Cross drive held during the month. Contributions totaling $193.75 were contributed and turned over to the Park County, Montana Chapter in Livingston.

Inspections. Barnes MacDonald, Highway Engineer, Region Two, arrived March 7; departed for Omaha 18th.

Lee Shrum, District Supervisor, Census Enumeration, Sheridan, Wyoming, in March 10 in connection with park census enumeration; out 13th.

In-Service Training. Sixteen park rangers stationed at or near park headquarters received four hours each of firearms instruction and practice. The training will be continued in April. Plans were completed for a First Aid instructors course which will be conducted April 3 to 6 by a field representative of the American Red Cross.

The regular weekly news letter was issued to all employees, keeping them current on park activities.

Publicity. The Department of Health for Wyoming in its March publication of "Good Health for Wyoming" had an article on the park, the information for which was furnished from the park. The Kemmerer (Wyoming) Gazette later published this same article.

Ralph Crane, LIFE Photographer who arrived in the park February 15 by snoplane from West Yellowstone to obtain winter pictures for a park story for LIFE, arrived at headquarters on March 14 and spent several days photographing the wildlife along the north side of the park. He obtained a number of excellent photographs while in the Yellowstone which LIFE expects to use for a story next winter. He left on the 19th to return to Hollywood.

The copy for Folder "B" for 1950 issued by the Yellowstone Park Company was reviewed in the office and sent on March 30 to St. Paul for early publication.

A total of 80,675 broadsides remained on hand at the end of the month.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. Plans for roads, water and sewer projects in the Lake Hotel Cabin Area were nearly complete and some work was done on the Lake main sewer lines.

Barnes MacDonald, Highway Engineer for the Region Office, was in the park ten days assisting in the preparation of road and trail estimates for the 1951 fiscal year and rendered very valuable help.

The Park Engineer spent two days outside the park collecting data for wage board rates.

Maintenance. Snowplowing during the month was rather light. The rotary plows were used for the first time this winter to open the road for the water intake at the upper end of Swan Lake Flat. Snow was rather hard and icy.

A tentative date of May 1 has been set for having the roads open to Old Faithful and West Yellowstone and May 25 for the East and South Entrance roads.

Hard packed snow on the streets of Cooke was removed by graders. Several culverts which had become almost filled by ice were successfully cleaned by the use of steam tank car heaters.

Patching of the bituminous road surface was continuous for most of the month. The section of road from Mammoth to the Lamar Canyon is breaking up quite seriously. A restricted load limit was continued on the Gardiner-Cooke section for the entire month.

Several additional pieces of heavy equipment were painted a highway yellow during the month.

Besides the permanent road maintenancemen, three additional men were engaged for part of the month.

New Construction. There was no field work on major road construction during the month. Work was completed except outside painting on the additional bedrooms on four residences, Account 430. The painting will be done as weather permits.

Concessioners. Huntley Child, Manager of the Lodge Division, Yellowstone Park Company, moved his office from Helena to Gardiner on March 1.

Mrs. Anna K. Pryor called at the office on March 6, having made a trip to Livingston by plane due to the serious illness of her brother Harry Trischman.

On March 8 Acting Director Demaray approved the Yellowstone Park Company's recommendation that they not open the Mammoth swimming pool for the 1950 season; also that the structure be demolished and the site cleared this fall. The Company's recommendations were made due to the numerous improvements required by the U. S. Public Health Service.

The Yellowstone Park Company rates for 1950 were approved in the Washington Office on March 10.

John Nichols, Vice President of the Yellowstone Park Company, arrived in the park on March 18 and spent several days here.

The Yellowstone Park Company opened its mess house at Mammoth on March 20 to accommodate a crew working on the interior of the Mammoth Hotel and on the construction of the new Mammoth laundry.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Haynes were visitors in the park on March 23. Mrs. Haynes expected to leave for St. Paul on April 3 to recruit her employees for the coming summer.

On March 24 the Superintendent approved the opening dates for the various operations of the Yellowstone Park Company for the 1950 season. The Old Faithful cafeteria and tourist cabins are to open on May 10, Fishing Bridge cafeteria and tourist cabins on May 22, Canyon and West Thumb cafeteria and tourist cabins May 27, Mammoth tourist cabins June 4, Old Faithful and Lake lodge cabins June 3, Canyon lodge cabins June 10, Old Faithful, Lake and Canyon lodge dining rooms June 14, Camp Roosevelt cabins and dining room June 20, Old Faithful Inn, Canyon Hotel and Mammoth Hotel June 19, Mammoth cottages June 10, Mammoth Grill June 12, Lake Hotel and cottages June 20, Old Faithful repair shop May 10, Canyon repair shop May 27, Fishing Bridge repair shop May 22, and Mammoth repair shop June 4, boats at Yellowstone Lake May 30, and saddle horses June 19.

The Haynes Studio in Bozeman conducted a "Heritage of Freedom Exhibit" the week of March 27-31 in connection with the Bozeman fair week. Some 3,500 persons viewed the exhibit during the week.

The rates for Pryor Stores, Inc. for 1950 were approved by the Washington Office on March 27, 1950.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. The regular Sunday School services were held each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with a large percentage of children of the community and a number of the adults attending.

Rev. E. A. Syms conducted services on March 26 at 7:30 p.m. but was ill on March 12 and was unable to conduct services.

On Tuesday evening, March 28, Dr. Ernest Lauer, historian and philosopher of Montana State College, reviewed a recent biography of Joseph Stalin. This talk was well attended.

Rev. Webster Clement of the Lutheran Church at Livingston, Montana conducted communion services in the chapel on the evening of the 27th.

The negotiations of the Church Committee for two resident student ministers to conduct services for the 1950 season are virtually complete and Mr. Warren Ost and Mr. Kinny from the Princeton Seminary will in all probability handle services this season.

Interpretive Services. Chief Park Naturalist Condon gave a talk on Yellowstone Park to the residents of Paradise Valley at the Pine Creek Methodist Church on March 3. There were 80 people in attendance.

Several letters of inquiry for detailed information on various phases of Yellowstone National Park phenomena for use by individuals in the preparation of special papers or articles were given detailed replies by the Chief Park Naturalist.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. The skulls of six bull elk of representative ages which were killed in the management operations were given to the Zoology Department of the Montana State College at Bozeman for their use in studying the characteristics of animals at different ages. This same institution was given one bull buffalo skull for use in its Zoology Department.

The laboratory space under the old storehouse was fixed up with shelving and cupboards during the month and it is anticipated that in April many of the museum accessioned materials now inadequately stored in the Red Storehouse will be given better storage in this unit. There is a great deal of work to be done to place these facilities in satisfactory condition.

Research and Observation. Three field trips were made by Chief Park Naturalist Condon in company with Assistant Chief Ranger Breynton Finch to Soda Butte Creek area for the purpose of obtaining winter pictures and making field observations. On one of these trips Mr. Ralph Crane, of LIFE Magazine, was along. On the third attempt it is thought that satisfactory pictures of the desired subject matter were obtained.

During the month correspondence was carried on with seasonal park ranger naturalists Richard Schroeder, Lowell Biddulph, Kenneth Armitage and Kenneth Diem; all of whom propose to conduct research problems in the field of natural history for the purpose of preparing either masters or doctorate theses for higher degrees. Mr. Schroeder hopes to do research work on rodents for a masters degree at the Brigham Young University; Mr. Biddulph plans to pursue a subject on outdoor recreation for a doctor's degree at the University of Utah; Mr. Armitage plans to conduct a limnological study on the Firehole River for a masters degree at the University of Wisconsin and Mr. Diem has been thinking of conducting a range research study in Hayden Valley with respect to the bison population there.

Park Naturalist Watson has spent more than a week's time in the preparation of an article for use in the Yellowstone Park Nature Notes. The story will probably be run in two issues in company with other Nature Note articles. The Chief Park Naturalist has spent some time reviewing Nature Notes material and it is anticipated that the March-April issue will be prepared early in April.

Natural History Association. The Association has arranged for the employment of Miss Joan Swartzlow as Librarian for the 1950 season. As yet no arrangements have been made for the employment of an Association clerk to handle the book sales business.

During the month orders were placed and books received from a number of publishing houses. These books were purchased for resale at the information desks and at the month's close all orders had been placed to bring the Association's sales stock up to a level sufficient to handle the anticipated summer business.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Travel was slightly less than last month but showed an increase over the same month in 1949. A total of 670 vehicles entered the park carrying 1846 persons as compared with 445 vehicles and 1184 persons entering the park in March 1949. Travel by over-the-snow equipment was more than double that for March 1949. Twenty-seven trips were made by seven machines which carried a total of 60 persons. The report for March 1949 showed that 13 trips were made into the park with 26 persons. Records show that pre and post season travel is largely dependent upon the type of weather prevailing on the weekends, as this is the time of week when residents of local communities avail themselves of a short drive.

Visitors. Walter F. Sanders, National Representative, American Federation of Government Employees, Tacoma, Washington, in March 20.

John Willard, newspaperman from Helena, and Faye Couey, of the Montana Fish and Game Department, in March 25.

Ranger Service. Work was varied during the month and included the annual disposal to the warehouse of all unclaimed "lost and found" property that could not be returned to the owners because of insufficient identification and where the finders did not want to have the items, completion of the Annual Traffic Accident Summary, handling of an unusually large number of applications for seasonal employment, making of directive and instructional signs for protection division use, big horn census of the northern winter range, road patrols in the Gallatin and Reese Creek areas, boundary patrol in the West Yellowstone area and along the north boundary and extensive revisions of the Park Rangers Administrative, Report and Checking Station Manuals.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. BIGHORN. An inventory of bighorns on the accessible parts of the northern winter range was conducted during the period of March 10 to 29 by District Ranger Coleman, who has had wide experience in this work, and Park Ranger Vladimiroff. The observers actually counted 101 bighorns including 52 ewes, 33 rams and 17 lambs. The small groups were found in practically the same small areas where they have been found during previous winters. Although much more range area was available few animals were found outside the known small areas favored by the bighorns. Long range observations failed to locate any bighorns in the Baronett and Abiathar Peaks areas although 7 animals were found there the previous years and probably are wintering in that locality this year. It appears that some actual decrease in bighorn numbers may have occurred, since 144 were counted last year but the evidence is not conclusive and must be checked during a winter of normal severity when the range areas are restricted by deeper snow. However, the outlook for this species becomes more discouraging.

ELK. Elk commenced a slow up-country movement early in March after unusually warm weather has made some of the higher ranges available. Later snowstorms and cold weather stopped this movement and in some instances the elk appeared to have moved short distances back to lower country. In general the elk are in fair to good condition and winter losses probably will be unusually light. A complete summary of the status of elk in the park was prepared and will be submitted early in April.

BISON. No feeding of bison, other than in the corrals during the reduction operations, was carried on this winter. Most of the Lamar group were found in the Horseshoe and Hellroaring areas during March and very few remained in the vicinity of Lamar headquarters.

RANGE CONDITIONS. Range available for foraging has changed little during the month. Snow covered most of the critical range at the end of the month although this was free of snow at the first of March. However, the snow is light and the animals can paw and nuzzle through it.

Yellowstone Park, Wyoming

It has definitely retarded melting of the old snow which is seldom pawed through by grazing animals. Snow over most of the non-critical range is hard enough to support a man on foot but it is shallower than usual for this time of the year and should melt off rapidly when temperatures warm up. Virtually all of the range on Coal Mine Flat and below is free of snow.

Forest Fire Protection. Offers of employment were sent to those of last year's fire control aids who have indicated their desire to return, and offers have also been sent to a number of new men. There remain three or four vacancies to fill before the fire control aid force is complete. However, an unusually large number of applications were received this year.

Considerable time was devoted to the revision of the Step-Up Plan, but a satisfactory formula for the manning of all secondary lookouts has still not been worked out.

Flight maps have been completed for use in aerial detection, two seen area overlays and several profiling cards have been completed and considerable work has been done on repairing dispatcher's maps, mounting maps on fire finders, preparing training charts, etc.

Fire Weather. The Meteorologist in charge of the Boise Weather Bureau has advised that he will visit Yellowstone just prior to the fire season and will bring the necessary supplies to get the various stations in operation. A new instrument shelter is being supplied for the Mt. Holmes station.

Blister Rust Control. A Camp Superintendent Ira Cochran has advised that he will be available for work with the blister rust crew this summer. Prospects are favorable for a good overhead unit and the selection of a full complement of blister rust control laborers is about complete to bring the camp strength including overhead to 25 men.

Building Fire Protection. During the month the results of the Annual Building Fire Hazard Inspection were studied and notices of hazards found were sent to the various division heads. Tests of the pressurized can of Carbon Tetrachloride type extinguisher show that it was just as effective as the conventional one quart hand pump type. Consequently, as an emergency measure until such time as a satisfactory type extinguisher for residences is approved by the Service, six dozen of these can type extinguishers were purchased. They will be used in locations where defective extinguishers have been removed. In six dozen lots these cost only 79¢ each, which is only a little more than the cost of the fluid for the hand pump type.

Trails. Because there are funds available for trail work during the remainder of the 1950 fiscal year and since it will not be practical to employ all seasonal rangers before July 1, jobs on the trail crew have been offered for May and June to several of the men selected for seasonal park ranger work. It is expected with the availability of these seasoned men considerable work will be accomplished on the trails.

Accidents and Public Safety. Two motor vehicle accidents, one Class A and one Class B, were reported for March. Both accidents resulted from the slippery condition of the snow covered roads. No personal injuries were sustained but considerable damage to one vehicle resulted from of the incidents. No Government vehicles were involved.

A comprehensive summary and brief analysis of the 231 motor vehicle accidents which were reported in 1949 was prepared and will be submitted early in April. This is the third annual report prepared in Yellowstone to assist in engineering and enforcement planning.

Births. A son was born to Park Ranger and Mrs. Harry Reynolds at the Park Hospital in Livingston on March 2. He was named Patrick Campbell.

Deaths. Dr. L. I. Hewes, Chief of Western Headquarters, Bureau of Public Roads, died of a heart attack in San Francisco on March 2. Dr. Hewes had visited the Yellowstone on numerous occasions and did considerable work in connection with the park's road program.

John J. Jones, 74, of Gardiner, died in the Park Hospital in Livingston on March 8. Mr. Jones and his wife have both worked many years in the park for the National Park Service and the park concessioners and they operated the Cottage Hotel in Gardiner for many years. Mr. Jones is the uncle of Robert Carr and Thomas Somerville, Jr., both permanent employees of the National Park Service here.

Harry Trischman, 63, died in the Park Hospital in Livingston on the evening of March 15 after a lingering illness. He is a brother of Mrs. Anna K. Pryor and Miss Belle Trischman, park concessioners, and served some thirty-three years with the Army and the National Park Service in the Yellowstone as Packer, Scout, Park Ranger, Assistant Chief Park Ranger, First Assistant Chief Ranger, and Chief Buffalo Keeper. He retired from duty on December 31, 1945. Masonic funeral services were held in Livingston on March 18 and burial was in the Mountain View Cemetery there. Park Rangers William Chapman, John Bauman, Lee Coleman, Arthur Jacobson, Frank Anderson and Rudolf Grimm, all in Park Service uniforms, acted as pallbearers.

Marriages. Shirley Kumor, Clerk-Stenographer in the Chief Ranger's Office, and Leroy D. Wohlbrandt, son of the Park Engineer and seasonally employed with the National Park Service here, were married in the Congregational Church Parsonage in Livingston on March 11.

Personnel. Lawrence Murray, Electrician, Ungraded, $1.75 per hour, was promoted to Electrician Foreman, $1.95 per hour, vice George McMullin, on March 5.

Willard M. Chase, Purchasing Assistant, GS-7, was transferred to the Atomic Energy Commission, Idaho Falls, Idaho, effective March 11.

Shirley Kumor, Clerk-Stenographer, GS-3, was promoted to the position of Clerk-Stenographer, GS-4, in the Chief Ranger's Office, March 10.

Virginia Fuller was given a thirty-days appointment as seasonal Clerk-Typist, GS-3, effective March 14.

Telegraphic advice was received on March 17 that the transfer and promotion of William A. Nyquist, District Park Ranger, GS-7, to the position of Chief, Management and Protection Section (Budget Analyst), GS-9, in the Director's Office in Washington, was approved March 17. Mr. Nyquist expects to depart from the Yellowstone for Washington before the middle of April.

Park Rangers Dan Nelson, Harvey Reynolds, Ruben Hart, Robert M. Robinson, Boris Vladimiroff, Paul Wykert, Harold Estey and Robert Luntey were converted to competitive status and Foster Freeman to probational status, effective March 19, all having successfully passed the Park Ranger examination held last August and certified from the Civil Service Commission register.

The transfer and promotion of Robert F. Upton from Petrified Forest National Monument to the position of Park Naturalist, GS-7, vice Wayne B. Alcorn, was approved by the Region Two Office on March 29.

Eri A. Allan, Powerhouse Operator, Ungraded, was retired at the close of March 31 after more than thirty-two years of service with the Government, all with the National Park Service in Yellowstone National Park. He reached the retirement age of 70 on his birthday March 4, 1950.

On March 20 the Washington Office approved the establishment of the position of Personnel Assistant, GS-7, $3,825 per annum, Pos. No. 139, in lieu of Personnel Clerk, GS-5, Position No. 114. William G. Proper, now occupying Position 114 will be promoted to the new position effective April 2, 1950.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the National Federation of Federal Employees, Local No. 465, was held in the Canteen March 6.

The regular monthly meeting of the park local of the American Federation of Government Employees was held in the Canteen March 20. Mr. Walter F. Sanders, National Representative of the Federation, Tacoma, Washington, addressed the group.

Edmund B. Rogers
Superintendent

cc: Region Two, in quintuple
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