



10-23 (June 1941)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE No. 207-02.3

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 1951

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IMPORTANT

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NEWTON B. DRURY,

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-22371

Director.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

YELLOUSTONE NATIONAL PARK

FICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Surmary of the February 1951 Monthly Narrative Report for

		Page
WEATHER:	Cold first of month; listed. Comparative precipitation. Rain 7th. Comparative anow depths.	and the second
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Rogers in Denver and to Omaha. Johnston, Mattson, Wohlbrandt to Denver & Omaha; Skinner Acting Supt. Joffe returned 23rd from annual leave. Secretary announced resignation Drury and promotion Demaray, Wirth & Ronald Lee. Chapman to Omaha re fire matters & training aids. Condon & Evans returned from Missoula wildlife management education meet.	3
INSPECTIONS:	Wm. Durm (F.&W.L. Service), Ken Thompson (Montana Fish & Game), Wayne Travis & Wm. Tuller (U.S.G.S.) Captain Luce & Frank Phillips (Custer B.N.M.), Fred Johnston (U.S.F.S.) in.) 2
IN-SERVICE TRAINING:	Weekly News.	2
PUBLICITY:	Articles in Casper Tribune. Winter story in Life Rogers showed Yellowstone movie to Denver camera club. 160,500 broadsides on hand.	3
PLANS, MAPS AND SURVEYS:	Mattson on signs. Engineers on Lake sewage system designs, "as constructed" drawings and Fishing Bridge campground extension utilities. Farking area, Canyon, plans prepared.	3
MAINTENANCE:	Foreman Elmer Armstrong transferred to Rainier. Plowing light. Equipment cleaning & painting, sign repainting & repairing. Maintenance done by 4 permanent men; someone on duty each day. Expected frost & temperature damage to roads. Snow below normal west side, normal east & south.	t 3
CONSTRUCTION:	Two south road projects dormant. Active projects listed.	3
CONCESSIONERS:	Mr. & Mrs. Haynes & Hugh Galusha, Jr. in. W. M. Nichols, John Nichols & Huntley Child in Wash. re Y.P.Co. rates, construction, etc.	4

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

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AND CHAPEL USE:	Sunday School. Church services by Lev. Tyns and Rev. Clement.	1
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES	Condon presented morrows to two group.	4;
MUSEUM ACTIVITIES AND EXHIBITS:	Nature trail label texts and signs for beginning self-guiding nature trails.	5
RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:	Report of documents etc. requiring special protection. Nevisw hot springs book. Trips.	5
NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION:	Book sales and purchases. Aultilith supplies obtained.	5
INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:	390 vehicles, 1221 visitors; 701 cars, 2249 visitors last Feb.; -45%. 3 snowplanes in.	5
RANGER SERVICE:	Elk & antelope trapping, entelope census, ski patrols, fire training charts, traffic accident analysis, telephone line maintenance, etc.	5
WILDLIFE AND FISH CULTURAL ACTIVITIES: ELK MANAGEMENT:	177 transplanted, listed. Elk in good condition. Hunting report.	6
PRONGHORNS:	Trapping: 258 transplanted. Gensus: 215 seen.	7
BISON:	Hindered elk trapping. Census	7
IXXX:	Canadian lynx seen.	7
FOREST FIRE PROTECTION:	Chapman on assignment to Omaha.	7
TRAILS:	Little work done trail program due absence Jay. Tentative estimates received.	7
BUILDING FIRE PROTECTION:	Hazard inspection patrol cabins and some head- quarters buildings. Extinguishers replaced, etc.	8
ACCIDENTS & SAFETY:	2 motor vehicle accidents. 2 personal injuries.	8
LAW ENFORCEMENT:	No cases, commissioner still avey due illness.	8
BIRTHS:	Sons born to Mr. & Mrs. Paul Tykert and Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Fess; daughter to Mr. & Mrs. Nm. Masters.	• පි
DEATHS:	Wilson Murray, father of Laurence Murray and Mrs. David Condon, passed away. Judge George Y. Patter Bozeman, Attorney or Haynes Inc., passed away.	n,
PERSONNEL:	Bernice Upton inder. appt. Clerk-Iteno. GS-4.	9
MISCELLANEOUS:	N.F.F.E. and A.F.G.L. meetings.	9

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

FFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

March 6, 1951

Memorandum

To:

The Director

From:

Acting Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Monthly Report for February 1951

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of February 1951.

Weather Conditions. The extreme cold front present during the last few days in January moved south during the first several days of February. Temperatures over the park on the first day of the month were: -54° at West Yellowstone, - 47° at Northeast Entrance, -44° at Lamer, -43° at Snake River, -41° at Tower Falls, -37° at East Entrance, and -27° at Mammoth. Temperatures rose considerably during the following week.

Snow fell at Manmoth on 14 days during the month, with a total precipitation of 0.55 inch. This was considerably lighter than the previous five years which were: 0.65 inch in 1950, 1.76 inches in 1949. 1.21 inches in 1948, 1.02 inches in 1947, and 0.94 inch in 1946. The snow depth at the beginning of the month was 7.0 inches, as compared to 4.0 inches at the end of the month. Rain fell generally over the entire park area on the 7th.

Comparative snow depths from various locations in the park at the close of the month are listed below:

Cascade Gallatin Lamar	1951 95" 23	1950 102" 22 9	1949 112" 18 20	1948 851 21 13	1947 65" 25 10	1946 80" 26 16	1945 52" 14 10
Mermoth	4	1/2	14	11	9	23	5
Mortheast Entrance	29	34	48	36	37	46	21
Snake River	58	48	63	59	46	52	35
Tower Falls	20	18	32	26	20	22	14
West Yellowstone	45	46	54	38	40	37	22

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers was in Denver throughout the month engaged in research work in connection with his project covering the legislative history of National Park Service

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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areas, although he was absent from Denver on February 1 and 2 on a trip to Omaha with Messrs. Johnston, Mattson and Wohlbrandt.

Assistant Superintendent Johnston was absent from the park from January 27 through February 4 on a trip to Denver, Colorado, with Bureau of Public Roads officials in connection with park road programs which included a trip to Omaha on February 1 and 2. He was accompanied by Resident Landscape Architect Mattson and Park Ingineer Wohlbrandt. Chief Ranger Skinner was Acting Superintendent during his absence.

Administrative Assistant Joffe returned from annual leave February 23, having been absent from the park since January 15.

On February 6 Secretary Chapman announced the resignation of Director Newton B. Drury, to be effective April 1, 1951, and the appointment of Associate Director Arthur E. Demaray as his successor. Also, Assistant Director Conrad L. Wirth to Associate Director vice Mr. Demaray and Chief Historian Ronald F. Lee to Assistant Director vice Mr. Wirth.

Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman departed for Omaha on February 15 for an assignment in the Region Two Office in connection with fire suppression and presuppression matters and to prepare training sids for use in fire protection training.

Park Naturalist Condon and Assistant Chief Ranger Evans returned February 1 from attendance at a meeting at the Forest Service Remount Station below Missoula, Montana, of Federal, State and local agencies on a program of wildlife management education.

Inspections. William A. Dunn, Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bozeman, in February 9, for conference on fish planting matters. Ken Thompson, Assistant Director, Restoration Division, Nontana Fish and Game Department, in February 9 for conference on elk and antelope trapping operations. Wayne I Travis and William Tuller, Jr., U. S. Geological Survey, Boise, Idaho, in West Yellowstone February 12 with Tucker "Sno-Cat" for stream gauge readings at Old Faithful and Lake. Our West Yellowstone 14th. Accompanied by Park Ranger Dan Nelson on trip. Captain E. S. Luce and Maintenanceman Frank Phillips, Custer Battlefield National Monument, in February 14 and 15 on Custer personnel, fiscal and other administrative matters. Fred Johnston, Division of Range and Wildlife Management, U. S. Forest Service, Missoula, in February 27 to discuss elk planting program: also inspected elk trap at Blacktail with Chief Ranger Skinner.

In-Service Training. The Weekly Newsletter was issued each Thursday during the month to keep employees, concessioners and others currently informed on park happenings.

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In-Service irrining. The couly Mercie ter us in red : if nursely during the nonth to seep on leyres, concessioners and other currently informed on park happening.

Publicity. The February 18 Annual Wyoming Edition of the Casper Tribune-Herald contained several park articles and pictures from information furnished by the park.

The February 5 issue of LIFE Magazine contained a special winter story of Yellowstone and included pictures from the park's files and from those taken by their staff photographer Ralph Crane who visited the park in February and March 1950.

Superintendent Rogers showed the Yellowstone motion picture furnished by the Ford Motor Company to members of the Jackson's Colored Camera Club in Denver on February 23. There were about 125 persons present.

A total of 160,500 Yellowstone broadsides for 1950 remained on hand at the end of the month.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. Resident Landscape Architect is the conspent the greater part of the month working on the sign project. The engineering staff members spent most of the month designing the dosing tank and sand filter for the Lake main sewage disposal system, completing "as constructed" drawings for work performed the past season, and continued design of utilities for proposed extension of Fishing Bridge campground.

A parking area plan, YEL-2370 for the Lower Falls, Canyon Area, was prepared for inclusion in the F.S.& E. for the 1-F3, G/Bituminous Surfacing project which is number one on the Major Road list.

Maintenance. The Maintenance Division lost the services of one of its best Mixed Gang Foremen Elmer Armstrong who is being transferred to Mount Rainier and who expected to leave March 5.

Snow plowing was rather light during the month. Besides plowing the roads open around Marmoth and along the north side of the park, a number of pieces of equipment were cleaned and painted and some warning signs were repainted and repaired. All maintenance work was accomplished by the Division's four permanent employees with their schedules staggered so that someone was on duty every day of the week.

From all appearances this will be a bad spring for frost boils and temperature cracks. At the end of the month the snow depths on the west side of the park were below normal but reports indicate about normal on the east and south sections.

New Construction. The two going road construction grading and base surfacing projects on the south approach road were dormant during the month. Construction projects active during the month consisted of the following:

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in Contampleto. The two offer road construction of any and less surfaced on the south sout

Account 231.01, Repair Heating Plant, Building 34.—This job was accomplished by contract and is complete except for minor adjustments.

Account 231.02, Repair Heating Plant, Building 13.--Under contract; contractor has most of the material on hand awaiting warm weather before starting.

Account 231.03, Reroof Building No. 20, Storage Shed.—Work 95% complete.

Account 231.04, Reroof Building No. 21, Storage Shed.—Material on hand. Will complete soon as weather warms up.

Account 231.05, Reroof Building No. 22, Plumbing Shop.--- Work 95% complete. Will finish when weather warms up.

Account 323.08 and 323.10, Walks, Barriers, Gratings and Signs in Thermal Areas.—Prefabricated walks being constructed. Project about 60% completed.

Account 333.01, Campground Extension, Fishing Bridge and Old Faithful.—Campground tables being prefabricated. Project 60% completed.

Concessioners. Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Haynes and Wugh D. Galusha, Jr., Auditor for some of the Yellowstone concessioners, visited the park on February S. Mr. Haynes paid another visit to the park on February 23.

Messrs. W. M. Nichols, John Q. Nichols and Funtley Child of the Yellowstone Park Company attended a meeting in Vashington during the last week in February in connection with 1951 rates, construction program and other matters affecting their operations.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. The regular Sunday School services were held in the Yellowstone Park Chapel at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday throughout the month with the program being well attended. Rev. E. A. Syms of Livingston, Nontana, conducted non-denominational services in the Chapel at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday the 11th and Sunday the 25th, Rev. Webster Clement of Livingston, Montana, conducted Lutheran services at 7:00 p.m. on the night of February 5.

Interpretive Services. Chief Park Naturalist Condon presented two programs during the month. Nevies were shown to the Gardiner Lions Club on the 7th with 18 members in attendance and on the 15th a talk entitled "Yellowstone Park's Natural Resources and Their Values" was given to the Wildlife Forum group at the Montana State College with 52 people in attendance. This talk was illustrated with 2x2 Kodaslides.

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Museum Activities and Exhibits. Considerable time was given over to the preparation of the nature trail label texts and to the preparation of the appropriate wording for signs to be used at the beginning of the self-guiding nature trails, at Maumoth, Norris, Old Faithful and Tower Falls.

Research and Observation. A special report was prepared on the valuable documents, paintings and other artifacts which require special protective measures.

Considerable time was spent in reviewing Allen and Day's "Mot Springs of Yellowstone Park" and the Hayden Report in order to properly answer inquiries made on certain of the hydrothermal phenoena.

Field trips were made by division personnel to observe wildlife management operations and to obtain photographic records for use in the interpretive programs and to illustrate articles and reports.

Museum Association conducted the sale of publications by mail during the month, and in addition obtained multilith supplies and other materials for use in running Nature Notes and meeting other duplication needs. Also, a number of books were purchased for the Yellowstone Park Library.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. A total of 390 vehicles carrying 1,221 passengers entered the park during the month as compared with 701 vehicles and 2,249 passengers during February of 1950, for a net travel decrease of 45%. The decrease was principally due to the ideal travel weather of last February as compared with the more normal winter driving conditions of the current month. This year 3 snowplanes carrying 8 passengers entered the park at West Yellowstone compared with 41 such vehicles carrying 83 passengers of February 1950.

Ranger Service. Elk trapping activities were conducted throughout the month. A total of 177 elk were trapped and transplanted through the cooperation of the Montana State Fish and Game Department. All available ranger personnel was assigned to the trapping activities on a seven-day-week operation. An antelope census was taken by Protection Division personnel on February 20 and 21 and a bison census on the 28th. A cooperative antelope trapping program between the National Park Service and the Montana State Fish and Game Department was started on February 12 and completed on the following day. A total of 133 antelope were transplanted during the month.

Winter ski patrols of the Lake, Lamar, West Yellowstone, Bechler and Snake River Districts were conducted by rangers assigned to these districts. Snow courses were taken on all cooperative areas at the beginning of the month. Menorm accipitate and articles. For the billion of the billion.

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Considerable time was spent in working up fire training charts for use during the spring and early summer fire training programs. Building fire inspections were continued when time was available. The annual traffic accident analysis was worked on periodically, when time could be spared from the live elk trapping operation and was mostly completed by the end of the month.

Other Protection Division activities included the manning of park entrance stations, the overhaul and maintenance of saddle and pack equipment, the preparation of special reports and correspondence, and periodic maintenance of park telephone lines.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. ELK MANAGEMENT, Four elk traps, located at Manmoth, Lamar, Crystal Creek and Blacktail Deer Creek, were operated during the entire month. A total of 177 live elk was shipped from the park and received by:

Montana Fish and Game Department	159
National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C.	1
Tyson Valley Park, St. Louis County, Missouri	12
L. H. Lyons, "See 'Em Alive Zoo", Red Lodge, Montar	18. 3
North Dakota Fish and Game Department	VALUE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE P
Totel	177

The elk remained in unusually good condition during February as the lowest parts of the winter range were almost entirely free of snow and the light snow cover over the intermediate range left more than enough natural forage available to meet the minimum requirements of the animals.

Hunting Season. District Warden Supervisor Gene H. Sherman, Montana Fish and Game Department, reported that hunting in southern Park County, Montana, removed 1,265 elk from the northern Yellowstone herd during the season which ended January 31, 1951.

1.	Actual count from the Corwin	Springs Checking Station	1,070
2.	Klk taken by local residents	of Gardiner and vicinity	75
3.	Elk taken below the checking	station	30
4.	Elk taken before November 15	when station commenced	40
	operations		50
5.	Wounded and not salvaged	Total	1,265

Elk taken by hunters were classified according to age and sex as follows:

Bulls	369	34.5%
Cows	605	56.5%
Calves	96	9.0%

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interest forces by hunder near classified dearding to approximation as follows:

Cows 6.5 24.55 Cows 6.5 26.57 Calver 96 9.06

SA COMMENT

PRONGHORNS. Trapping of pronghorns was resumed on February 12 and continued the following day. An airplane was used to drive 134 animals into the trap, but one animal was released later. A total of 258 pronghorns was disposed of this winter and distributed as shown below:

Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park	75
Wind Cave National Park	12
National Bison Renge	15
Madison River Valley above Ennis, Montana	78
Bitter Root Hills near Polson, Montana	66
Toledo, Chio zoo	1
Accidentally killed during trapping and handling	B
Total	258

The Protection Division conducted a pronghorn census on February 20 and 21. A total of 215 was actually seen by the counters who carefully covered the lowest parts of the range, inside and outside the park, where the pronghorns spend each winter.

BISON. Hay used as bait at the Crystal Creek elk trap continued to attract large numbers of bison making this trap practically useless during February. It is evident that a close control over the bison in the Lamar area will be necessary in the future if elk trapping operations at Lamar and Crystal Creek are to be effective.

Park rangers counted the bison in the Tamar and lower Yellowstone River area on February 28. The Horseshoe area yielded 184, while
115 were found from Slough Creek to Cottonwood Creek and 15 above the
Lamar Unit. Three mature bulls were counted on Geode Greek and three
in the Blacktail area bring the total counted to 320. On February 22
park rangers skiled through the Pelican Greek Valley and estimated that
about 300 bison were seen. Practically all of the animals were in one
large herd and it was not possible for the observers to make an accurate
and exact count.

LYNX. On February 21 District Ranger Jacobson encountered a large Canadian lynx in the road near Undine Falls. He followed the animal in an automobile for about half a mile before it leaped out of the plowed road and disappeared over a bank. Lynx tracks are seen occasionally, but the maimals themselves are rarely observed.

Forest Fire Protection. Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman, assigned to Forest Fire Protection, left the park on February 15 for assignment in the Region Two Office for a couple weeks.

Trails. Little work was accomplished on the trail program during the month due to the absence from headquarters of Assistant Chief

FRANCYCLES, inveging of pros homes of restal on behave in and continued the following sky. An elaphone of used to delive in animals into the prop but one entral terminates this. I take all of 256 pronducts was carpe and at this minter and distinction in characters and distinction in characters.

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Ranger John Jay who is in charge of trail work. Tentative estimates were received on the amount of funds expected for trail work during the 1952 fiscal year. Plans will be made for a work program as soon as the exact amount of money allotted is furnished.

Building Fire Protection. A building fire inspection was made of all the patrol cabins during a ski trip made by Assistant Chief Ranger Jay and District Park Ranger Ela and a careful observation made of the potential hazards and the materials and supplies necessary to correct them.

Four days were spent continuing the building fire inspections of the Government buildings at headquarters, which inspections will be completed early next month. In connection with these inspections, fire hazards are corrected at the time of the inspections wherever possible. Defective extinguishers were either repaired or replaced and other dangerous items were taken care of.

Accidents and Public Safety. Two Class "B" motor vehicle accidents were reported during the month. One occurred on the 12th on the Gallatin highway 17 miles north of the town of West Yellowstone, and the other occurred on the 27th between park headquarters and the North Entrance. No injuries occurred, but considerable damage resulted to the vehicles in both accidents.

Two personal injuries were reported during the month. The relief night watchman in the headquarters area slipped on the ice and sprained a knee on the 15th, and a visitor from Livingston, Montana, chipped an ankle bone in a fall while skiing in the park on the 15th.

Law Enforcement. There were no law enforcement cases during the month of February. U. S. Commissioner T. Paul Vilcox is still away from the park due to illness.

Births. A son, 6 lbs. 14 oz., nsmed Wade Douglas was born to Park Ranger and Mrs. Paul V. Wykert at the Park Hospital in Livingston February 22.

A daughter, 8 lbs., Virginia Sue, was born to Project Clerk and Mrs. William Masters at the Park Hospital in Livingston February 25.

A son, 8 lbs. 4 oz., Gregory Lynn, was born to Supervisory Park Ranger and Mrs. Dennis E. Hess at the Ct. Anthony Hospital in Pocatello, Idaho, February 27.

Deaths. Mr. Wilson Murray, father of Electrician Foreman Lewrence Murray and Mrs. Devid Condon, died at Vernal, Utah, on February 23. Lawrence Murray, Mrs. Condon and Mr. Condon were all present in Vernal at the time of Mr. Marray's passing. Latter form Tay who is in charge of in it work. I was the first vare received on the amount of from the second of the second of

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Judge George Y. Patten, 74, Bozeman, Montana, Attorney for Haynes Inc., died in a Bozeman hospital February 27. Judge Fatten visited the park on several occasions each year for a number of years past and was a long-time friend of the park and the Mational Park Service.

Personnel. Bernice R. Upton received an indefinite appointment as Clerk-Stenographer, GS-4, on February 15 for assignment in the Chief Ranger's Office.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Mational Federation of Federal Employees, No. 465, was held in the Canteen February 5. Cards and refreshments followed the meeting.

The regular monthly meeting of the American Federation of Government Employees local was held in the Canteen February 19.

Free T. Johnston Leting Superintendent

cc: Region Two, in quintuple
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