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10-23
(June 1941)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

	ROGERS	
✓	JOHNSTON	
✓	JOFFE	
✓	ANDERSON	
	FULTZ	
	SHOBEY	
	LEMMON	
✓	Mattson	
✓	CLARK	
✓	LA NOUE	
	ELLIOTT	
	EVANS	
	CHAPMAN	
	SKINNER	
✓	WOHLBRANDT	
✓	Williams	

FILE NO.

Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report

for

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

May, 1947.

IMPORTANT

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371

Summary of the May, 1947, Monthly Narrative Report for

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

		Page
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Superintendent Rogers made trips to Bozeman and Gallatin to inspect roads; to Billings with Ass't. to Sup't. Jaffe in connection with public relations; to Bozeman for research; and to Cody, with Chief Ranger Lafave, for the Cody Club meeting.	1
	Conclusion of in-Service training program.	1
	Motor vehicle license fee collections begun; Fishing season opened.	1
	Absaroka Conservation Committee spring meeting held, with Congressman D'Ewart, Mont., presiding.	1
	Dr. George A. Windsor, Park Medical Officer, died at Livingston, Montana, at age 60.	2
	Tri-State Yellowstone Park Civic Ass'n held spring meeting at Old Faithful.	2
INSPECTIONS:	Fiske, NPS; Neubauer, Regional Landscape Architect, Region II; Aiton and Cantrevina, Glacier; Robinson and Cummings, FWS; Cap't. S.S.Luce, Custer SNM; Cannon, Auditor, Region II; Swartslew, Region II Naturalist; Ed Coman, Highway Engr., and Slye, Dist. Engr., FHA; and Brand, Wyo. State Employment Service, in the Park during the month.	2
GENERAL PUBLICITY:	Press release on road openings and accommodations. Folders "A" and "B" received for distribution.	2
ROAD MAINTENANCE:	All interior roads in Park opened to travel during May and all entrances except Northeast open to tourist travel.	2 - 3

		Page
CONCESSIONERS:	Raynes Picture Shops opened at Mammoth, Old Faithful and Thumb. Tourist cabins, cafeteria, garages opened at Fishing Bridge, Canyon, Thumb, Mammoth. Park dispensary at Old Faithful opened. Plans for shower installation and steam heating at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge submitted. Propane gas installation plans forwarded. A 10-KW electric generating plant authorized Yellowstone Park Company at Canyon. Preliminary sketch for gas station at West Thumb submitted by Hamilton, and forwarded to Region II.	3 - 4
TRAVEL:	11,135 motor vehicles in with 32,935 people during May, exceeding figures for 1936. Total figures to June 1 given.	5
WILDLIFE:	Plans to live trap and remove 150-200 antelope. Black bears beginning to appear on Park roads. About 20% increase in buffalo herd. Ear tagging of elk on Swan Lake Flat, upper Gardiner River and Fawn Creek sections. 27,450 trout planted in Madison and Gibbon Rivers.	6
FOREST PROTECTION:	Forest Requirements revised. Bids sent out to fully equip three new fire trucks.	6
PERSONNEL:	Stark left for Blue Ridge; Johnson [illegible] as Fiscal Accounting Clerk; Sundermann [illegible] as Clerk-Steno; Sedar [illegible] as Park Ranger; Burton [illegible] as Storekeeper; Carr [illegible] as Storekeeper General; and Roylance [illegible] as Clerk-Steno.	7
MISCELLANEOUS:	Dvarishkis marries First in Billings. War Vets organize and elect officers.	7

June 1[illegible], 19[illegible]7

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of May, 19[illegible]7.

Weather Conditions. Above normal temperatures with below normal precipitation was recorded at Mammoth during May. Seven days were clear, 16 partly cloudy and 8 cloudy. The total precipitation for the month was 1.[illegible]" compared with 2.29" in May, 1946, 2.78" in 19[illegible] and 2.[illegible]" in 19[illegible]. A maximum temperature of 77 degrees was recorded on the 26th and a minimum of 21 degrees on the 29th. An unseasonable cold wave prevailed over the Park on 28th through the 30th. The prevailing wind direction was southwest.

Special Activities. On May 1, Superintendent Rogers went to Bozeman and Gallatin to inspect the roads. On May 6, the Superintendent went to Bozeman and gave a talk to the Rotary Club there. On May 8, Mr. Rogers and Mr. Joffe drove to Billings in connection with public relations work and to attend the Tenth Annual Community dinner of the Billings Commercial Club. They returned to the Park on May 9. On May 20, Superintendent Rogers inspected the Cooke-Red Lodge road as far as Long Lake. On May 22, the Superintendent went to Bozeman for research work in the Bozeman Library. On May 26 Superintendent Rogers and Chief Ranger LaBouw went to Cody for the Cody Club meeting. Mr. Rogers talked at the meeting.

The permanent employee In-Service Training Program carried on into the month of May and was completed on May 15. Conditions were such that it was impossible to conduct a guided trip around the main loop highways of the Park.

On May 20, the collection of the motor vehicle license fee was begun; and mail, Star Route, was started to Old Faithful and West Yellowstone on the same date.

The Director's Office approved on May 20 a new meal rate of $1.00 per day or $0.70 per meal, effective June 1.

School closed in Mammoth Hot Springs on May 23, and graduation exercises were held in the Mammoth Canteen. Donna Mae Minish, Jack Coylance, Buddy Wohlbrandt and Norman Bjelm graduated.

Wesley A. D'Ewart, Congressman, Montana, in for the Absaroka Conservation Committee meeting. Others of the Committee arrived in the Park on May 2[illegible]. On May 23 the spring meeting of the Absaroka Conservation Committee was held in the Canteen at Mammoth Hot Springs.

On May 26, Dr. George A. Windsor, Park Medical Officer since 1924, died at 4:30 a.m., in the Park Hospital at Livingston, Montana, at the age of 60. Funeral services were held on May 28, with J. R. Haynes and Assistant to the Superintendent Jeffs from the Park, as pall-bearers. Burial was in the Mountain View Cemetery in Livingston, Montana.

On May 28, star mail route was started to Canyon, Lake, Fishing Bridge and Thumb.

On May 30, the fishing season in the Park opened.

On May 31, the Tri-State Yellowstone Park Civic Association held its spring meeting at the museum building at Old Faithful. Messrs. Rogers, Jeffs, and La Nose, and Huntley Child, Jr., of the Yellowstone Park Company, attended.

Inspections. On May 4, Mr. Charles Fiske, U. S. Geological Survey, Boise, came in the Park to read the water gauges. Frank Neubauer, Regional Landscape Architect, Region Two, in on May 12. Weldon B. Robinson, Fish and Wildlife Service, Coyote Control, in the Park, accompanied by Maynard Cummings, assistant, on May 14.

Jack Alton, Chief Ranger and Dave Cannavina, Assistant Chief Ranger, Glacier National Park, in May 17, en route to Glacier, delivering a bus. Captain and Mrs. E. S. Luce, Custer Battlefield National Monument, in the Park on May 20. They departed May 21. On May 25 Carl R. Swartslow, Regional Naturalist, Region Two, in. Mr. Robert Brand, Wyoming State Employment Service, Cody, Wyoming, opened employment offices in the barracks building at Mammoth on May 26. Martin A. Cannon, Auditor, Region Two, in May 28. Mr. Ed H. Cowan, Highway Engineer and John R. Slye, District Engineer, Public Roads Administration, Denver, in May 30.

General Publicity. On May 14 the first supply of Yellowstone Park Company Folder "B" was received.

On May 21 a press release on road openings and accommodations was sent out.

On May 26, the National Park Service received the first supply of Yellowstone Park Company Folder "A" for distribution.

Free publications on hand at the end of April numbered 4,000 of the 1946 Information Folder, in the Chief Ranger's Office storeroom. There were 3,600 in the Museum storeroom, and also 3,500 Location Map No. 5.

A breakdown of publication sales was included in the report of the Naturalist Division for May, 1947.

Road Maintenance. Spring snow plowing operations were completed in the Park on May 29 when the Canyon to Tower Falls road was opened. The plowing was completed practically on schedule; however, because of several breakdowns of the SnoCos, it was necessary to run a double shift for about one week.

Snow plowing started on the Red Lodge to Cooke road on May 13, and at the end of the month the plow was approximately one mile from the summit on the Cooke side. On May 12 the Teton plows opened the road from Moran to the South Gate. On May 16 the road was opened to motorists from Norris to Canyon and Lake and the East Entrance opened to motorists on May 20. The South Entrance and Continental Divide road was opened to motorists on May 23, and Dunraven Pass was opened on May 30.

The Gallatin road has been repaired to some extent, although wet weather prevented oiling.

On May 17 the ice going out of Lake Yellowstone lodged against Fishing Bridge and was backed up at least one-fourth mile above the bridge, which required some blasting in order to prevent danger to the Fishing Bridge.

Crews were located at Mammoth, Madison, Gallatin, Lake, East Entrance, Tower Falls and South Forest during the month. Two snow crews were required.

Heavy patching of roads in the Park continued to be the main job of the maintenance crews.

New Construction. Sixty fireplace grates have been prefabricated to date, under Project 207-1, Campground Repair, Fishing Bridge. The three main rooms of the Mammoth Museum Building were repainted and the floors given a refinish. The Mammoth Grounds, Project 207-13, work on Opal Spring dike and walk completed with the exception of a small culvert.

Work on Building No. 5, Mammoth is well underway, with first floor nearly completed.

Bituminous surfacing of 7.01 miles, Old Faithful to Isa Lake, project on which McLaughlin, Inc., was low bidder, was ready to start, but final award had not been made by the end of the month.

Concessioners. Mr. J. E. Haynes, Haynes, Inc., opened the Mammoth shop on May 1; the Old Faithful shop on May 20; and the Thumb store on May 23.

Huntley Child, Jr., arrived in the Park with crew, and opened offices at Gardiner, Montana, on May 1.

On May 6, the schedule of rates for C. A. Hamilton swimming pool was approved.

On May 10, the tourist cabins, cafeteria, and garage at Old Faithful opened. The Hamilton store opened at Fishing Bridge on May 16, and on the 20th the Fishing Bridge cabins, cafeteria and garage opened, as well as the Canyon store and service station. Prices of gasoline in the Park were increased, effective May 20.

On May 23, John Q. Nichols arrived in the Park. Mr. R. M. Nichols came into the Park on the 14th and 26th.

On May 30, the Canyon, Thumb, and Mammoth Tourist Cabins; Thumb and Canyon cafeterias and Canyon and Mammoth garages opened.

On May 14, Mr. Alfred W. Lueck brought the nurse for Old Faithful into the Park and the dispensary at Old Faithful opened on May 15.

The Yellowstone Park Company has submitted plans for shower installations and steam heating at Old Faithful, Plan NP-YSL-8076, and for the same at Fishing Bridge, Plan NP-YSL-8077. The Director's Office has approved these with recommendations for revisions on the working drawings.

Plans for propane gas installation, Plan NP-YSL-8075, have been submitted and forwarded. Approval has been requested and extensive repainting projects authorized at Mammoth. Repainting at Old Faithful has been referred to the Regional Office for advice.

The Pryor Stores propose to convert coal burning units to oil and tank installations at Mammoth, and have submitted plans.

The installation of a 10-KW electric generating plant has been authorized by Superintendent Rogers, because of the inability of the Yellowstone Park Company to continue to furnish electrical energy to the Canyon store.

A preliminary sketch for a gas station at West Thumb has been submitted by Hamilton Stores, Inc., and forwarded to the Regional Office for clearance.

A suggested sign for the Fishing Bridge store has been prepared.

A conference with Mr. Huntley Child, Jr., regarding the suggested design for the tourist buildings at West Thumb was held.

Interpretive Services. The Mammoth and Old Faithful museums were officially opened for public use on May 26 and have since been receiving considerable use by visitors.

During the month motion pictures have been presented to the Mammoth community on Tuesday nights. These pictures are of an educational character and are well attended.

A special 16 mm motion picture colored movie was shown to the Absaroka Conservation Committee group on May 24. Sixty-three people were in attendance.

A guided field trip for a party of geological students from Montana State College who were under the direction of Mr. Holburn, was conducted on May 24 and 25. There were 25 students in the party.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. The shutters were removed from wayside exhibits left up during the winter months. On May 15 the Beaver Exhibit was installed at Willow Park, and on May 16 the Artist Point Exhibit was installed.

YELLOWSTONE
NATIONAL PARK
LIBRARY

Exhibit specimens brought in for cleaning and repair included the model geyser at Old Faithful and the bear hide. Work on the interior of the Mammoth Museum was completed on May 27.

Research and Observation. Chief Park Naturalist Condon and Park Naturalist Watson made field trips to Old Faithful on May 9 and 15, to observe thermal features and to take pictures. It was observed that streams were heavily laden with organic matter, giving them a dark color. Surface leakage had filtered into Morning Glory Pool, giving the waters a very deep amber color. The vapors from the Pool contained a pronounced organic odor.

Grand Geyser has been providing one of the most spectacular thermal displays Yellowstone has experienced for a number of years. During other years, it has been rather erratic in its interval of eruption, and is this year erupting on an interval of from 9 to 12 hours very consistently. The geyser plays as many as from 9 to 14 times during a single eruption.

Park Naturalist Erodrick has completed in rough draft the text for a publication on Animals and Birds of Yellowstone National Park. He has also completed the necessary pencil sketches to illustrate this publication.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Travel into the Park showed a slight increase over the same period last year. Travel figures for May, 1947, showed 11,155 motor vehicles and 32,955 people entering compared with 8,[illegible] motor vehicles and 20,416 people for May, 1946. A total of 43,[illegible] people have visited the Park during the current travel year (October 1, 1946 to June 1, 1947) compared with 41,061 people for the same period last year.

To date, cars from every state in the Union as well as from Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, Canal Zone and Mexico have entered the Park.

Visitors. On May 1, Goran H. Friberg, editor, Swedish newspaper, came into the Park via the West Gate.

Congressman Wesley A. D'Ewart, Montana, in May 24, out May 25.

Ranger Service. All Protection Division personnel attended the Ranger's Conference and Forest Fire Protection Training School held in Mammoth on May 7, 8, and 9. They also attended and participated in the general in-Service Training program held in Mammoth. Several basic in-Service training programs are under way which include a Ranger District in-Service Training Program based on Field Order 472, dated November 8, 1946. Present plans provide for a continuation of in-Service training and stressing the importance of follow-up training by supervisory personnel.

One district ranger attended a 4-day in-Service Training and Fire Control Conference at Glacier National Park from May 20 to 23.

All permanent rangers moved to their summer stations during the month and the necessary transfer of property and records completed. Three seasonal park ranger positions were filled during the month.

Other activities consisted of the completion of the building fire hazard inspections, trail maintenance where snow conditions permitted and men were available, supervision of fish planting in the Madison and Gibbon Rivers, rodent control around the utility areas and patrolling the roads and "closed to fishing" waters.

All permanent rangers at entrance stations have been fully occupied since May 20, when the sale of motor vehicle permits was started.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. ANTELOPE. During the period antelope became well distributed over their summer range. Tentative plans were made to live trap and remove 150 - 200 of these animals in the fall of 1947 or early winter of 1948 under the same arrangement by which reduction was accomplished last year. Surplus antelope will be allotted to the State of Montana for transplanting.

BEARS. A number of black bears appeared along the Park roads during May, but they have not yet become very numerous in any area of public concentration and no personal injuries or damages have been reported. One grizzly was seen on Swan Lake Flat being followed and heckled by two playful coyotes.

BUFFALO. Most of the buffalo calves were born during the month in the Lamar Valley area. No observations have yet been made of buffalo calves in other areas where calving usually is somewhat later in the season. General observations in the Lamar area indicate calves in normal numbers, or about 20 per cent increase in the herd.

ELK. A few elk calves were born during late May, but births will not be general until June. In cooperation with the Montana Wildlife Restoration Division, some elk calves are being ear tagged in the Swan Lake, Upper Gardiner River and Fawn Creek sections to secure additional data on migrations. Only two calves were found and tagged during the month, but in early June it is expected that a considerable number will be identified.

TRUMPETER SWANS. A pair of trumpeter swans has been seen regularly on various ponds in the Horseshoe, near Lamar River, and it is probable that they will nest somewhere in that locality. A pair of swans has also been seen on Swan Lake Flat where they apparently are nesting.

FISH. A total of 27,450 rainbow trout, varying in size from 5 to 6 inches, was planted in the Madison and Gibbon Rivers from the Fish and Wildlife Service hatchery at Ennis, Montana. The fishing season opened on May 30 and good catches were made in nearly all areas, despite high and rolly waters.

Forest Fire Protection. A Fire Cache supervisor entered on duty on May 1, and started units which will go out in the Park for the coming season. A one-day fire school was held for the permanent personnel on May 9, in which overhead organization for large fires was stressed as well as a Park step-up plan. The Forest Requirements was revised and transmitted to the Region Two Office for final approval.

Three new fire trucks, secured from War Assets Administration, were painted and bids were sent out to fully equip them for forest and building fire fighting.

Preparations were made for packing the Purple Mountain lookout house from Madison Junction to the top of the peak, the pack string having been brought in and shod.

Building Fire Protection. Inspection of all the government buildings in the Mammoth area was completed and the inspection report prepared. The Yellowstone Park Company has engaged an employee who will devote his full time to inspecting and improving fire protection and fire hazard conditions in the various concessioner establishments.

Personnel. Tony Stark, Park Ranger, left for Blue Ridge Parkway on May 2.

Leonard Johnson arrived on May 12 by transfer from Glacier and entered on duty as Fiscal Accounting Clerk on May 13.

Darleen A. Sunderman, Clerk-Stenographer, CAF-3, arrived on May 16, and entered on duty on May 19.

Michael Sodar entered on duty on May 19 as Park Ranger, GS-7.

Viola M. Boylance entered on duty as Clerk-Stenographer, CAF-3, on May 8.

Rex R. Burton, entered on duty as Storekeeper, CAF-3, May 12; and Robert J. Carr, as Storekeeper General, CAF-3, May 8.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employee's Union, Local No. 465, was held in the Canteen Building on May 5.

A ranger dance was held on May 9 at the Canteen to end the Ranger Conference.

Alice Dvarishkis, Clerk-Cashier, and Frank Hirst, Park Ranger, married in Billings on May 24.

Yellowstone war veterans met and organized electing Earl R. Demingsen as President, Joe Kurtz, Vice-President, and Alice Hirst, Secretary.

Edmund B. Rogers,
Superintendent.

In quintuple.

cc: Regional Director, Region Two (in duplicate)
Files (2)
cc
JJ/srj