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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

MONTHLY REPORT

for

MAY

1945

IMPORTANT

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

June 5, 1945.

MEMORANDUM for the Director:

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of May, 1945.

Weather Conditions. The first few days of the month were dry, but beginning on the tenth, some precipitation was recorded almost every day. The total precipitation was 2.78 inches for May, as compared to 2.40 inches the same month a year ago. The maximum temperature was 73 degrees on the fourth of the month, and the minimum was 12 degrees on the third. The average maximum was 60 degrees and the average minimum was 32 degrees. It was a cloudy month, there being only 6 clear days, 11 partly cloudy, and 14 cloudy.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers made several short trips in the vicinity of the park during the month, visiting Bozeman, Montana, May 3 and 16 to secure Yellowstone legislative history from the Bozeman library and Livingston, Montana, May 22 to discuss park operator matters with Yellowstone Park Company officials and to confer with Dr. Windsor regarding medical matters affecting the Park.

Representatives of the Service attended the Charter meeting and banquet of the new Absaroka Chapter of the Izaak Walton League established at Livingston, Montana, on May 3. Those in attendance were Victor H. Caahalane of the Director's Office and Assistant Superintendent Johnston, Park Naturalist Bauer, Chief Ranger Barrows, and Assistant Chief Ranger Evans of the park. The Chapter has approximately 85 members and has set forth some fine objectives in the conservation field.

Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe returned to the park from his assignment in the Regional Office on May 6.

Park Ranger Aubrey L. Haines returned to duty May 2 from the U. S. Army where he had served 12 days less than tour years. He was with the 650th Engineer Battallion when he received his discharge.

The fishing season started on May 30, and good catches were reported, despite high water in some of the streams.

A meeting of the Absaroka Conservation Committee was held in the park on May 5 and 6. Inspections of range conditions and pollution of Soda Butte Creek and the Yellowstone River from mining activities were made in the afternoon of May 5. Most of the day May 6 was devoted to the general meeting

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Representatives of the Service attended the Chapter meeting of the new Absaroka Chapter of the Black Belters League established at Livingston, Montana, on May 5. Those in attendance were Victor H. Caspary of the Director's Office and Assistant Superintendent Johnston, Park Ranger Baker, Chief Ranger Barrows, and Assistant Chief Ranger Evans of the Park. The Chapter has approximately 35 members and has set forth some fine objectives in the conservation field.

Assistant to the Superintendent, Dolle returned to the Park from his assignment in the Regional Office on May 6.

Park Ranger Aubrey L. Helms returned to duty May 2 from the U. S. Army where he had served 13 days less than four years. He was with the 800th Engineer Battalion when he received his discharge.

The fishing season started on May 30, and good catches were reported, despite high water in some of the streams.

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which was held in the canteen. Another fine representative group attended the meeting. Minutes of the meeting have been furnished the Director, Regional Director, and the park by the Secretary of the committee.

The snow plows completed snow removal activities and all park roads were opened during the month.

During the month the park reached 145% of the quota set for it by the State of Wyoming for the Seventh War Loan Drive and received another War Bond Flag from Governor Hunt for being the second unit in the State to exceed its quota.

The Mammoth grade school closed May 18. Commencement exercises were held in the canteen, with four pupils, Roy Hjelm, Elmer Armstrong, Jr., Harold Brodrick, Jr., and Sylvester Ames, graduating.

The ice went out of Yellowstone Lake May 21, the same date that this occurred last year.

The 1945 Protection Conference for Yellowstone National Park was held at Mammoth during the period May 23, 26, inclusive. The conference was sponsored by the ranger force, and all rangers and a large group of other members of the park staff, as well as a number of guests from Service areas or other agencies were in attendance.

Chief Clerk Parke W. Soule left the Park May 30, en route to Omaha, where he is transferring to the position of Administrative Assistant in the Region Two Office.

Two new employees entered on duty in the clerical force of the fiscal office during the month -- Gerard Doezie on May 2 and John M. Banfield on May 28.

Inspections. Victor H. Cahalane, Biologist, National Park Service, Chicago, May 1 to 7; Associate Regional Director Howard W. Baker, May 4 to 9; O. J. Murie and Adolph Murie, Biologists, Fish and Wildlife Service, May 4 to 7; R. W. Ferebauer, Assistant Hydraulic Engineer, U. S. Geological Survey, Boise, Idaho, in May 8 to read water gauges; Superintendent J. W. Emmert, Chief Ranger B. R. Finch, Assistant Chief Ranger Richard A. Nelson, and District Rangers Raymond W. McIntyre, Donald H. Robinson and Fred B. Hodgson of Glacier National Park, in for afternoon of May 22 and morning of May 23 on return from Fire School at Rocky Mountain National Park; Assistant Supervisor L. G. Woods, Targhee National Forest; Assistant Supervisor E. E. Redman, Gallatin National Forest; District Forest Ranger Elmer S. Luer, Absaroka National Forest; Lt. Col. Jeese E. Marshall, U. S. Army (conducting reconnaissance school), Captain Edwin R. Brock, U. S. Army, K. S. Johnson, U. S. Army (assisted with reconnaissance school), Sgt. Peter F. Mazza, U. S. Army, and Major H. B. Robinwon, U. S. Public Health Service (handled Public Health Program) were all in attendance at the Protection Conference for portion of program during May 23-26; Lt. Lawrence Cunningham from Prisoner of War Camp, Rupert, Idaho, in May 23 and 25 in connection with accident of Army Truck

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Chief Clerk Parks A. Soule left the park May 20, for private reasons, where he is transferring to the position of Administrative Assistant in the Region Two Office.

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in park; M. R. Gleeson, U. S. Employment Service, Livingston, Montana, May 25; H. M. Rollins, Wyoming State Director, O.P.A., G. W. Garrison, District Rationing Executive, O.P.A., and M. C. Carter, District Rationing Bank Specialist, O.P.A., were in May 25 and 26 for meeting with local War Price and Ration Board; Assistant Superintendent and Mrs. Lor Garrison, Glacier National Park, and Messrs. Willard Unruh and John Friesen of the Glacier C.P.S. Camp, in May 29 to 31 in connection with the C.P.S. Side Camp which will be established in Yellowstone from Glacier, in June.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. The entire month was spent by the Park Engineer in organizing road maintenance crews and going over the work with foreman.

General Publicity. A circular covering "Accommodations and Services" for the 1945 season was issued on May 16, and copies were distributed to Chambers of Commerce, radio stations and newspapers in adjoining states. A copy of the circular is attached.

Road Maintenance. The operation of the snow plows continued throughout the month with the work being completed on the last day of the month. The snow was considerably heavier than during the spring of 1944, the depth running from 18 to 42 inches with a few drifts in Sylvan and Dunraven passes up to eight and ten feet. The plowing for the most part was ideal, the snow being granulated and not frozen. The plows were operated on only one shift of eight hours per day. Where the snow was light, one of our push plows was used for widening, with a considerable saving in costs. However, our labor costs for the snow operations will be quite high because under the new accounting system our snow plow operators are costing approximately two dollars per hour.

Labor shortages have delayed our maintenance operations during the month, but, with the closing of high schools, we have hopes of getting more help. At the end of the month we have maintenance crews established at Mammoth, Madison, Canyon, East Entrance, and Gallatin, with a total of 45 employees. Snow stakes are being removed, culverts opened, ditches cleaned and daily patrolling to remove loose rock.

There was more than the usual amount of frost boils and heaving, also numerous new settlements across fills. The Gallatin section is quite rough is in need of a new oil mat for a greater part of the section. The Tower Falls crew is making temporary repairs to the steps and fence at the Petrified Tree.

Other Maintenance. Storm windows have been removed and replaced by screens. Because of the wet weather, the painters are confined to inside work.

Park Operators.. Mrs. Anna K. Pryor arrived in the park May 2; Mr. C. A. Hamilton arrived in the park May 2. He opened his Old Faithful store May 7 and the Fishing Bridge store May 14. Mr. W. M. Nichols and Mr. Howard Brown of the Yellowstone Park Company were in the park inspecting their company property May 9. Mr. F. E. Kammermeyer, Former Superintendent of Transportation for the Yellowstone Park Company, was in May 10. Mr. J. E. Haynes arrived May 11 and opened the Mammoth picture sho on May 15.

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Mr. H. R. Crandall, Crandall Studios, Grand Teton National Park, stopped in the office on May 17, en route to Grand Teton.

Overnight accommodations and meals were available at the General Stores at Old Faithful from May 7 and at Fishing Bridge from May 14. The general store at Mammoth was open throughout the month, but no meals or overnight accommodations were available.

Museum Activities and Exhibits - Research and Observations. Several field trips were made during the month by Park Naturalist Bauer and Assistant Park Naturalist Brodrick, for photographic work and observation of wildlife. Canada geese and sandhill cranes were found nesting in several places.

Observation of the geysers indicate that they are normally active this season. Grand Geyser has an interval of about 24 to 26 hours. Giant Geyser has played once during the month of May, while at the end of last season it was playing each week for about six weeks. Two geysers near Grotto have been seen in eruption several times. They are north of Rocket and are unnamed. One of them plays to a height of 6 to 8 feet, and the other to a height of 25 to 30 feet. Daisy, Riverside, Castle and Lion have all been seen in eruption. Castle, is now an exceptionally beautiful geyser because of its setting, its height, and length of play. It plays about every 12 hours to a height of 70 to 80 feet above the top of the cone for a period of about ten minutes.

Narrow Gauge Terrace is quite active and has about seven springs along the top, although it has not been active for many years. A new spring between Palette and Opal on the west side of the road, which started last summer, is now quite beautiful. There are several new springs on Angel Terrace.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. During May this year 3,867 persons entered the park, as compared with 2,258 during May last year. The total persons entering the park to date this year is 9,171, as compared with 6,622 for the same period last year. This is an increase of 38.4%. Eleven hundred forty-five cars entered the park in May, as compared with 690 for May last year. Total cars to date this year, 2,907 as compared with 2,049 for 1944, an increase of 41.8%.

Accidents. There was only one accident during May, involving two Army trucks carrying prisoners of war, resulting in one minor injury and some damage to one truck.

On May 26, John French, employed as a laborer on trail maintenance work, was bitten by a rattlesnake while walking along the Crevice trail above Deckard Flat. The injury did not prove serious and he returned to duty on May 31.

Ranger Activities A Protection Conference was conducted from May 23 to 26 with all rangers, except one who was called for a pre-induction physical examination, present. Training and discussion covering a number of timely

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subjects made the conference valuable to all who attended. A standard First Aid course was provided, from May 18 to 22, for rangers who were unable to take advantage of the course conducted in March.

Regular activities consisted of taking a census of bison calves in the Lamar area, locating coyote dens in connection with the coyote tagging program, supervision of trail maintenance projects, operation of entrance stations, and repair of some facilities such as corrals and bridges. With the exception of Canyon, all summer stations to which permanent personnel are assigned, were occupied by the end of the month. Five seasonal rangers were employed during the month, and four were assigned to entrance stations.

A regular crew was employed on May 28 to care for the grounds at Mammoth. Continued rains made it unnecessary to sprinkle the lawns before that time.

Assistant Chief Rangers Evans, Elliott and Peyton and District Rangers Coleman and Stevens and Ranger Hope attended an F.B.I. meeting at Livingston, Montana, May 11.

Chief Ranger Barrows, Assistant Chief Ranger Peyton, District Rangers Ebert and Jacobson, and Ranger Haines attended the Fire Training Conference at Rocky Mountain National Park May 14 to 20.

Wildlife Administration. On May 29 and 30, a total of 98 bison calves was counted in the Lamar area. This indicates an annual increase of about 22 per cent, but mortalities which will occur during the first year will reduce the net increase to a lower degree.

The Absaroka Conservation Committee held its annual spring meeting at Mammoth on May 5 and 6. This group recommended that 3,600 elk be removed from the northern Yellowstone herd by hunting outside the Park during the winter of 1945-46. It was also recommended that 150 pronghorns be trapped along the northern boundary of the Park and transported to less crowded ranges in Montana. The Montana State Fish and Game Department will handle the undertaking. A program of coyote investigations concerned primarily with migrations of these animals into and out of the Park was approved, with the understanding that preliminary work will be started early in June with the tagging of a number of coyote pups during the denning season. Other details of the meeting are contained in the Secretary's report.

Superintendent W. A. Dunn, Yellowstone Lake Fisheries Station, Fish and Wildlife Service, opened his station on May 7 and installed the first fish trap on May 15. A total of 1,060,481 blackspotted trout eggs was taken by the end of May. The Grebe Lake station was opened on May 25 to secure Montana graylings eggs to fill requests from other areas. No grayling will be planted in the Park this year.

Forest Fire Protection. The fire guard in charge of the Mammoth fire cache entered on duty May 1, and has been busy reconditioning equipment, making inventories for purpose of transfer, arranging training material for the fire school, and other related duties.

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Forest Fire Protection. The fire guard in charge of the Mammoth fire cache entered on duty May 1, and has been busy reconditioning equipment, making inventories for purpose of transfer, arranging training material for the fire school, and other related duties.

The Regional Fire Control Conference at Rocky Mountain National Park was attended by Chief Ranger Barrows, Assistant Chief Ranger Peyton, District Rangers Jacobson, and Ebert, and Park Ranger Haines.

Approximately 12 hours of fire protection was given to members of the Protection Conference held in Mammoth from May 23 to May 26.

Trails. A crew of six trail men, under the supervision of District Ranger Stevens, has completed 3,600 feet of heavy to medium construction on the trail leading from Deckard Flat to Crevise Ranger Station. This trail is used for game patrols in the fall and winter.

Trail men have been assigned to West Yellowstone, Old Faithful, Tower Falls, and Mammoth Districts and are engaged in maintaining the trails in those areas. Approximately 45 miles of trails have been maintained in the areas in the lower elevations that are free from snow.

Miscellaneous. Another earthquake shock was felt at Lake at 3:30 p.m. May 4. A large number of shocks were felt at Lake and Canyon as reported last month.

The regular monthly meeting of the local chapter of the National Federation of Federal Employees Union was held in the canteen May 7, with a showing of movies and slides.

Church Services, including a half hour of meditation and organ recital were held in the Mammoth Chapel as a result of declaration of Victory in Europe Day by President Truman May 8. Church Services conducted by Rev. Arthur W. Seebart of Livingston were also held the evening of May 13 in the Chapel. A Mother's Day Sunday School program was held in the morning, May 13.

The Bear Creek Gulch Hotel and two other buildings at Gardiner, Montana burned down about 2:00 a.m. May 7.

Edmund B. Rogers,
Superintendent.

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cc: Region Two (in Dupl)
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The Regional Fire Control Conference at Rocky Mountain National Park was attended by Chief Ranger Barrows, Assistant Chief Ranger Payton, District Rangers Jacobson, and Ebert, and Park Ranger Haines.

Approximately 12 hours of fire protection was given to members of the protection conference held in Mammoth from May 25 to May 30.

Trails. A crew of six trail men, under the supervision of District Ranger Stevens, has completed 3,000 feet of heavy to medium construction on the trail leading from Beckard Flat to Gravelly Ranger Station. This trail is used for game patrols in the fall and winter.

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Church Services, including a half hour of meditation and organ recital were held in the Mammoth Chapel as a result of dedication of Victory in Europe Day by President Truman May 8. Church Services conducted by Rev. Arthur W. Seibert of Livingston were also held the evening of May 12 in the Chapel. A Mother's Day Sunday School program was held in the morning, May 13.

The Bear Creek Club Hotel and two other buildings at Gardiner, Montana burned down about 2:00 a.m. May 7.

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Superintendent.

in Groups
cc: Region Two (in Dupl)
File
TJL san

