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(November 1954)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone National Park
(Area)

FILE CODE: A2823

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 1956

FROM:

TO:

IMPORTANT

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

Report 1ml

FFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Summary of the April 1956 Monthly Narrative Report

		Page
WEATHER:	Mammoth maximum 65°, minimum 5°, precip. 2.77". Park maximum 67° at Tower, minimum -17° at Lake. Snow depths & water content.	1
TRAVEL:	Increased over March. 2,076 total, incl. 44 over-snow. West side roads opened 20th.	1-2
VISITORS:	Dr. Paul Zahl, National Geographic, in for winter story and pictures.	2
INSPECTIONS:	E. C. Carthe & G. B. Welsh USPHS, Denver, in. A. L. Bartlett & H. J. Quick, Teton; C. P. Sorensen & K. Richards, Employment Service; G. D. Anderson & A. L. Stewart, Glacier; R. L. Barrel & F. LaFayette, Museum Specialists, WODC; L. Koski, USGS, on stream survey; R. C. Stevens C.S. Inspector; Sgt. W. R. Anderson, USAF, re Ground Observer Corps.	2-3
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Rogers to Bozeman; to Billings with Joffe & Haynes. Barrows back from Glacier & USFS Missoula; to Teton. Kittams to Gallatin & Glacier. Hyde to Water Works & Industrial Wastes Assns. meeting, Livingston. Mattson to Custer & Helena. McMullin to Hungry Horse & Glacier for surplus; death at Glacier. Brown back from military & annual leave. Wohlbrandt, Miller, Olson, Gnuse & Everett wage survey trips. Chapman to firefighting wage meeting, Missoula. McComas to Big Hole. Brown & Edwards to Wildlife Fed. meeting, Three Forks. Anderson annual leave; Gabbert Acting. Major Luce, Custer BNM Supt. retired; Aubuchon Acting. Sec. of Int. McKay resigned to run for Oregon Senator to U. S. Senate. Staff meetings. Steno-Typist exam. Mammoth moss open. Roads to West & Old Faithful open 20th. N. P. new freight & passenger depot at Gardiner.	3-5
MISCELLANEOUS:	NPTE meeting. Community supper in honor 4 men retiring. Annual ski meet. AFGE meeting.	5
DEATHS:	George McMullin, Electrical Supervisor, death at Glacier due heart attack. Mrs. Pearl Lemmon, mother of Mrs. J. Stanley Fillmore, died in Idaho.	5
PERSONNEL:	Carpenter Foreman T. A. Bowman retired. R. W. Ketcham transfer from Engineer to WODC. C. W. McClain, Ranger, transfer to T. Roosevelt; Wohlbrandt, Engineer, to Reg. Engr., Reg. 3; Rowe from Rainier to Engineer; Tyers from	

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Report 1ml

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

May 10, 1956

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Monthly Report for April 1956

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of April 1956:

General

Weather Conditions. Although night temperatures were generally below freezing during April, Mammoth did enjoy some spring weather with five days of temperature readings above 60 degrees. Snow squalls alternated with rain showers throughout the month at Mammoth with the heaviest daily precipitation of .49 inch having been recorded on April 26. The maximum temperature at Mammoth was 65° on April 20 and 21, the minimum 5° on the 6th, and total precipitation 2.77 inches.

The maximum temperature for the park during April was 67° at Tower Fall on the 20th and the park minimum was -17° at Yellowstone Lake on the 6th.

The snow pack in the southern portion of the park remains heavy. Courses reported for April 30 are as follows:

Northeast Entrance	19.6" depth	6.8" water content
East Entrance	8.0	3.0
Sylvan Pass	40.0	13.0
Norris	17.8	5.7
Canyon	47.3	17.4
Lake	40.9	15.2
Lewis River Divide	121.0	63.9
Aster Creek	92.6	45.0
Lupine Creek	27.0	9.4
Grassy Lake	85.1	42.0 (Normal 62" snow and 30" water)

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Vehicular traffic increased noticeably during the month with the arrival of seasonal concessioner and Park Service employees. The Mammoth-Old Faithful-West Entrance road was opened for travel on the 28th. In the three days following, West

Entrance had a recorded travel of 16 first-entry vehicles. The low figure was probably due in part to unsettled weather not conducive to travel. April travel totaled as follows: 385 first-entry cars, 235 re-entry cars, 1,263 first-entry passengers, 771 re-entry passengers, 44 over-snow equipment passengers, with 2,078 total visitor travel, compared to 872 in March 1956 and 2,138 in April 1955. Five snowplanes entered via South Entrance and two snowmobiles entered via West Entrance.

Special Visitors. Dr. Paul Zahl, National Geographic Society photographer and writer, arrived April 14 to obtain material and pictures for a park winter story for National Geographic Magazine. He expects to depart May 6.

Inspections. Edmund C. Garthe, Regional Engineer, and C. B. Welsh, Senior Assistant Sanitary Engineer, U. S. Public Health Service, Denver, were in the park April 4 to discuss sanitation matters covering next summer's operations, while in the vicinity to attend the sanitation meeting at Livingston April 5-7.

Alfred W. Bartlett, Fiscal Accounting Assistant, and Herbert J. Quick, Construction and Maintenance Supervisor, Grand Teton National Park, were in April 9-11 on accounting matters.

Chester P. Sorensen, Executive Director, Employment Security Commission of Wyoming, Casper, and Kenneth Richards, Manager, Wyoming Employment Service, Cody, were in April 11 to discuss possible establishment of employment office in the park.

Head Storekeeper Grant D. Anderson and Mixed Gang Foreman Andrew E. Stewart of Glacier National Park arrived April 13 with the truck left at Glacier following the death of George McMullin. As close friends of Mr. McMullin they participated in the conducting of his funeral services at Mammoth on that date.

Robert L. Barrel and Floyd LaFayette, Museum Specialists, Western Office, Division of Design and Construction, arrived April 22 and 30, respectively, to work on the visitor center exhibit plans for Canyon. They expect to remain until some time in May.

Leonard Koski, Geological Survey, Boise, was in April 29 and 30 to read stream gauges on the Madison, Lamar, Gardner and Yellowstone Rivers.

Field Inspector Robert C. Stevens, 11th Civil Service Region, Billings, was in the office on the 9th and 24th to check on former employees.

Sgt. W. R. Anderson, USAF, Livingston, conferred on the 12th with Chief Ranger Brown and Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman regarding

cooperation with the Ground Observer Corps. He will contact and instruct fire lookouts and men at outlying stations in this work during the summer.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers made trips April 11, 18 and 25 to Bozeman for research in the library on his legislative history project on areas administered by the National Park Service. On the 26th and 27th he, Management Assistant Joffe, and Concessioner Jack Haynes were in Billings, Montana, on public relations and to attend the 19th Annual Community Cooperation Dinner sponsored by the Billings Chamber of Commerce.

Forester Barrows returned April 2 from Glacier National Park and from Missoula where he conferred with Forest Service personnel on blister rust, forest insect and fire control matters. He was away from the park April 12-24 on annual leave. On the 30th he departed for Grand Teton National Park on matters affecting that area, expecting to return May 3.

Biologist Kittams made a trip to the Gallatin section of the park on April 3 and 4. He left April 25 for Glacier National Park on wildlife and range matters and to participate in discussions at the ranger conference, expecting to return May 3.

Sanitation Officer Hyde attended a meeting in Livingston April 5-7 of American Water Works Association and Sewage and Industrial Wastes Association (Montana Sections).

Park Landscape Architect Mattson departed April 6 for Custer Battlefield National Monument in connection with road projects, returning the following evening. On the 11th he made a trip to Helena to confer with State Highway Department officials on further business concerning Custer roads.

Electrical Supervisor McMullin left April 9 for Hungry Horse Dam and Glacier National Park to obtain surplus electrical property. He died the following day at Glacier due to a heart attack.

Chief Ranger Brown returned April 10 from military leave March 11-25 followed by annual leave. He was recalled to duty for training in the Mountain and Cold Weather Training Command at Fort Carson, Colorado, holding the rank of Major, U. S. Army Reserve.

Park Engineer Wohlbrandt and Shop Foreman Miller departed April 10 for Pocatello and Idaho Falls, Idaho, on a survey of prevailing wage rates, returning 13th. Personnel Officer Gruse and Painter Foreman Olson made a similar survey at Billings, Montana, and Cody, Wyoming, April 11-13, Messrs. Wohlbrandt and Olson at Bozeman and Livingston, Montana, April 17, and Mr. Olson and Personnel Assistant Everett at Great Falls and Helena, Montana, April 25-28.

Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman attended the Annual Meeting of Cooperating Firefighting Agencies held April 19 at the U. S. Forest Service office in Missoula to discuss and agree on firefighting wage rates.

Assistant Chief Ranger McComas left April 27 for Big Hole Battlefield National Monument where he conferred with U. S. Forest Service representatives regarding proposed work on the entrance road. He returned the 29th.

Chief Ranger Brown and Assistant Chief Ranger Edwards attended the spring meeting of the Montana Wildlife Federation Southwest District at Three Forks, Montana, on April 29.

Administrative Officer Anderson left April 13 on three weeks annual leave, to continue through May 4. Fiscal Accounting Assistant Gabbert was designated Acting Administrative Officer during his absence.

Major Edward S. Luce, Superintendent, Custer Battlefield National Monument, retired at the close of April 30. The Luces were well known to Yellowstone personnel, that area formerly having been under the coordination of Yellowstone National Park. They expect to make their home in San Diego, California. John A. Aubuchon, Superintendent of Canyon de Chelly National Monument, has been designated Acting Superintendent of the Monument.

Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay resigned at the close of April 15 to enter the race for U. S. Senator in the State of Oregon. Secretary McKay formerly served as Governor of that state.

Staff meeting of various division heads and other park officials were held in the conference room April 5 and 19.

The Local Civil Service Board held an examination April 4 for Stenographer-Typist. There were five contestants and Personnel Assistant Everett conducted the examination.

The Government mess hall at Mammoth opened April 23 for the season.

The roads from Mammoth to Old Faithful and West Yellowstone were officially opened to public travel April 28. The scheduled dates for opening other roads are May 15 for the section from Norris to Canyon and Lake, May 25 for East and South Entrances, May 30 for remaining sections in the park, and June 10 for the Northeast Entrance Road from Red Lodge to Cooke, Montana.

The new Northern Pacific Railway passenger and freight depot in Gardiner, Montana, was officially opened April 26 with the abandonment of the old freight depot. The original rustic passenger depot, which

the new depot replaces, was designed by Robert C. Reamer, who also designed Old Faithful Inn and the Canyon Hotel. It was constructed in 1903 when the railroad was extended from Cinnabar to Gardiner. The new combined depot is at the original site of the old passenger depot, near the Theodore Roosevelt Arch entrance to the park.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of National Federation of Federal Employees Local No. 465 was held in the Canteen April 2.

On April 6 a pot luck supper was held in the Canteen in honor of four men retiring from the National Park Service here in the near future, as follows: Thomas A. Bowman, Carpenter Foreman, Deate T. White, Supervisor, Construction and Maintenance, Herman R. Blastoch, Plumber Foreman, and Fred J. Nissen, Mechanic (Heavy Duty). Two hundred and thirty-two attended from the Mammoth-Gardiner community. Superintendent Rogers was Master of Ceremonies and presented gifts from their friends to each of the men.

The Annual Ski Meet sponsored by the Yellowstone Park Skiers was held at the Undine Falls ski area April 8.

The American Federation of Government Employees held its regular monthly meeting in the Canteen April 9.

Deaths. George McMullin, Electrical Supervisor and long-time employee of Yellowstone National Park, died of a heart attack April 10 at Glacier National Park where he was obtaining surplus electrical equipment. He was 51 years of age. L.D.S. funeral services were held April 13 at the Yellowstone Park Chapel with Grant Anderson and Andrew Stewart of Glacier and David Condon and J. Stanley Fillmore of Yellowstone among those participating. Pallbearers were Warren Hamilton, Walter Stebbins, Howard Kocher, Robert Robinson, Ralph Reed and Lawrence Murray. Burial was in Idaho Falls, Idaho, the following day.

Mrs. Pearl Lemmon, age 76, mother of Mrs. J. Stanley Fillmore, passed away at Rigby, Idaho, April 29. Mrs. Fillmore is the wife of Storekeeper Clerk J. Stanley Fillmore. The Fillmores were visiting Mrs. Lemmon and other relatives in Idaho at the time of her death. Funeral services were scheduled for May 3 at Rigby.

Administration

Personnel. Thomas A. Bowman, Carpenter Foreman, Ungraded, retired (optionally) at the close of April 6 after more than 29 years of service with the National Park Service here. Following an extended visit in Illinois and Nebraska he expects to make his home in Gardiner.

The promotion and change in headquarters of Richard W. Ketcham from Engineer (Civil), GS-9 to Civil Engineer (Assistant Project

Supervisor), GS-11, Western Office, Division of Design and Construction, was effective April 2. He departed March 27 for San Francisco.

Claude W. McClain, Park Ranger, GS-5, was selected April 3 for promotion and change of headquarters to Supervisory Park Ranger, GS-6, Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park in North Dakota. He expects to depart in early May when the road is opened from Teton to Snake River Ranger Station where he has been stationed for the winter.

Notice was received April 9 that the promotion and change in headquarters of Philip H. Wohlbrandt from Engineer (Civil), GS-12, to Regional Engineer, GS-13, Region Three, was approved April 2. His transfer was effective at the close of April 30 and he expects to leave May 6 for Santa Fe.

Gerald A. Rowe, Engineer (Civil) (Park Engineer), GS-11, Mount Rainier National Park, was selected April 6 as Engineer (Civil), GS-12, Yellowstone. The promotion and change of headquarters was approved by the Washington Office April 24. He arrived April 30 to enter on duty effective May 1.

Leonard A. Selle, Janitor, Ungraded, resigned effective at the close of April 10 to enter into business in Idaho.

George McMullin, Electrical Supervisor, Ungraded, died April 10, at the age of 51, of a heart attack at Glacier National Park while on a trip to obtain surplus electrical property. His funeral services were held in the Yellowstone Park Chapel April 13 and burial at Idaho Falls, Idaho, the following day. He has been an employee in the Electrical Division here for some thirty years.

William C. Mardis, Carpenter, Ungraded, was promoted April 15 to Carpenter Foreman, Ungraded, vice Thomas A. Bowman, retired.

Elling Johnson received a career-conditional appointment April 16 as Carpenter, Ungraded, selection having been made from the Civil Service register.

On April 13, Lawrence Murray, Electrician Foreman, Ungraded, was designated Acting Electrical Supervisor to be in charge of the Electrical Division following the death of George McMullin.

Miss Marjorie L. Baxter, Accounting Clerk, GS-4, Lowry Air Force Base, Denver, Colorado, received a transfer to the position of Voucher Clerk, GS-4, effective April 22.

Nathaniel R. Lacy received a promotion (indefinite) from Park Ranger (General), GS-4, to Park Ranger, GS-5, effective April 29.

Norman B. Herkenham, Park Naturalist, GS-9, departed April 30 on promotion and change of headquarters to Park Naturalist, GS-11, Rocky Mountain National Park, effective that date.

John A. Tyers, Park Ranger, GS-5, Dinosaur National Monument, accepted promotion and transfer to Park Naturalist, GS-7, on April 6 to be effective May 6. He will succeed Merrill D. Beal who will be promoted to Park Naturalist, GS-9, May 6 following the transfer of Mr. Herkenham.

Gene F. McLeod received a temporary appointment as Property and Supply Clerk, GS-4 effective April 30.

Harvey H. Jamison, Park Ranger, GS-5, resigned at the close of April 27.

Mrs. Margaret Reed Sharkey received a temporary appointment as Clerk-Stenographer, GS-3, in the file and personnel office during the annual leave of Clerk-Stenographer Ellen M. Bratlien. Mrs. Lois L. Milligan entered on duty April 23 by temporary appointment as Clerk-Typist, GS-3 in the Storehouse. Orville F. Drennan received a temporary appointment April 26 as Storekeeper Clerk, GS-3.

In-Service Training. Plans are about complete for the Ranger Conference to be held May 14-24. By the end of the month word had been received from four other Region Two areas that the following men will attend: Park Ranger Goick from Rocky Mountain National Park, Park Ranger Dayton from Devils Tower National Monument, Chief Park Ranger Berger from Mount Rushmore National Memorial, and Chief Park Ranger Suter from Wind Cave National Park. It is expected others will attend. Several local law enforcement agencies have also been invited to send representatives.

Building fire control training was given to seven employees on the 11th. This included salvage operations, ladder work, hose laying and use of fire extinguishers. Training outlines were prepared for use in the ranger conference next month on building fire protection.

Each Thursday Yellowstone's Weekly News was issued to keep personnel, concessioners and others currently informed of park happenings.

Building Fire Protection. On April 11, in-service training was given to seven employees in salvage operations, ladder work, hose laying and fire extinguisher use. This was for a period of one hour. Training sessions for the ladder and rescue crews were necessarily postponed due to crew members being absent from the park. Training outlines were prepared for use in training personnel in building fire protection during the coming spring training sessions.

Cooperative Activities

General Publicity. A press release on the opening dates of roads and accommodations was sent to the park's mailing list April 10. On the same date a release was issued to the Associated Press, United Press and local newspapers on the retirement of Thomas A. Bowman, Herman R. Binstoch, Fred J. Nissen and Deate T. White. On April 24 a story was telephoned to the Livingston newspapers and Associated Press on the opening of the roads to West Yellowstone and Old Faithful on April 23.

An article was prepared and sent April 24 to the Montana Chamber of Commerce for the May issue of its official publication, Montana Affairs.

Advice was received April 23 that 117,000 of the 400,000 Yellowstone broadsides ordered for 1956 had been sent us by the Washington Office by freight.

A total of 89,700 Yellowstone broadsides for 1955 remained on hand at the close of April.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. A special Sunrise Easter Service was held in the Yellowstone National Park Chapel at 6:00 a.m. on April 1. Following the religious service in the Chapel as Easter Breakfast was served in the Canteen. The services were conducted by Rev. Duane Murphy. Regular Protestant services were held each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and regular Sunday School was held in the Chapel at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday.

On Friday, April 13, at 2:00 p.m., funeral services were held for Electrical Supervisor George McMullin who passed away at Glacier National Park on Tuesday afternoon, April 10. The service as presented was as follows: Organ music, Mrs. Walter Kittams; Prayer, Andrew E. Stewart, Glacier National Park; Duet, Ardelle Carter and Helen Mang, Livingston; Speaker, Grant D. Anderson, Glacier National Park; Speaker, David de L. Condon, Yellowstone; Vocal Solo, J. Stanley Fillmore, Yellowstone; Speaker, Elder Ellis, Livingston, Montana; Violin Solo, Lorna Condon, Yellowstone; and closing prayer, Rev. Duane Murphy, Yellowstone. This was the first funeral service to be conducted in the Yellowstone National Park Chapel for many years.

On April 19 the Yellowstone Park Church Committee received from the Whittmore Company, the communion service set which was given by Hamilton Stores employees in memory of May Spence Hamilton. This has been placed in the Yellowstone Park Chapel where it is available for use by those religious denominations who conduct services there.

On the evening of April 23, a board meeting of the Yellowstone Summer Protestant Ministry Committee and the Gardiner-Mammoth Winter

Ministry Committee
was held at the Kittams' residence. Members of the Superintendent's Church Committee were invited to this meeting and at that time it was decided by the combined committees to follow the recommendations of the Rev. W. W. Ost and have Mr. Robert T. Thompson come as the student minister at Old Faithful for the 1956 season and plan to remain as the resident minister for the community of Gardiner and Mammoth during the winter of 1956-57.

Interpretive Services. Chief Park Naturalist Condon presented the following programs during the month of April: A talk to the Ravalli County Fish and Game Association on April 14 with 320 persons in attendance, a presentation of the MISSION 66 program to the Rotary Club in Livingston on the 16th with 35 persons present and a presentation of the MISSION 66 program to the Gardiner community and Chamber of Commerce on the 17th with 75 persons present.

During the month of April, 16mm. motion pictures which provide an interpretation of Yellowstone were out on loan and in use at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, West Yellowstone, Montana, Lewis-Clark Normal School, and Scotts Bluff National Monument.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. The Canyon Museum Prospectus was completed and sent out in the mail to the Director's and Regional Offices on April 10. Museum Specialist Robert Barrel arrived in Yellowstone on April 22 and Museum Specialist Floyd LaFayette arrived on April 30. These men are working on the preparation of detailed exhibit plans for the exhibits to be included in the new Canyon Visitor Center building.

The public rest rooms were opened to the public April 9 at the Mammoth Museum. These rest rooms were redecorated by the painters near the end of the month. The painters finished the interior decorating of the Mammoth Museum on April 17.

Research and Observation. On April 4, detailed information on 106 eruptions of Old Faithful Geyser were sent to Mr. John E. Freund, Professor of Statistics, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia. Mr. Freund is working up this data as an example to show statistical techniques.

The Giant Geyser was functioning on its hot phase pattern and an unusual hot phase was observed at about 5:30 p.m. on April 18. On this occasion there was pronounced activity on the part of all of the small vents in front of the Giant cone, with the Christmas Tree erupting to heights of 15 feet. The Turtle which is to the south of the Giant cone normally only overflows without violence. On this occasion, the Turtle erupted to heights in excess of 20 feet for about four minutes.

On April 30 at about midnight, during a snowstorm a large flock of birds were constantly circling the area over Mammoth. Apparently these birds were bewildered by the lights and they set up a terrific clamor as they continued to fly over the town. On occasions they flew in very low and it was suspected that some of them might meet with mishap. This proved to be the case for the next day two eared grebe were found dead. One had struck the museum building and another one had hit the smoke stack at the Mammoth Hotel heating plant. One of these birds is being added to the Yellowstone Park study-skin collection.

Natural History Association. The Story of Old Faithful Geyser by George D. Marler was revised and brought up to date and this shipped to the Edwards Brothers, Inc., Lithoprinters. The galley proof on the revised changes was returned by Edwards Brothers. This checked and at the month's close Edwards Brothers were in the process of printing an additional 10,000 copies of the publication.

Park Naturalist Herkenham devoted considerable time to a careful review of the galley proof on Wayne Replogle's booklet, "Yellowstone Bannock Indian Trails". This was sent back to the printers on April 17 and final galley proof was returned to Yellowstone on April 23 and again returned to the printers on April 30. This publication is now being printed and will be received sometime in May.

The Yellowstone Library and Museum Association made final arrangements with Mrs. Lucile Wagner to work again during the 1956 season as librarian.

Operations

Concessioners. Effective April 1, Bernard O. Hallin, who has been Manager of the Construction Department of the Yellowstone Park Company for many years, was appointed Consulting Engineer of that Department, Thomas J. Hallin was promoted from Assistant Manager to Manager of the Construction Department, and Richard H. Buck from Acting Manager to Manager of the Hotel Division.

The opening dates for the various accommodations of the Yellowstone Park Company were approved April 4.

On April 6, increases in rates were approved for the Yellowstone Park Company for hotel meals, rooms and cottages, Old Faithful Lodge bath cabins, garage service, boat service, meals in hotel dining rooms, Grill, lodges and cafeterias, and bar service (Amendments Nos. 6 to 10, inclusive, of the Schedule of Rates approved February 24, 1955).

The Schedule of Basic Rates for the Yellowstone Park Medical Service for 1956 was approved on April 9.

Huntley Child, Jr., Vice-President, Yellowstone Park Company, left April 13 for Las Vegas, Nevada, to attend a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Hotel Association. He returned the 21st.

J. E. Haynes, President, Haynes Inc., and Mrs. Haynes moved to the park April 14 from their winter headquarters in Bozeman with a crew to open operations for the summer. Mrs. Haynes left April 18 for St. Paul, Minnesota, to recruit employees for the summer.

The Yellowstone Park Company opened its mess hall at Mammoth on April 19.

The first supply was received April 23 of the Yellowstone Park Company's "A" and "B" folders for 1956. The "A" folder contains information on bus tours of the park and the "B" folder, information on accommodations and services for motorists. On April 26, the first supply of their "Accommodations and Services" leaflet for 1956 was received.

Trevor S. Povah, Vice-President, Hamilton Stores, Inc., and Manager, Yellowstone Park Service Stations, arrived April 24, and Gar Helppie, Manager, Hamilton Stores, Inc., arrived the following day from their winter headquarters at Santa Monica, California. The Hamilton General Store and Service Station at Old Faithful were opened for business April 28 when visitors were first admitted to the west side of the park. Meals and lodgings of an informal character are being provided visitors at the store until other facilities will be opened at that location on May 10.

Dr. Frank Brosius, Resident Physician, departed April 30 on two weeks vacation. Nurse Rita Daun arrived April 26 to be in charge of medical service during his absence.

Considerable work is being done just inside the North Entrance of the park by the McNeil Construction Company, Yellowstone Park Company contractor, on the prefabrication of panels for 300 cabin rooms for the new Canyon village area. The Yellowstone Park Company has resumed work on renovation of the Old Faithful Lodge floors.

Maintenance. Snow removal operations are in full operation. The roads from Mammoth to Old Faithful and Madison to West Entrance were opened to public traffic on April 28. The road from Norris to Lake was opened to Yellowstone Park Company and Government traffic. At the end of the month the plows were at Arnica Creek, about five miles north of West Thumb, and at Teton Point going east of Lake.

Extra large numbers of down trees are slowing the plowing in places, but so far the snow has been very easy to plow. Going east of Lake the snow is considerably deeper than normal.

The Teton National Park plows opened the road from the north boundary of Teton to the South Gate of Yellowstone, reaching there April 30. They will also continue to plow toward Thumb for a few days.

The Mammoth, Madison and Lake road camps were organized and are busy patching and removing down trees. A crew is also getting out sign post, hauling out prefabricated sidewalks and pouring bases on fireplaces. There has been considerable snowfall during the month and snow removal operations will be above normal. The museum interior was painted, as were also the rest rooms in the museum basement. Carpenters were busy on signs and installing a bath room in the Tower Fall mess house.

Carpenter Foreman Thomas A. Bowman retired effective at the close of April 6. His job was filled by the promotion of William C. Mardis from Carpenter and the latter position was filled through Civil Service appointment of Elling Johnson.

Park Engineer Philip H. Wohlbrandt transferred effective at the close of April 30 to Regional Engineer, Region Three, although he expected to remain to May 6 to assist his successor, Gerald A. Rowe, who arrived from Mount Rainier April 30 to enter on duty May 1. Mr. Wohlbrandt was away on wage board survey April 10 to 13.

Protection and Ranger Service. Plans were completed for the Ranger Conference which will be held May 14-24, and other preparations are in progress for the summer season. Seventy-five seasonal Park Rangers (General) have been sent notices of employment, plans for Blister Rust and Trail Maintenance crews are complete, and commitments have been made for most of the Fire Control Aids. Summer assignments were made on the 17th. District Ranger Way moved from Lamar Unit to Lake on April 24 and Park Ranger Peterson from Mammoth to Old Faithful on the 25th.

Supervisory Park Ranger Jones completed the Traffic Accident Surveys for 1953-54 and 1955. District Ranger Gilbert and Supervisory Park Rangers Budge and Hackett attended the Idaho State Fish and Game Department conference at St. Anthony on the 5th. North and West Entrances were manned after the park roads were opened for travel to Old Faithful on the 28th. District Ranger Gilbert conducted a Standard First Aid Course in West Yellowstone during the month for 20 members of the community, representatives from the Montana Fish and Game Department, and the U. S. Forest Service. Other activities included the running of snow courses, preparation of law violation cases for hearing before the U. S. Commissioner, cooperative assistance with Park County law enforcement officers on a case of two stolen cars, check of patrol cabins and return of unused rations, work on the Reese Creek irrigation system, and count of winter-killed animals.

Law Enforcement. The FBI recently advised the Chief Ranger's Office that Robert Culbertson, former concessioner employee and a Federal fugitive from justice, was apprehended in an eastern state following his identification last summer in violation of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act.

On Isabella, [illegible] and [illegible] crop [illegible] approximately [illegible] any lower [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] high peak, [illegible] and [illegible] circulation. [illegible] [illegible] rainfall during the [illegible] [illegible] will be [illegible] [illegible]. The [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] also [illegible] in the [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] in the [illegible] Fall [illegible] [illegible].

Carpenter Foreman Thomas A. Eaton retired effective at the close of April 6. His job was filled by the promotion of William [illegible] Smith from [illegible] to [illegible] the latter position was filled through [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible].

Park Engineer Philip R. Hallstrom transferred to [illegible] at the close of April 30 to [illegible] Engineer, [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] arrived from [illegible] April 29 [illegible]. Hallstrom [illegible] April 11 to 15.

Protection and Ranger Service. [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] for the summer [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] have been [illegible] on the [illegible] April 26 and [illegible] [illegible] on the [illegible].

Supervisory Park Ranger Jones completed the Traffic [illegible] 1953-54 and 1955. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] [illegible] at [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] from the [illegible] and the U. S. Forest Service. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] between the U. S. [illegible] [illegible] with [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] on the [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] animals.

Law Enforcement. The FBI recently arrived [illegible] [illegible] Federal fugitive from Justice, was apprehended by an [illegible] following the identification [illegible] of the [illegible] Trail [illegible].

District Ranger Harry Reynolds attended an FBI conference on auto theft at Billings on April 3. He served on a discussion panel during the meeting, which was attended by cooperating state and Federal law enforcement officers.

Three local youths from Gardiner, Montana, were charged with reckless driving on April 10. Each was fined $25, with $15 suspended.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. BEAR. Black bears were observed at several stations. One at Mammoth was trapped and removed from the area.

BIGHORN SHEEP. Actual count of these animals in the Lamar District resulted as follows: 14 in Druid Peak area, 5 in Mt. Norris area, and 7 in the Abiathar Mountain area, totaling 26. There are undoubtedly more mountain sheep than counted, especially in the Druid Peak area.

BISON. The first bison calves were observed near Junction Butte on the 25th. One was reported at Old Faithful on the 22nd. Coverage of the bison ranges has not been complete, but although some animals in poor condition were noted no great winter loss is expected.

A quick check by Biologist Kittams of winter bison range in the Fountain Flats area on April 11 indicated heavy use of herbaceous forage last winter.

Dr. Paul Zahl, photographer for the National Geographic Society, was taken into upper Hayden Valley by "weasel" driven by District Ranger Joe Way and accompanied by Assistant Chief Ranger Harold Edwards and Biologist Kittams. Dr. Zahl was pleased with the opportunity for close-up pictures of bison; however, he missed a herd shot of about 95 animals below Violet Springs because he wanted to try first to get close to a large grizzly seen farther up the valley. Although half of the bison seen on the trip were in poor to fair condition, no carcasses were found in the upper valley. The five carcasses seen in the Mud Volcano area were previously reported in March. Heavy use of grass and appreciable use of sagebrush in very small areas in the valley indicates animals could obtain forage in only a very limited area in late winter. By April 20, when the trip was made, considerable old forage was available.

DEER. Deer are moving upward from low range.

A mature doe was killed on April 3 at the Mammoth dumpground because it was unable to use its lower left hind leg. The leg was taken to the Veterinary Laboratory at Montana State College where examination revealed considerable thickening of tendons and wasting of muscles, probably due to a wound.

ELK. A count of dead elk was made on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd and only 63 were found. This indicates a smaller winter kill than was at first anticipated. The northern Yellowstone elk herd moved into higher country but approximately 2,000 were observed on the 26th between the Yellowstone and Lamar River bridges. It was reported the Wyoming Game and Fish Department discontinued feeding elk on the 10th along the North Fork of the Shoshone River east of East Entrance.

Elk of the Gallatin as well as the northern Yellowstone herd continued to move upward as the snow receded.

Nearly all elk seen along the upper Madison River in mid-month were thin.

Most information obtained during the elk census has been organized for a report, but a review of population changes since the last count, in 1949, is yet to be made.

Considerable time of the Biologist and Statistical Clerk was devoted to developing a punch card for analysis of data for tagged elk. Cards were mimeographed and data were entered on a few.

MOOSE. A moose was observed on the 4th traveling through the Mammoth Village between the Administration Building and Hotel. Park Ranger Contor reports that several bulls and cow-calf groups have returned to the East Entrance.

MOUNTAIN GOAT. Park Engineer Wohlbrandt reported seeing a goat on the east side of the lower Gardner River canyon on April 20. This could be the same animal seen on Mt. Sepulcher during the elk census in March. District Ranger Gilbert heard a report of a goat seen in the Gallatin Canyon near the mouth of West Fork in the summer of 1954, which lends support to the possibility of an animal having wandered from Spanish Peaks to Yellowstone.

Range. Temperatures for the month fluctuated from cool at first to warm for nine days beginning on April 13 and then cool again. Precipitation was 2.77 inches at Mammoth, more than half of which fell after April 21. Biologist Kittams observes this fall of more than twice the normal of 1.29 inches is reflected in unusually good growth of grass at low elevations. Snow has melted so nearly all of the Intermediate Yellowstone Range is now open. On the Gallatin Range plenty of old grass is available and tall enough to be grazed.

The sagebrush type in the Stevens-Reese Creek area shows further loss of plants since detailed observations were made last September.

Only a small portion of the range plots have been photographed to show over-winter utilization of forage because weather in late April was generally unsatisfactory.

Some study was given by Forester Barrows to the history and identification of Halogeton as the depleted Northern Yellowstone elk range appears to be a suitable habitat for its introduction. Seed of this exotic and poisonous week could easily be transported into Yellowstone on the undercarriage of an automobile which had passed through muddy roads in Nevada or some other nearby state. It also might be introduced in hay fed at the elk traps or in some other manner.

Forest Fire Protection. The annual inventory of forest fire fighting equipment was completed on April 3.

By the close of the month fifteen acceptances had been received from fire control applicants who had been offered employment. Four additional offers were outstanding pending receipt of acceptance or declination.

On April 19, Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman attended a meeting at Missoula, Montana, sponsored by the U. S. Forest Service for determining wage rates to be paid fire fighting personnel during the coming season. Several radical departures from last year's rates were submitted for discussion by the Forest Service. These changes were due to the necessity of complying to their Departmental regulations in most cases.

A contract for airplane service at Yellowstone was awarded to Hillcrest Flying Service of Lewiston, Idaho. Terms of the contract specify a guarantee of $1,584 for one month of use and $49.50 per hour compared with the 1955 contract prices of a $3,000 guarantee and $60 per hour for flying time.

A rural fire defense chart was prepared by the Wyoming committee and copies have been forwarded to Grand Teton, Devils Tower, Ft. Laramie and the Region Two Office.

Blister Rust Control. In view of declinations and acceptances thus far, it appears now the Blister Rust Control crew will consist of 21 experienced men and 9 who are new to the work.

Forest Insects. A map showing existing and proposed blister rust control areas at Yellowstone has been furnished to the Forest Insect Laboratory at Missoula. Particular attention will be given these areas when aerial and ground insect detection surveys are conducted by the entomologists. Our protection investment in these areas is high, thus it is important that any insect infestation of serious probabilities be promptly detected and controlled.

Ranch and Corral Operations. Horses and mules at the Lamar Unit have been turned loose on the meadows to graze since the 11th. Very little hay has been fed since then. A total of 972 bales were fed during the month.

Trails. To date approximately 380 signs have been completed for trails. This does not include the 40 markers made for Big Hole Battlefield National Monument earlier in the winter.

By the end of the month, selections were made for all trail maintenance positions except for one position that is being held open for the possible return of a former employee.

Design and Construction

Plans, Maps and Surveys. The following drawings have been reviewed and submitted by the Superintendent for the clearance of the Western Design, Region Two and Washington Offices: Hamilton Stores, Canyon Village, Preliminary (approved); Yellowstone Park Service Stations, Canyon Village, Preliminary (pending); Yellowstone Park Company Cabin Office Building, Old Faithful, YEL 8436 (not cleared); New Roof on Boiler House, Old Faithful, Yellowstone Park Company, YEL 8373 (approved); Cabin Units for Canyon Village, YEL 8484 (pending); and National Park Service Visitor Center, Canyon Village (recommended).

New Construction. All Park Service and Government contract projects remained closed down for the winter and the only concessioner construction consisted of prefabrication of panels underway at North Entrance by McNeil Construction Company, Yellowstone Park Company contractor, for 300 cabin rooms for the new Canyon area. The Yellowstone Park Company resumed work on renovation of Old Faithful Lodge floors, project being 80% complete and work to continue through May.

Conferences and Meetings. Five conferences have been held for MISSION 66 work, two of which were held throughout the day.

Edmund B. Rogers
Superintendent

Forms 10-24 and 10-771 attached

In triplicate

Copy to Region Two w/c Forms

Files (2) ✓
Joffe Office Files

ekm

FORM 10-24

REPORT 7m5

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

Prepared by the Planning and Construction Division

REGION Two

REPORT FOR April, 1956
Month Year

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	PCP NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED / PROGRAM APPROVED	CONTRACT EXECUTED / WORK STARTED	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK					
No uncompleted work in progress.					

FORM 10-771
(Revised December 1950)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* ~~BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES~~

REGION Two

* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

REPORT FOR April, 1956 (Month, Year)

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK					
321.2 Guard rail construction			19,649.95		C Charles M. Smith, Contractor
321.2 Guard Rail Construction			97,100.05		" " " "
323.3 Observation platform, Inspiration Point	R-115-2	YEL-2395	18,000.00 / 8/13/53	95%	DL
323.19 Fishing Bridge Campground Road	R-26-1 (por.)	YEL-2284	43,117.49 / 6/16/54	99%	DL
523.1 Roads, Campsites, Barriers, Route 152, Fishing Bridge Campground, Grade and Surface 2148 feet drive and 8073 feet camp loop road	"		136,000.00	25%	DL
523.2 Lake Lodge Area Roads, Route 151, Grade and Surface 2.75 miles	R-149-2 (por.)		76,480.00 / 8/55	40%	DL
523.3 Grading and Drainage of Roads, Parking Areas and Walks, Canyon Cabin Area	R-31	YEL-2578-A	176,320.00	25%	C

* Cross out the one not being used

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1951 O - 960441

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FORM 10-771
(Revised December 1950)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

REGION Two

* ~~NPS ROADS AND TRAILS~~

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

REPORT FOR April, 1956 (Month, Year)

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK					
331.16 Comfort Stations (9) and Pumphouse, Canyon Camp ground	B-36-4	YEL-2138 3/31/34	155,840.00 11/16/54	98%	C
331.17 Comfort Stations, Fishing Bridge Campground	B-52-3 (por.)	YEL-2126-B	537.03 9/55		JV 43-70 4/10/56 decrease $47,500. Bids were too high and rejected.
332.18 Utilities connections for House Trailers			5,201.93	90%	DL
332.19 Main Electric System, Canyon	U-10-7		93,800.00		JV 43-70 4/10/56 increase $63,800.
332.20 Utilities, Water, Power and Sewer Extensions, Camp Ground, Fishing Bridge	U-27-2	YEL-2584-A	60,060.00 9/14/55	0%	JV 43-70 4/10/56 decrease $16,300. C
332.21 Utilities, Main Sewer System, Canyon, and Water Supply System, Canyon Hotel	U-44-8 U-43-8 (por.)	YEL-3405	362,026.00 9 14/55	15%	JV 43-68 4/5/56 increase $10,701. C
333.3 Campground Facilities, Tables, Fireplaces, etc., Fishing Bridge	M-61-1	YEL-3316 7/14/49	30,000.00 9/27/54	30%	DL
333.4 Campground Facilities: Tables, Fire places, etc., Canyon	M-5-3	YEL-2385	23,615.00 9/27/54	86%	JV 43-68 4/5/56 decrease $8,600. DL

* Cross out the one not being used

FORM 10-771
(Revised December 1950)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

CONCESSIONERS' PROJECTS

REGION Two

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

* ~~NPRS~~ ROADS AND TRAILS

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

REPORT FOR April, 1956 (Month, Year)

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Yellowstone National Park					
YELLOWSTONE PARK COMPANY					
Renovation, Old Faithful Lodge Floors				80%	To continue through May
Tourist Cabin Office and Dormitory, Public baths and laundry, Old Faithful		YEL-8436 W.D. being revised for final clearance			
Comfort Station--Wash House, West Thumb				75%	
Winterkeeper's House, Lake Lodge		Approved		95%	
Lake Boat Dock Residence		Approved		70%	
Canyon Village Cabins					Prefabrication of cabin panels underway at North Entrance for 300 ~~250~~ cabin rooms.

* Cross out the one not being used