

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NEWS

No. 5

October, 1919

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To the Members of the National Park Service:

This number of the National Park Service News goes out to the parks at the moment when the superintendents and concessioners are about to meet in conference with me at Denver, so I am very glad at this time to give a word of greeting to those whom I will have the privilege of meeting next week in person at the Conference. I feel sure that this Conference will be of great value to all members of the Service both at Washington and in the field. The cooperation on the part of the field force with this office has been particularly gratifying during the past summer, which has been the greatest year of travel to the parks. We must gird our loins for a still more strenuous season next year.

My trip through the parks this past season was a very edifying one. I was able to visit by automobile practically all of the parks on the Pacific Coast, having visited General Grant, the proposed Roosevelt National Park country, Yosemite, Crater Lake and Mount Rainier; while I also made short visits to Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone National Parks by railroad.

In closing I want to let the Service know how much I appreciate the fine work that was done by Superintendent Levis of Yosemite and Acting Superintendent Peters of Grand Canyon in entertaining their majesties, the King and Queen of the Belgians, who visited these two parks during the last month, and whose interesting accounts of these visits will appear in the next new bulletin. The impression made on his majesty was so great that we are informed by the Belgian Embassy here that he is considering the establishment of a national park in Belgium, operated along the lines of our own.

With greetings to all members of the Service,

Cordially yours,

STEPHEN T. MATHER,

Director.



## Forest Fires of Spontaneous Origin

73-11  
It is usually assumed that forest fires when not the result of a stroke of lightning are the result of carelessness on the part of lumbermen, campers, picnickers, or wayfarers. A French scientist, M. G. Raymond, denies this and furnishes several interesting hypotheses in a brief article in La Nature (Paris) to account for spontaneous fires.

He notes first that such fires always occur under the same conditions; namely, when the weather is dry, hot and windy. He considers it entirely possible that the dry and resinous branches of a pine forest might develop enough friction in a high, hot wind to strike fire, the cause being analogous to the method in which savages obtain fire by the use of a fire stick.

Again, minute drops of resin spherical in form might act as lenses to bring the sun's rays to a focus, thus setting fire to inflammable materials around them.

A third suggestion is that since the ground of a pine forest covered with needles and other decomposing matter often acquires a very high degree of heat in the summer months, often a temperature several degrees above 100 degrees Fahrenheit, there might result catalytic effects in the presence of resinous substances. (From the Scientific American)

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## Motion Pictures from Airplanes.

A motion picture permit has been issued to the International Film Service Company, Inc., of New York to take scenic motion pictures of the national parks from airplanes. The Air Service has been asked to cooperate in the taking of these pictures.

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## The Native Mammals of Australia.

The following, taken from the news letter of the Smithsonian Institution, causes one to wonder if Australia has any reservations in which the wild animals may find a refuge as they do in our national parks.

The extract is from the report of Mr. Charles M. Hoy, who has been sent to Australia by the generosity of Dr. W. L. Abbott to collect the fast disappearing native mammals and birds.

"The extermination of the native mammals has apparently gone much farther than is generally thought. Many species that were plentiful only a few years ago are now almost, if not altogether extinct. The greatest agent working toward the extermination of the native mammals is the fox; next comes the cattle and sheep men who distribute poison by the cartload in the effort to reduce the rabbits. This has also caused or helped to cause the extermination of some of the ground inhabiting birds. Another great agent is the bush fires which sweep over the country. These are often lit intentionally to clear out the undergrowth and thus increase the grass. Owing to the great increase in the price of rabbit skins and the consequent increase in trappers

the rabbits are fast ceasing to be a pest, and in some sections have become quite scarce. The foxes, which are everywhere, after killing off the native mammals, are now turning to the rabbits, which also helps in their reduction.

"Disease has also played a great part in the extermination. The native bear died in thousands from a disease which produced a great bony growth on their heads. A mysterious disease also spread through the ranks of the native cat, Dasyurus viverrinus; the domestic cat also played a great part in their extermination. Even adult specimens of Dasyurus were often dragged in by the family cat.

#### Praise in a Complaint Letter.

A complaint letter which fills nine typewritten pages about the hotel and transportation companies in one of our parks closes thus:

"I believe we have in our National Parks a very great opportunity to foster certain qualities of quiet and love of nature that seem much needed in the haste of our life.

"In closing let me express my admiration for the evidently great regard for safety and comfort in the work on the roads, and too my appreciation of the fine, courteous type of men who were on duty in the Ranger Service."

#### Appreciation of our Efforts

Another letter - not one of complaint this time - contains the following:

"During the past summer I was a member of the Travel Club Conservation Tour and visited seven of the parks. It was a delightful trip and most enjoyable.

"Early in the season we were at Rocky Mountain Park where Superintendent Way gave us a very delightful, informal talk. Afterwards I had the pleasure of a long talk with him. He is very enthusiastic about the park, as you doubtless know. He told us of the large portion that is inaccessible because the small appropriation necessarily restricts development.

"I am sure you will be pleased to know how much everybody enjoys all of the parks, and how much those who have visited them appreciate your efforts in their behalf.

"We from the east do not realize until we get there and see it how many, many people come to the parks and camp. Nor do we realize the invigorating power of the combination of altitude, atmosphere, and scenery, with rest and freedom from worry, until we have felt it.

"But this is much longer than I intended and quite unbusinesslike so I must close, after repeating that I appreciate your efforts at providing and improving playgrounds for children - both small and grown up, and I'll gladly do whatever I can to assist."

## New Park Legislation.

A bill to make the Zion National Monument into the Zion National Park has passed both the Senate and the House of Representatives, and is now in conference to adjust some minor amendments. Zion is in every way worthy to become a member of the National Park family.

### MOUNT RAINIER

#### Weather Conditions

The first snowfall at Paradise Valley was September 27, when about two inches fell, but melted the next day. It snowed again at Paradise Valley on September 30th.

#### Nisqually Glacier

Measurements taken of the lower terminus of the glacier indicate a recession this year of about 50 feet. This is about the average rate of recession per year during the past generation, or since 1892.

#### Concessions

The directors of the Rainier National Park Company have authorized the construction of foundations and other preliminary work for two buildings that are to be erected next year. One is to be a camp building, replacing the buildings on the ridge above Paradise Inn, and the other is to be a club house containing an auditorium, guide room and club rooms.

The National Park Inn, at Longmire Springs, closed on September 15.

The Standard Oil Service station closed on September 25.

#### Special Visitors.

The U. S. Biological Survey party, which has been working in the park under the direction of Dr. W. T. Taylor, during July, August and September, collecting material for a publication on the birds and mammals of the park, completed its field work, which included a complete circuit of the mountain. Dr. Taylor left the park on September 30.

Mr. George E. Goodwin, Civil Engineer, National Park Service, visited Mount Rainier on September 2 to 4, inspecting the Nisqually and Carbon River districts.

#### Travel

Travel figures for September and for the year to date follow. The Labor Day travel was reported last month.

<u>Year</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Jan. 1 to Sept. 30</u>
1919	5301	54,655
1918	8324	43,771
Decrease for September	3023	10,884 Increase for
Percentage increase		year, 25% for the
		year.

The decrease during September is due to the fact that the Sunday preceding Labor Day was August 31 this year, while last year it was September 1.

The heavy travel on that day was included in the August report this year, while last year it fell in September. The number of visitors on that day last year was 3700, and this year it was 3761.

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C R A T E R   L A K E

Weather

Snow began to fall September 4 and continued very stormy with snow every day to include September 9. About three inches remained on the ground and impeded travel to some extent until September 11, after which date there was fine weather until the 30th, when another severe snow storm set in.

Fish

Fishing continued good during the entire season. On September 20, twenty-five thousand young rainbow trout were planted in the lake.

Game

Deer were plentiful this year and were very tame. The last snow storm had driven them to the lower levels and out of the park where they are being killed off. There was never known to be so many bears as this season. They have visited the camps daily and waited to be fed. They broke into the meat house on several occasions during the day and it was found necessary to incase it with barb wire. The bears were quite an attraction to the tourists. Mr. Sparrow, the superintendent of the park, expresses the hope that the bears will hole up in the park, for if they go to the lower levels for the winter he fears they be easily slaughtered, as they are so tame.

Travel

The snow storm of September 4 interfered with travel for a few days, after which it was about normal for the rest of the month.

Travel figures follow:

	Visitors	Automobiles
Travel for the month	2341	715
Travel to date	16,336	4,448
"    " same date 1918	<u>12,378</u>	<u>2,936</u>
Gain over last year	3,958	1,462

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Y O S E M I T E

Roads

All of the roads showed distinctly the effects of the exceedingly heavy travel and with few exceptions they were all probably more cut up than in any previous year for some time past. A two days rain beginning on the 28th of the month was an exceedingly great help and now that it is over all of the roads are in as good, if not better, shape than at any time during the season.

The new Mirror Lake road, twenty feet in width, of easy grades, is now practically completed. It is a great improvement over the present almost impassable road to the Lake, and Mr. Lewis feels sure that it will be appre-

ciated by motorists when open to travel next spring.

#### Winter Ranger Force

In a paragraph in which he gives the names of the permanent ranger force and outlines his plans for their winter employment, Mr. Lewis says:

"The ranger force which comes in such direct contact with the people is generally considered by the public in the light of an encyclopedia of information on all subjects, and I have always maintained that the successful ranger should be more or less a jack of all trades and should be able to give assistance and advice under any and all conditions and on as many subjects as possible. As a result of the great increase in automobile travel and the constant requests that are made to the men for assistance on the roads, I feel that it is particularly necessary that each man should have a general idea of the operation of automobiles. To give them this knowledge is my principal reason for planning to give them as much time as possible in the machine shop during the winter.

#### Fish

During the month a total of 118,590 fish were planted in various lakes and streams in the park.

The planting of fish from the Yosemite Hatchery has been exceedingly successful, some 350,000 having been planted during the season. The planting of all these fish, particularly if it can be continued from year to year, will in time result in stocking the waters of the park to the extent that there should be a sufficient supply for all visitors who desire to fish, and it would indeed be a shame if the plans that have been under consideration for the past two years cannot be carried out and a permanent fish hatchery established.

#### Game

Deer seem to be exceedingly plentiful throughout the park and this is especially noticeable on the floor of the Valley where there seems to be more than usual.

Although open season on deer has prevailed outside of the park since August 15th, so far as could be ascertained hunters have not met with a great amount of success. The deer on account of the mildness of the season have kept well to the high country with the result that apparently comparatively few are drifting outside of the park. In fact it almost seems that the deer know they are protected within the park boundary and although numerous herds graze within comparatively short distances of the boundary, one sees comparatively few once the park line is crossed.

#### Travel

During the month a total of 2,806 people entered the park, of which 2,081 came in 630 private cars, 696 hauled by the transportation companies, and 129 by walking, driving, etc. Of the above amount 489 people were returned from Crane Flat and Aspen Valley in 152 return cars.

The railroad strike which took place during the latter part of August seems to have had a permanent effect on travel as there has been no tendency for travel to increase following the settlement of the strike. There has, however, been a relatively steady flow of travel but the flow was much lighter than was anticipated. Another factor that probably has contributed much to the falling off of the travel has been the condition of the roads, principally of those roads leading to the park, but also to some extent of those within the park boundary. The rain at the end of the month has put

all of these roads in much better condition than at any time during the season, and if weather conditions continue good in all probability October travel will be heavier than usual.

With the close of the month of September all camps and hotels were closed except the Sentinel Hotel on the floor of the Vally and the old Glacier Point Hotel, which is still receiving guests.

#### Zoo.

During the early part of the month the building on which work has been going on for the past year to be utilized as a zoo, was completed and the three lion cubs were transferred to it. At first the two Rocky Mountain lions were separated from the Yosemite lion. Shortly after transferring the animals, however, the female of the Rocky Mountain lion died from unknown causes, and shortly afterwards the Yosemite lion was turned in with the remaining Rocky Mountain lion.

The skin of the dead lion was preserved and has been prepared for mounting. The work will be done by Chief Ranger Townsley when time permits during the coming winter.

After considerable difficulty two black bears have been secured, one this year's cub and the other a yearling, both of which have been placed in the cage and are doing nicely.

#### Arrests.

Between 8.00 and 9.00 p. m. on September 11, two men stopped at the El Capitan checking station on the floor of the Yosemite Valley, in a Hudson roadster, and inquired the road to Yosemite Valley. Ranger William Heim told them that they would have to secure a permit for their automobile to enter the park, and proceed to make one out. Upon asking for the fee of \$5.00 the applicant who gave the name of E. Wallis, stated he didn't have any money. Ranger Heim informed him that he could not proceed or leave the park without payment of the fee, and the young fellow stated that he would go out to the car and talk to his partner about it. When he got to the car, Ranger Heim heard them starting the car and ran out and jumped on the running board and warned them that they could not leave. He ordered them to back the car to his station while he telephoned for instructions. This they did, but as Heim was about to step off the car and enter the cabin, one of the men stepped out on the opposite side of the car, drew a revolver and called to the other man to come with him, and keeping Heim covered until they reached the brush, they quickly disappeared.

Ranger Heim telephoned the Ranger's office and within fifteen minutes Chief Ranger F. S. Townsley and Ranger Clyde Boothe were on their trail. They tracked the two men up through the rocks and timber and brush in the vicinity of Ribbon Falls on the west side of El Capitan. When they reached the granite boulders near the upper end of the talus it was impossible to follow the trail. The rangers were sure they had their men cornered, and placed a cordon of rangers around the lower end of the pocket and stationed three rangers on top of the cliff.

That evening, no further evidence of the two men having been seen, the rangers who had been out for the past twenty-four hours with no sleep and little water, were withdrawn, leaving a small detachment on the lookout. In the night, the two fugitives worked their way down out of the timber and to the river where they got water, and then walked on up the road to Yosemite Village. Here they stole food supplies from the residence of Mrs. John Wegner by entering the back porch. Then going to the residence of Electrician

SS. H. Cookson, they took his Ford roadster which was standing in front of the house and pushed it down the road about 150 yards before starting the engine. Then they got in and started up, making a break for liberty.

As they passed the El Capitan checking station on their way out, Ranger Heim was awakened, and he immediately telephoned to the rangers and reported the car which failed to check out. Ranger George McFarlane at Crane Flat was ordered to stop the car and investigate. Armed with a double-barrel shot gun, he waited until the car appeared and ordered them to stop. They refused to do so and speeded up their car. McFarlane promptly shot the tire off one of the hind wheels and they both ducked and stopped the car. McFarlane ordered them to back up, and one of the men jumping from the machine ran back with a revolver in his hand, threatening to shoot. McFarlane covered him with his shotgun and ordered him to drop his revolver, which the outlaw did. McFarlane promptly placed both men under arrest and held them until Chief Ranger Townsley came out and got them and turned them over to the sheriff.

The Hudson roadster which they abandoned the first night, was found to have been stolen from the owner D. W. Wallis of Los Banos. They also admitted stealing a Ford touring car near Denver. They gave their names as Ray Foster and Howard Weeks, aged 19 and 18 years, respectively, and their residence as Central City, Nebraska.

The boys were prosecuted in Merced County, and given an indeterminate sentence of from one to twelve years.

The Ranger Service has reason to be proud of the results of this affair, as it developed that these boys had been trailed by the police for a month or six weeks from Colorado to California.

### S E Q U O I A

#### Weather

Light precipitation of about one inch fell over the entire park area on the 29th and 30th of September, with snowfall above the 5,500 foot level. Those persons who were camped at the Giant Forest Camp had an opportunity to experience the beauties of a warm mountain snow storm, and all seemed to enjoy it. Many Californians who were there had never before come in contact with a snow storm.

#### Game

Deer and bear are very numerous and quite tame.

#### Travel

Travel continued about the same during the month of September. The following are the travel figures:

	Cars	People
Transportation Company .....		289
Private Automobiles .....	3,819	27077
Other travel, trails, all sources.....		<u>2116</u>
Total -	<u>3,819</u>	<u>29,482</u>

### G E N E R A L   G R A N T

Because of inability to secure labor, no improvements were accomplished in General Grant National Park during the month of September.

Travel

Travel continued heavy throughout the month.

Travel figures follow:

	Cars	People
Transportation Company.....		1423
Private Automobiles.....	3,335	20793
Other travel, trails, all sources;		<u>412</u>
Total --	<u>3,335</u>	21347

GRAND CANYON

Fish

The following is an excerpt from the report of Acting Superintendent Peters:

"While unable to visit the north rim during September, the Acting Superintendent crossed the Colorado, and made a short trip through Bright Angel Canyon. In this Canyon flows Bright Angel Creek (so named by Major Powell for its contrast to Dirty Devil Creek, which he had named a day or two before).

It is believed possible to stock this stream with trout, unless future explorations prove it to be subject to floods from occasional "cloud-bursts."

In the Colorado and some of its tributary streams in the Grand Canyon are found the following species of fish:

- Bony tail, Humpback or Gila trout (Gila Elegans)
- Small cat fish
- White fish or White Salmon
- Humpback suckers
- Carp

None of these are game fish and abound mostly in the Colorado itself, making fishing difficult and uninteresting. More extensive acquaintanceship with the Park may result in the discovery of streams suitable for trout stocking, but these streams will of necessity be on the north side of the canyon.

It is believed that at a comparatively small expense an artificial lake could be built near Grand Canyon Village (on the south rim) which would support bass and pickerel or other game fish whose existence does not demand fresh, running water. Allocation for this lake has been tentatively selected and later an estimate of the cost of the necessary dam, excavation and stocking will be submitted."

### Travel

The figures below give the travel during September :

Persons using public camps .....	1090	
Automobile travelers registering at hotels ..	240	
Travelers arriving by train .....	3550	
Total -		4880

Travel was slightly less in September than in August, and the difference is in the number of campers. This is due to the cold weather and high wind experienced during the last week of the month.

### North Rim of Grand Canyon

Mr. John Willy, editor of the Hotel Monthly, made an automobile trip to the north rim of Grand Canyon during September, starting from Salt Lake and going over the Arrowhead Trail as far as Nephi, eighty-three miles; then leaving the Arrowhead and taking the old Marysvale Road, now called the Yellowstone-Grand Canyon Highway, which is the most direct route from Salt Lake City to Grand Canyon. A start has been made to build a concrete highway from Salt Lake City to St. George, Utah, a distance of three hundred miles, to make the Arrowhead trail between these points one of the best in America.

The road then led through Marysvale and Panguitch, where a side trip was made to Bryce's Canyon, twenty-five miles distant, on a spur from the Yellowstone-Grand Canyon Highway. Mr. Willy reports Bryce Canyon as Grand Canyon in miniature, except that its formations are of infinite variety and carry the semblance of things animate. The colorings are more varied and fascinating than those of any other canyon.

Mr. Willy stayed at the Wiley camp at Bright Angel Point on the north rim. He states in his article in the October number of the Hotel Monthly that since seeing sunset from Hopi Point on the south rim of the Canyon a few years ago the Grand Canyon has been a magnet to him and has drawn him back for the third time - that it will continue to draw him as long as he shall live.

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### GLACIER

#### Weather

During the first ten days of the month a general rainfall was recorded throughout the park. As a result of this rain, the most of the fires were put out sufficiently to enable the superintendent to reduce the crews greatly. The atmosphere was also cleared of most of the smoke, and climatic conditions were generally greatly relieved.

On the 26th slight snow flurries occurred over the western portion of the park. On the east side, however, this storm assumed larger proportions and in places as much as two feet of snow fell.

### Fish

September second 6,000 black spotted trout fry from the fish hatchery at Glacier Park Station were planted in the waters of Halloway Lake; and on September fourth 8,000 black spotted trout fry were planted in the waters of Midvale Creek.

Due to the approaching cold weather, it was found advisable to close the fish hatchery for the season on September 3d. Generally speaking, the past season has been very successful in so far as this hatchery is concerned - all fry turned out being in excellent condition.

### Game

On two or three trips into the remote sections of the park taken during the month of September, the superintendent noticed that all game appeared in excellent condition, especially as regards the deer and the mountain sheep. Large bands of sheep were seen in the Kennedy Creek and Belly River sections and many deer are to be found grazing along the foot hills in the North Fork country. Effort is being made to lay by stores of hay at the ranger's stations most suitable for feeding game during the winter so that in case of heavy snows, it will be on hand for feeding the game should browse become scarce.

On September first, Mr. E. F. Averill, predatory animal inspector under the Biological Survey, visited the west side of the park and inspected conditions preparatory to employing one or two hunters to trap predatory animals during the coming fall and winter. Mr. Averill stated that he planned to put at least one hunter at work in the North Fork country just as soon as a competent man could be secured.

With the approach of the hunting season, Mr. Payne thinks it will probably be necessary to employ several temporary patrols on the western and southern boundaries of the park to guard against poaching.

### Forest Fires

At the close of the month, all of the fires in the park were practically out, with the exception of one or two guarded by small patrol crews. General showers fell during the first part of the month and again during the latter part - the last rain being followed by snow in most sections. This had tended to practically remove the fire hazard for the remainder of this year.

A small crew has been retained for patrol work in the Two Medicine fire. The fire is considered practically out in this district inside of the park boundaries, but several spot fires continue to burn on the reservation and it has been deemed advisable to keep the crews in the vicinity for any emergencies.

The total cost of all fires in the park to date has been approximately \$46,000.00. Added to this amount will be certain bills that have not been presented, as well as some additional labor charges for patrol crews that will probably bring the total cost to somewhere in the neighborhood of \$47,000.00.

### Travel

There was a marked decrease in visitors during that part of the tourist season from September 1st to 15th, the total number of visitors entering the park numbering 1010. This number added to the figures previously reported brings the total entrants up to 18,956.

Visitors entering the park up to September 15, close of the season:

via Glacier Park Transportation Company .....	441
" private automobiles .....	397
" horseback .....	1
" mail stages .....	60
" boat from Waterton Lakes Park, Canada .....	<u>111</u>
Total -	1010

#### Labor Conditions

Owing to the scarcity of labor and the wages offered for men engaged on all classes of work, it was necessary to make an increase of 40 cents per day on all labor, to take effect October 1st.

### YELLOWSTONE

#### General Conditions

Rain fell in quantities on eleven different days well distributed throughout the month. The total precipitation was equal to 2.51 inches. There was 7.9 inches of snow during the month. The total is about double the average precipitation for the month of September, based on a record of thirty years, and only one September during that time, when 2.85 inches of moisture were recorded, has exceeded this record. The snowfall of 7.9 inches beats the September record for thirty years.

Following a period of three months with scarcely any rain whatever with a consequent epidemic of forest fires of considerable size, this rain and snow were most welcome. But it came too late to mend much of the damage done to the winter range for stock and wild animals, though the grass in the mountains did revive to some extent.

#### Travel

The heavy travel of the previous months kept up well during September. The season for rail tourists closed on September 20, and hotels, permanent camps, the bath-house at Upper Basin, and the picture shops closed on that date. The general stores at Mammoth Hot Springs and Upper Geyser Basin remained open throughout the month, to accommodate private automobile travel, which continued to the end of September. The total travel for the month, 62,261, is beyond any prediction, and beats any previous year's travel (51,895 in 1915) by about 20 per cent. A notable fact in connection with private automobile travel is that of about 40,000 coming to the park in their own cars, about 25 per cent were from the state of Montana.

The roads in the park remained in good condition to the end of the season, and complaints in regard to them were rarely heard.

Travel figures for the month of September, and for September 1917 and 1918 are shown for comparison in the following tables:

	Private transportation		By rail	Total visitors
	Cars	Visitors		
1919	780	2796	1646	4442
1918	400	1876	265	2132
1917	496	1946	1271	3217

### Wild Animals

The wild animals are all in fine condition. The unusual rains and snow storms brought them down in larger numbers than they ordinarily come in September, and elk, deer and antelope were frequently seen along the road by tourists. Alfalfa hay to the extent of about 470 tons was purchased, the price ranging from \$24 to \$26 per ton in stack near the feeding grounds, to \$32 per ton baled. This, with about 400 tons already on hand, will be several times as much as ever before available for feeding wild animals, and it is hoped will be sufficient for their needs.

Bears frequented the hotel and camp dump grounds, and since the hotels and camps closed, and most of their food supply cut off, have become more of a nuisance than ever.

Buffalos Nothing was seen of the wild herd during the month. The tame herd was kept on the flats on Lamar River and in the adjoining hills. Six calves were born during the month, making a total of 88 calves born this season, of which 50 were males and 38 females.

### Fish

Fishing was fairly good in streams and lakes away from the automobile roads, although but few take the trouble to go there. A statement was received from the Yellowstone Park Camping Company to the effect that they took a total of 2,164 pounds of fish from park waters to supply the camps. These were taken in June and July, and, of course, were inadequate to supply the full needs. A carload of Rainbow and Eastern Brook trout fry and fingerlings, furnished by the Bozeman, Montana, branch of the United States Fish Hatchery, were planted in park waters during the month.

### Forest Fires

On September first fires were still burning in a number of places; but heavy rains had them practically extinguished, and the men who had been fighting them were being returned to their work on roads, telephone lines, trails, etc., as rapidly as could be done with the transportation had. No further trouble was given by these fires. Two fires of considerable magnitude broke out the latter part of September.

One of these fires occurred on September 28, high in the mountains, not far from Fawn Pass, between Fawn Creek and the Gallatin River. It was extensive enough to be seen from several miles away, but before the rangers who were sent to locate it arrived there, the heavy snow came on and they did not find it necessary to continue. This fire was remote from any sort of travel, and was doubtless caused by lightning.

### Labor and Supply Markets

There was no particular change in the labor conditions in and around the park. Difficulty was still experienced in securing the services of enough men to carry on the work, and the price paid for common labor had to be raised September 12 from \$3.76 to \$4.00 per day, and skilled labor in proportion, in order to keep the men already employed in the park. Agents were sent to Salt Lake City, Utah, and Missoula, Montana, to get men, but they were none too successful. The concessioners encountered the same difficulties, though in their case it was not so important to hold the help, as they were prepared to begin to lay them off as travel gradually dwindled toward the end of the season.

### Policies

No absolutely new policies have been adopted, but the policy of permitting dogs in the park under any conditions, and permitting hunting parties to pass through over trails, has been thoroughly discussed from all angles, and orders issued tending to limit these practices to the least possible, necessary to prevent extreme inconvenience, or actual hardship.

### Special Visitors

Director Mather visited the park officially from September 8 to September 12, inclusive.

Mr. G. E. Goodwin, Civil Engineer, National Park Service, arrived on September 14 to assist in preparation of estimates of all national parks.

Miss Elizabeth Frazer, writer for the Saturday Evening Post, spent several days in the park, beginning September 14. She was shown all over the park, and visited the Buffalo Farm and the Jackson Hole country.

Mr. Charles P. Punchard, Jr., Landscape Engineer, National Park Service, was in Yellowstone from September 17 to 23, to take up certain landscape features in connection with improvements in the park.

Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, President of Columbia College, visited the park from September 7 to 10.

The Famous Players Lasky Company, of New York, whose presence in the park was reported in the August report, finished their work and departed.

### THE JACKSON HOLE COUNTRY

(By Hon. Clay Tallman)

The Jackson Hole Country is an area of roughly a million acres lying in western Wyoming just south of Yellowstone National Park. In years past, this region has been chiefly known to the outside world as a rendezvous for horse thieves and a place to hunt big game. It is still remote from railroads, and in the winter time is pretty much shut in - it has a telephone connection with the outside, however, and we were informed that during the war the high points in the war dispatches were 'phoned in, whereupon, the local exchange would, at a given signal, repeat the news to all connecting phones at once. The local residents were interested, too, for this frontier country furnished more than its quota of young men for the war.

In the main, Jackson Hole has been and is now a cattle country, for which it is ideal. In general, it consists of a valley along the upper reaches of Snake River, surrounded by high ranges of the Rockies, chief among which, from the standpoint of scenic grandeur, is the Grand Tetons. At the upper, or northerly end of this valley, is Jackson Lake, practically

at the head of Snake River; the United States Reclamation Service has made this lake into a storage reservoir of over 600,000 acre-feet capacity for irrigation use in southern Idaho; this reservoir is one of the most practicable from the standpoint of capacity and cost of any in the country.

The casual observer would naturally think that such a place as Jackson Hole could present but few administrative problems of difficulties for the State or Federal Government; on the contrary, it presents several, the chief factors of which are the following;

(a) A proposed extension of Yellowstone National Park to the south, to include the principal portions of the Grand Tetons and a large area to the south and east of the park for scenic attractions, and to afford a natural boundary for the home of the elk.

(b) A proposed use of Leigh Lake and Jenny Lake at the foot of the Grand Tetons for storage for a Carey Act irrigation project, the use of which lakes for storage reservoirs beyond certain limits might impair their value from the standpoint of use for park purposes.

(c) Inter-state claims for water for irrigation; there is a possible use of some of the water of the Snake River drainage in Wyoming, but the use thereof may interfere with the water supply claimed and appropriated for use in Idaho.

(d) The Elk; the last large herd of elk in the United States have their summer range in the Park and adjoining territory and their winter range partly in the area proposed to be added to the park, and partly in the area farther south. It is here that the Department of Agriculture conducts a hay farm to provide winter feed for large herds of elk and thus prevent their destruction by starvation.

(e) The attitude of the people of Jackson Valley; they are quite generally opposed to the park extension, primarily because they want the territory for open cattle range; they profess to favor the preservation of the elk but not at the expense of their cattle business, either present or prospective.

These are some of the differences and conflicting interests that must be adjusted and harmonized with due regard to the importance of each. Surely the Grand Tetons, towering 14,000 feet high, straight up from a base plane of an altitude of about 6,500 feet, with their perpetual glaciers hanging over the beautiful lakes at the base of the mountains, constituting mountain scenery probably unsurpassed in the United States, should be made open and accessible to all the people; surely the last great herds of elk must be preserved and increased; consistent with these ends, the best utilization of the grazing and water resources should prevail.

(From the Land Service Bulletin)

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN

### Weather

The weather in Rocky Mountain National Park was generally fair during September, with frequent showers to heavy rains and one show fall of four inches, on September 21st.

### Fires

Only one fire was reported this month, in Hallowell Park, caused by fire jumping right of way on new road that is being cleared. About one half acre of brush was burned by the time the park rangers arrived, but the fire was promptly extinguished.

### Fish

Fishing conditions have been fair on the eastern and western slopes. The following fish were planted from the Estes Park Hatchery: 50,000 in Fall River; 20,000 in Glacier Creek, 20,000 in Cow Creek. All were native trout.

### Wild Animals

Deer, elk and sheep are coming down from the higher altitudes, and are in very good condition. Many bear have been reported, one breaking into the kitchen at Bald Pate Inn. More mountain lions have been reported this year than ever before. Superintendent Way is making arrangements to get lion dogs and is starting an intensive campaign against predatory animals this winter.

### Roads and Trails

The North St. Vrain Road to Lyons was opened to travel on September 10th, and on that date the Big Thompson road was closed to traffic, and work was begun on double tracking, which is expected to be completed by June 1, 1920.

Work on the Fall River Road has progressed very satisfactorily, but it is expected that weather conditions will soon put a stop to this work.

### Travel

There has been a gradual falling off of travel during the month, the latter part of the month seeing practically the close of the season. The figures for the month follow:

	Autos	People
For week ending Sept. 7	680	3374
" " " " 14	478	2363
" " " " 21	475	2365
" " " " 28	149	803
	<hr/> 1,782	<hr/> 8,905

Checkers were not employed after September 26. With two or three exceptions the hotels in the Park were closed at the end of the month.

## MESA VERDE

### Weather

Very little rain fell during the month of September, and the roads

are in very good condition.

#### Archaeological Work

Dr. J. Walter Fewkes, Chief of the Bureau of Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, who has done a great deal of archaeological work in the Mesa Verde National Park and other historic ruins of the southwest, has finished his work for this year; but he expects to return to Mesa Verde early in the summer of 1920. Square Tower House is now in fine shape and the trail to reach it is safe for all. The ruin is a fine one and attracts much attention. A very old type of building was unearthed on the mesa above Square Tower House and Dr. Fewkes considers it one of the most valuable finds, from an archaeological standpoint, that has yet been made. He calls it Pit House A, and says it represents the earliest type of building yet discovered in that section of the country.

#### Travel

Tourist travel fell off during the month of September, though weather conditions were very good.

The number of people visiting the park during the month was as follows:

Tourists in private cars .....	305
" in C. R. Beer's cars.....	45
" on horseback .....	4
Total -	354

#### W I N D   C A V E

#### Travel

There were 860 visitors to the Cave during the month of September, 213 of them coming with the transportation concessioner and 647 coming by private conveyances. This is nearly three times the number of visitors handled in the month of September 1918, and exceeds by 102 the number conducted through the Cave in June of this year. This heavy travel for the month was beyond all expectations, as September is generally a very poor month for visitors. An unusually heavy run of tourists for October is expected.

#### Wild Animals

The bird life of the park does not appear to have been molested. Grouse are very plentiful and quite tame.

Skunks are becoming very numerous and are quite a pest. Five or six were shot or trapped during the month.

#### H O T   S P R I N G S

Dr. William P. Parks, superintendent of the Hot Springs Reservation reports that the patronage during the month of September exceeded that of the same month in any preceding year. The total number of visitors is conservatively estimated at 9,860.

The average number of persons bathed daily at the Government Free bath house during the month was 302, a slight decrease from the number bathed daily during August.

#### New Truck

The new two-ton Nash Quad truck has been equipped with a new bed, and will be put in commission during October, which will greatly facilitate the work of distributing gravel over the mountain roads.

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#### P L A T T

#### Weather

September was the only month during the year when they did not have more than an inch of rain.

The park is experiencing an early fall. Usually the month of September is considered one of the warmest months of the year there, but this year it has been cool enough for fires on some days.

#### New Fountain

Superintendent Ferris sends in the following report:

"Relative to the fountain near the Bromide, I desire to say that a citizen of the town who brought in a fine well producing mineral water which seems to be a combination of the Bromide and Sulphur, and which is just outside the park limits, entered into a five-year agreement with me to furnish an inch flow for a fountain in the Bromide park. The citizens furnished the greater part of the pipe and I agreed to build the fountain, which has been done. It is comprised of a large circular cement basin with a revolving spray in the center which lets the water go from the pipe into the basin. This is quite an attraction in this portion of the park and is much appreciated by visitors."

#### Elk and Buffalo

Mr. Ferris also reports that the citizens are preparing to meet the expenses of transporting the elk and buffalo from Yellowstone National Park and from the Wichita Forest Reserve, and that he has been getting a pasture ready to receive them.

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#### CASA GRANDE NATIONAL MONUMENT.

#### Weather

The weather was fairly good over the southern part of Arizona during September. The roads are in normal condition and more than the usual amount of fall and winter overland tourists are expected.

#### Travel

During the month of September there were 363 visitors and 138 automobiles in the Casa Grande reservation. This number compares well with the same month last year when there were 117 visitors and 50 automobiles - almost three times as many this year. It also compares well with August, when there were 264 visitors and 152 automobiles. The cooler weather prevailing in September helped to raise the number of visitors; but the increase over the same month last year shows that the monument is getting more widely known.

## TUMACACORI

### Travel

The number of visitors to the Tumacacori Mission during September was well up to the average.

### Preservation of the Church

Custodian Pinkley still hopes to secure an appropriation for the roofing of the mission before the winter sets in.

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## Z I O N

### Wild Animals

Game birds were seen in abundance on the western rim in September, particularly blue grouse.

Deer are also frequently noticed on the upper plateaus of the monument with plenty of signs of them on the Valley floor. Utah has an open season on deer from the first to the tenth of November, and Custodian Ruesch fears that hunters will reach within the boundaries of the monument in their search for game. He will, therefore, keep a sharp lookout during the hunting season.

### Travel

During the month of September there were 213 visitors registered in the monument.

Among them were Mr. Robert Sterling Yard, secretary of the National Parks Association, and Mr. Herbert Gleason, special inspector of the Department of the Interior. Both of them were most enthusiastic over the beautiful rock formations and their varied coloring.

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## PERSONAL NOTES

Director Mather returned to the Washington office about the middle of September from his official visit to the parks. He was much pleased with his inspection and greatly enjoyed the trip.

Mr. Ralph Linton, of Harvard University, Dr. Fewkes's assistant during this season's excavations in Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado, was a recent visitor to the Smithsonian Institution. Mr. Linton called to examine the several collections made by Neil M. Judd, curator of the division of American Archaeology of the Smithsonian, in western Utah and to gain information that will enable him to compare a newly discovered adobe ruin in Mesa Verde with others of similar construction uncovered by Mr. Judd.

"Earth lodge A" - Zumbum  
2-2-53

### News Items

If anything especially interesting for the news happens in your park or monument, please let us know about it. Address your communication to the Director of the National Park Service, "National Park Service News". It will help the Service.

(1548)