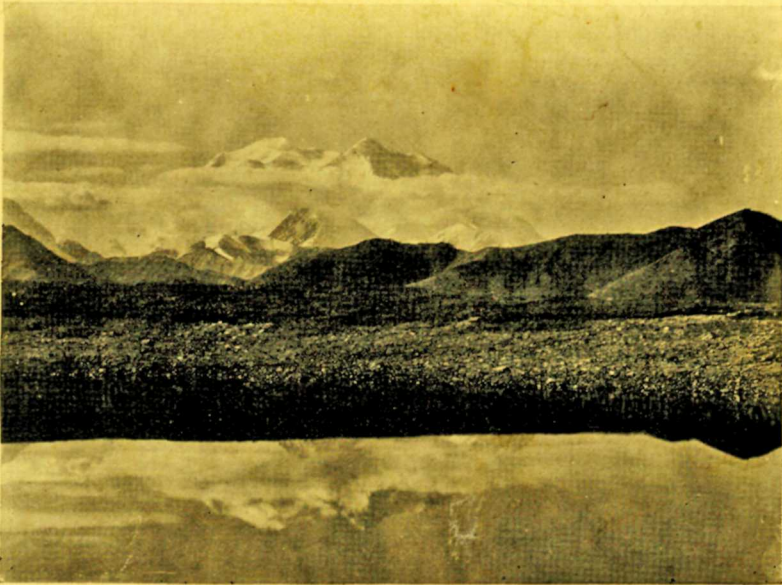


UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
ROY O. WEST, SECRETARY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
HORACE M. ALBRIGHT, DIRECTOR



CIRCULAR OF GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING

MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK ALASKA



Courtesy Alaska Railroad

MOUNT MCKINLEY AND REFLECTION



SEASON FROM JUNE 1 TO SEPTEMBER 15



Courtesy Bragaw's Studio, Anchorage, Alaska

CARIBOU WITH GROUP OF DOMESTIC REINDEER



Courtesy Bragaw's Studio, Anchorage, Alaska

AN ALASKAN DOG TEAM

CONTENTS

	Page
General description.....	1
Glaciers.....	2
Some of commoner plants found in McKinley Park.....	2
The mammals and birds of Mount McKinley National Park.....	5
Fishing.....	11
Climate.....	11
Administration.....	12
Park season.....	12
How to reach the park.....	12
Roads and trails.....	16
Accommodations.....	17
Rules and regulations.....	17
Literature.....	22
Government publications—	
General.....	22
Other national parks.....	22
Bibliography.....	22
Authorized rates for public utilities.....	25

ILLUSTRATIONS

COVER

Mount McKinley and reflection.....	Front
Caribou in Mount McKinley National Park.....	Inside front
An Alaskan dog team.....	Inside front
A male surf bird on his nest.....	Inside back
Mountain sheep at Double Mountain.....	Inside back
Mount McKinley.....	Outside back
Lake on divide at Sanctuary River.....	Outside back

TEXT

Map of Alaska showing national park and monuments.....	14, 15
Map of Mount McKinley National Park.....	18

THE NATIONAL PARKS AT A GLANCE

[Number, 20; total area, 11,882 square miles]

National parks in order of creation	Location	Area in square miles	Distinctive characteristics
Hot Springs..... 1832	Middle Arkansas.....	1½	46 hot springs said to possess healing properties—Many hotels and boarding houses—19 bath-houses under Government supervision.
Yellowstone..... 1872	Northwestern Wyo-ming.	3,348	More geysers than in all rest of world together—Boiling springs—Mud volcanoes—Petrified forests—Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, remarkable for gorgeous coloring—Large lakes—Many large streams and waterfalls—Vast wilderness, greatest wild bird and animal preserve in world—Exceptional trout fishing.
Sequoia..... 1890	Middle eastern Cali-fornia.	604	The Big Tree National Park—Scores of sequoia trees 20 to 30 feet in diameter, thousands over 10 feet—The General Sherman Tree is 37.3 feet in diameter and is 273.9 feet high—Towering mountain ranges—Startling precipices—Mount Whitney, the highest peak in continental United States.
Yosemite..... 1890	Middle eastern Cali-fornia.	1,126	Valley of world-famed beauty—Lofty cliffs—Romantic vistas—Many waterfalls of extraor-dinary height—3 groves of big trees—High Sierra—Waterwheel falls—Good trout fishing.
General Grant..... 1890	Middle eastern Cali-fornia.	4	Created to preserve the celebrated General Grant Tree, maximum 40.3 feet in diameter—6 miles from Sequoia National Park.
Mount Rainier..... 1899	West central Wash-ington.	325	Largest accessible single peak glacier system—28 glaciers, some of large size—48 square miles of glacier, 50 to 500 feet thick—Wonderful sub-alpine wild-flower fields.
Crater Lake..... 1902	Southwestern Oregon.	249	Lake of extraordinary blue in crater of extinct volcano—Sides 1,000 feet high—Interesting lava formations—Fine fishing.
Platt..... 1902	Southern Oklahoma...	1½	Many sulphur and other springs possessing medicinal value.
Wind Cave..... 1903	South Dakota.....	17	Cavern having many miles of galleries and numer-ous chambers containing peculiar formations.
Sullys Hill..... 1904	North Dakota.....	1½	Small park with woods, streams, and a lake—Is an important wild-animal preserve.
Mesa Verde..... 1906	Southwestern Colo-rado.	77	Most notable and best preserved prehistoric cliff dwellings in United States, if not in the world.
Glacier..... 1910	Northwestern Mon-tana.	1,534	Rugged mountain region of unsurpassed Alpine character—250 glacier-fed lakes of romantic beauty—60 small glaciers—Precipices thou-sands of feet deep—Almost sensational scenery of marked individuality—Fine trout fishing.
Rocky Mountain... 1915	North middle Colo-rado.	378	Heart of the Rockies—Snowy range, peaks 11,000 to 14,255 feet altitude—Remarkable records of glacial period.
Hawaii..... 1916	Hawaii.....	245	Interesting volcanic areas—Kilauea and Mauna Loa, active volcanoes on the island of Hawaii; Haleakala, a huge extinct volcano on the island of Maui.
Lassen Volcanic... 1916	Northern California...	163	Only active volcano in United States proper—Lassen Peak, 10,460 feet—Cinder Cone 6,907 feet—Hot springs—Mud geysers.
Mount McKinley... 1917	South central Alaska..	2,645	Highest mountain in North America—Rises higher above surrounding country than any other mountain in the world.
Grand Canyon..... 1919	North central Arizona.	1,009	The greatest example of erosion and the most sublime spectacle in the world.
Acadia..... 1919	Maine coast.....	12	The group of granite mountains upon Mount Desert Island and also interesting mainland point across from the island. Formerly called Lafayette National Park.
Zion..... 1919	Southwestern Utah...	120	Magnificent gorge (Zion Canyon), depth from 1,500 to 2,500 feet, with precipitous walls—Of great beauty and scenic interest.
Bryce Canyon..... 1928	Southwestern Utah...	22	Box canyon filled with countless array of fantas-tically eroded pinnacles—Best exhibit of vivid coloring of earth's materials.

MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The summer—no sweeter was ever ;
The sunshiney woods all athrill ;
The grayling aleap in the river,
The bighorn asleep on the hill.
The strong life that never knows harness ;
The wilds where the caribou call ;
The freshness, the freedom, the farness—
O God ! How I'm stuck on it all.

—Robert Service.

Mount McKinley National Park, situated in south-central Alaska, was created by act of Congress approved February 26, 1917, and on January 30, 1922, was enlarged to its present size, 2,645 square miles. It is a vast wilderness, with ice-capped peaks, grinding glaciers, and sphagnum-covered foothills sweeping down to forests of spruce in the valleys. The late A. H. Brooks, Chief of the Alaska Division of the United States Geological Survey, said of this region :

Here lies a rugged highland area far greater in extent than all Switzerland, a virgin field for explorers and mountaineers. He who would master unattained summits, explore unknown rivers, or traverse untrodden glaciers in a region whose scenic beauties are hardly equaled has not to seek them in South America or Central Asia, for generations will pass before the possibilities of the Alaskan Range are exhausted.

The principal scenic feature of the park is mighty Mount McKinley, the highest peak on the North American Continent. This majestic mountain rears its snow-covered head high into the clouds, reaching an altitude of 20,300 feet above sea level, and rises 17,000 feet above timber line. No other mountain, even in the far-famed Himalayas, rises so far above its own base. On its north and west sides McKinley rises abruptly from a tundra-covered plateau only 2,500 to 3,000 feet high. For two-thirds of the way down from its summit it is enveloped in snow throughout the year. Denali, "home of the sun," was the name given to this impressive snow-clad mountain by the early Indians. President Harding, in describing the impressive peak during his trip to Alaska, said "above its towering head there is never-ending sunshine in the summer and in the long winter its unchanging garb of white reflects a sheen of glory no darkness can wholly dim."

Near Mount McKinley, which stands in the center of the vast park area, are Mount Foraker, with an elevation of 17,000 feet, and Mount Russell, rising 11,600 feet above sea level.

GLACIERS¹

All of the largest northward flowing glaciers of the Alaska Range rise on the slopes of Mount McKinley and Mount Foraker. Of these the largest are the Herron, having its source in the névé fields of Mount Foraker; the Peters, which encircles the northwest end of Mount McKinley; and the Muldrow, whose front is about 15 miles northeast of Mount McKinley and whose source is in the unsurveyed heart of the range. The fronts of all these glaciers for a distance of one-fourth to one-half a mile are deeply buried in rock débris.

Along the crest line there are many smaller glaciers, including many of the hanging type. Both slopes of Mount McKinley and Mount Foraker are ice covered.

The largest glaciers of the Alaskan Range are on its southern slope, which is exposed to the moisture-laden winds of the Pacific. The largest of the Pacific slope glaciers, however, lie in the basin of the Yentna and Chulitna Rivers. These have their source high up in the loftiest parts of the range and extend south far beyond the boundaries of the park.

The glaciers all appear to be retreating rapidly, but so far little direct proof has been obtained of the rate of recession. According to a rough estimate of geologists studying the area the average annual recession of the Muldrow Glacier may be about one-tenth of a mile.

On the inland front but little morainic material is left along the old tracks of the glaciers, and it appears that most of the frontal débris is removed by the streams as fast as it is laid down. Such a process would be accelerated in this northern latitude by the freshets which accompany the spring break-up. The glaciers as a rule are not badly crevassed and many of them afford, beyond the frontal lobes, excellent routes of travel.

Most of the valleys and lowlands of the region were, during the Pleistocene period, filled with glacial ice. This ice also overrode some of the lower foothills, while in the high regions were the extensive névé fields which fed the ice streams.

SOME OF THE COMMONER PLANTS FOUND IN MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK²

A recent botanical study of the park area resulted in the preparation of the following list of the plant life most commonly encountered:

CONIFEROUS TREES

The black spruce (*Picea mariana*), with its somber foliage and clusters of tawny cones, is the commonest evergreen tree in the park.

¹ From data by the late A. H. Brooks, United States Geological Survey.

² By Ynez Mexia.

DECIDUOUS TREES

The graceful paper birch (*Betula alaskana*) is found in the lower valleys. The cottonwoods (*Populus spp.*) and the quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) are near the streams. The willows are abundant, ranging from small trees in favorable localities through the shrublike forms, until they dwindle to matlike growths on the mountain slopes. To escape the rigors of the climate these latter hide their tortuous woody stems underground, thrusting only the catkins of their flowers and a few conspicuously net-veined leaves to the surface during the brief summer. The erect, dark red catkins of *Salix reticulata* are common near Savage River.

SHRUBS

The thickets which clothe the valleys and the lower slopes of the mountains are composed of many varieties of shrubs, principally the dwarf birch or "Buckbrush" (*Betula glandulosa*), dull green in summer but flaming scarlet and orange at the touch of frost. The shrubby cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*) shows bright yellow, buttercuplike flowers. The blueberry (*Vaccinium uliginosum*) yields berries that are an important source of food to Indian and white man alike. The woolly Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*) has rusty underleaf surfaces and clusters of snow-white flowers as has *Spirea stevenii*. The bearberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*) grows in dense thickets and shows glandular dotted leaves and crimson berries. The only prickly shrub in the park is the lovely wild rose (*Rosa acicularis*). This is especially abundant near the park entrance.

HERBACEOUS PLANTS

Among the spruces near Savage River grow blue lupine (*Lupinus sp.*) and several louseworts, the red whorled *Pedicularis sudetica* and the pinkish *P. hians*. In the sunny openings of wood and thicket occur a number of members of the sunflower family. Among these are the orange clusters of the groundsel (*Senecio lugens*) and the nodding solitary flowers of *Arnica obtusifolia*. Many little lilac asters (*Aster siberica*) come up in sandy places and several starry chickweeds (*Stellaria spp.*) are common everywhere.

Scattered through the thickety growth are the delicately tinted pink heads of valerian (*Valeriana capitata*) and the drooping sky-blue bells of *Mertensia strigosa*, variously known as "chimes" and "languid ladies." Three gentians are commonly found, the large-flowered white gentian (*Gentiana glauca*) with inky markings, the four-parted gentian (*Gentiana propinqua*), with small lilac to pink flowers, and the dwarf dark bluish-green *Gentiana romanzovii*. The white gentian is occasionally found near Savage River, but is much more common around Copper Mountain. As the summer advances, the large-flowered blue larkspur (*Delphinium sp.*) and the monkshood (*Aconitum delphinifolium*) thrust their showy flower clusters above the thicket growth.

In the shade of the spruce woods the broad white bracts of the low bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*) glimmer, while in the fall they show bunches of scarlet berries. The delicate pink bells of the twin flower (*Linnaea borealis*) cover the old mossy logs, and the crowsberry, with its tiny awlshaped leaves and shiny blackberries, twines through the moss and the lichens. Diminutive pyrolas of various species in white and in pink space their waxlike bells along their stalks.

Near the park entrance and at most lower altitudes the fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*) covers all otherwise unoccupied space with its sheet of bright pink flowers. Only occasionally does one find the tall fumitory (*Fumaria sempervirens glauca*) with its finely divided leaves and lyre-shaped and yellow-tipped pink flowers.

Along the banks at the head of Savage River are many anemones, easily recognized by the whorl of leaflike bracts below the blossom. The two commonest white ones are *Anemone narcissiflora uniflora* and *Anemone parviflora*. There is a yellow one also, *Anemone richardsoni*.

In the sandy river bed the large-flowered water willow herb (*Epilobium latifolium*) flames bright cerise, and the lemon-yellow arctic poppy grows in scattered clumps. A number of leguminous plants populate the sandy bars, a purple hedysarum being the most conspicuous.

Farther up the valley a knotweed (*polygnum plumosum*) with large rose-pink spikes is abundant and contrasts with the fragrant deep-blue forget-me-not—the Territorial flower. The moss campion (*Silene acaulis*) grows in cushions of curiously mosslike leaves, thickly starred with bright pink blossoms. As each clump consists of a single many-branched plant with a deep tap root, it is useless to attempt to transplant it.

The saxifrage family has many Arctic representatives, several species of the "grass" of Parnassus, all with small white-petaled, green-veined flowers; the *Boylekinia tricuspidata* which grows in large clumps with leaves in a basal rosette and a stalk 6 inches high bearing small white flowers, and the marsh saxifrage (*Leptasea hirculus*) whose yellow petals are crimson flecked.

A succulent plant some 10 inches high bears a cluster of dark red flowers (*Rhodiola alaskana*); the staminate and pistillate flowers are on different plants. Beds of the beautiful little shooting stars (*Dodecatheon frigidum*) occur in damp spaces, and on the drier slopes there grow great carpets of the wood dryads (*dryas octopetala*), with white flowers somewhat resembling strawberry blossoms. There is also a yellow variety (*Dryas drummondii*). When the petals fall they are succeeded by a tuft of silvery seed plumes and are often found covering acres of the sandy gravel bars as well as the mountain slopes. The foliage is the favorite food of the mountain sheep during the winter season.

THE MAMMALS AND BIRDS OF MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK³

As a park attraction, the animal life of Mount McKinley National Park is surpassed only by Denali itself. Up to January 1, 1927, 86 kinds of birds and 26 kinds of mammals have been definitely identified within park boundaries. About 75 out of the total number of birds recorded are known to nest within the park. Nearly all of these breeding species may be found during the summer along the regular routes of travel.

Among the larger mammals, the mountain sheep and the caribou are the most numerous. Among the smaller, ground or "parka" squirrels and varying hares or "snowshoe rabbits" are most in evidence. The golden eagle is the most conspicuous large bird in the park, while the willow ptarmigan and the short-billed gull are the most likely to be seen of the medium-sized birds. The eastern robin, Alaska jay, Gambel white-crowned sparrow, western tree sparrow, and common redpoll are the smaller birds most often seen. It is probable that many other species of birds not yet listed migrate through the region each fall and spring.

Because of limited space only a few outstanding species are listed here. Some of these, such as the willow ptarmigan and the caribou, are not found in any other national park; while the surf bird's eggs have been found in Mount McKinley National Park and nowhere else in the entire world.

For the convenience of visitors, the animals are here listed in order of size, the larger being given first.

CARIBOU—*Rangifer arcticus stonei* (Allen).—Though many thousand caribou graze within McKinley Park, their roving disposition makes their whereabouts at any given time uncertain, and this feature imparts real zest to the quest of those who would seek them out. They travel singly, in pairs, or in small bands, while a herd of hundreds may be in one valley on a certain day and have vanished the next. Then, too, the search may lead anywhere from the low-lying barrens to the high steep ridges of the Alaskan and Secondary Ranges.

Related to these North American caribou are the domesticated reindeer of "Santa Claus" fame, which are merely an Old World race which is smaller and darker than the caribou, with much shorter legs. These two are the only members of the deer family in which both sexes have horns. Large brow tines, or "shovels," extend well forward over the nose, adding measurably to the grotesque appearance of the huge antlers. Fair-sized caribou bulls stand about 4 feet at the shoulders and weigh about 300 pounds. Their color

³ By Joseph Dixon and George M. Wright. A contribution from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California.

may be anywhere from sandy to golden brown, varying greatly with the individual. Both the neck and the hind quarters are lighter toned, giving the effect of a dark band across the middle.

Owing to their poor eyesight and almost stupid curiosity, caribou are easy to approach, even in an automobile, providing the wind does not carry the human scent to their keen nostrils. On sensing danger they will run together, or else stand a moment, gazing, with tails held erect; the latter constitute a silent but effective alarm signal. One more moment and the band rushes wildly off, each animal with a comical leap and a stiff-legged gallop that becomes a run after a few rods. Usually the does with fawns are the most alert.

When the park season opens the young caribou frequently may be seen in company with their mothers. There is usually one fawn, resembling a Jersey calf in appearance. By the end of the rut in late September the young are ready to join the annual run which takes the main caribou herds far outside the park. There are certain localized bands, such as those which remain around the east margin of the park in the Savage River district. The headwaters of this stream include some of the best places to see fine caribou during the summer months. Here they graze regularly on all manner of green herbage or rest by the hour on the snow banks to avoid the pestiferous flies.

Almost everywhere in the park the presence of caribou is indicated by the well-defined trails through the tundra or by certain battered willows which the animals have used for rubbing the velvet off their horns. Caribou also visit the licks, where their large, rounded, cow-like tracks give plain evidence of their visitations. When seen at a distance they are easily distinguishable from their associates, the mountain sheep, in that they are dark-colored rather than whitish.

ALASKA MOUNTAIN SHEEP—*Ovis dalli* (Nelson).—The white Alaska mountain sheep are among the handsomest game animals of the Mount McKinley region and the most fascinating to pursue and observe. Perhaps no other locality presents such abundant opportunity for their study in large numbers at close range. Two important distinguishing characteristics of this species are the white color and relatively slender, spreading horns. In contrast, the mountain sheep of the United States has a sandy brown color, while the horns are heavy and closely curled. A good sized ram of the Alaska sheep will stand about 39 inches at the shoulders and weigh approximately 200 pounds.

Whereas the caribou have a roving disposition, the sheep stay close to the high, rough ground above timber line, where they are safely within the park boundaries the entire year. They do, however, have somewhat separated winter and summer pastures.

The single young is born during early May in sheltered nooks under protecting cliffs. Frequently twins occur. Though soon able to follow their mothers about, the lambs spend the first few weeks of their lives close to easy concealment in the rocks, against the appearance of golden eagles, wolves, wolverines, or other enemies. By June they dare to venture out on the grassy slopes where they may be seen scampering about in little bands of four to ten under the watchful eye of some old ewe. Playing follow-the-leader over the rocks and steep places, they gain practice in the agility and sure-footedness so necessary to their existence. A lamb can easily negotiate a vertical jump of 6 feet.

In the latter part of June there is a general migration across to the main Alaskan Range. Among the best places to see large bands of sheep during the tourist season are the headwaters of the Savage River and above the pass at Double Mountain. Here they mingle freely with the caribou, the two ruminants grazing together and using the same trails.

ALASKA RED FOX—*Vulpes alascensis* (Merriam).—The Alaska red foxes are the largest of their kind, nor are they excelled anywhere in quality of fur. They are abundant in McKinley Park because they are protected from hunting, along with the snowshoe rabbits and ptarmigan which form their chief diet. Being even brighter red than their relatives in the United States, they are quite easy to see against the dark tundra background. When the animal is running, the long bushy tail with its characteristic white tip is held straight out. Cross foxes and the highly-prized silvers are merely individuals of varying color likely to be found in any litter of red fox pups.

HOARY MARMOT—*Marmota caligata caligata* (Eschscholtz).—Hoary marmots are often called whistlers from their habit of announcing any enemy's presence with a loud "traffic cop" whistle. They are the northern representatives of the common ground hogs or woodchucks of the northern United States. They are chunky animals, with strong claws for digging, bushy tails, and coarse hair of grizzly brown color. In McKinley Park marmots are closely associated with bare rock prominences and dislodged boulders, where they dig their burrows as extensions of the natural holes and crevices. Here they hibernate during the long winter months, and give birth to three or four young in early spring. All summer long they bask on the rocks and fatten up on the succulent herbage, with few worries except as incited occasionally by bears, wolves, and eagles.

MACKENZIE SNOWSHOE RABBIT—*Lepus americanus macfarlanei* (Merriam).—Snowshoe rabbits are to be seen most years in the spruce woods and around willow thickets. However, after one or more extra good rabbit years some mysterious malady takes such toll as to make them scarce for a time. In winter the bottoms of the feet in this

species of rabbit are covered with thick pads of hair which facilitate progress over the snow, much in the manner of snowshoes. Snowshoe rabbits are often called varying hares from the fact that they change from brown in summer to white in winter. They are about half-way in size and appearance between the cottontails and common jack rabbits of the Western States. The young, numbering two to seven, are born in early spring in nests hidden in the dense brush. Snowshoe rabbits are quite gregarious by nature, and it is not uncommon to see them gathered in numbers toward evening along the park roads.

GROUND SQUIRREL—*Citellus plesius ablusus* (Osgood).—Among the smaller animals the ground squirrels are most in evidence. This is because of their habits and their abundance around the several camps. Alaskans call them "parka" squirrels from the fact that the natives prize their skins for making parka coats. Parka squirrels are in general similar to other ground squirrels, though their chunkiness and short tails, coupled with their reddish-brown backs and tawny sides, give them a characteristic appearance. They always remain within easy reach of their underground burrows, and these are provided with at least two exits in order to frustrate the attempts of bears or other enemies to dig them out. Here they raise their families of about five young, born in dry nests of willow fluff, shredded wood, or other soft material.

Ground squirrels are quick to make friends and they soon proceed to exploit this relationship. Around the tent of the transportation company at the head of Savage River they prove a menace to everything edible, and to human peace and quiet as well. This squirrel gives a noisy bark, like the chatter made by drawing the finger sharply along the teeth of a comb. It is common to see a squirrel sitting or standing erect near the entrance to its burrow, barking insistently, each time with a vigorous accompanying flip of the tail.

ALASKA CONY—*Ochotona collaris* (Nelson).—These rock dwellers, sometimes called little chief hares, or pikas, are the strangest of the small mammals of the park. Though akin to the rabbits, they closely resemble guinea pigs, with their short legs, chunky bodies, big rounded ears, and near absence of tail. Were it not for the insistently shrill little bark, which is in itself ventriloquistic and hence protective, conies would quite escape detection. Their color is the same as the rocks on which they perch and their bright eyes and sharp ears are keen to sense any danger. During late fall they industriously gather piles of plant material in sunny, sheltered nooks, there to cure for a winter's supply of hay.

SHORT-BILLED NEW GULL—*Larus canus brachyrhynchus* (Richardson).—Visitors to the McKinley district frequently express surprise

at the number of "sea gulls" that breed there, over 300 miles inland, far removed from the salt water of the seacoast. The common gull of the McKinley region is the short-billed gull, although a few of the larger herring gulls are also present. The latter species may easily be recognized by its great size. The short-billed gull is of medium size, having a length, from tip of tail to end of bill, of 17 or 18 inches. These birds are pure white below, while the mantle is pearl gray. The bill is clear yellow, without any decided spot or ring. The feet are also yellow, tinged with olive.

In walking along the stony gravel bars near Savage River Camp the visitor is likely to be startled by having one or sometimes a pair of these gulls swoop down at him, almost striking his hat. Such attacks come without warning and are merely the gulls' method of driving a caribou, fox, or such other native intruder away from their nest; for this nest is usually placed entirely in the open out on a rocky river bar. The two or three brown eggs resemble water-worn rocks in color and form, and are placed in a nest which is often similar in appearance to one of the numerous small accumulations of driftwood.

ALASKA WILLOW PTARMIGAN—*Lagopus Lagopus alascensis* (Swarth).—The Alaska willow ptarmigan is one of the noteworthy birds of Mount McKinley Park. Since willow ptarmigan do not occur in any of our other national parks they should especially be sought for by visitors here. These birds may be found readily, if looked for, in willow thickets along Savage River.

The willow ptarmigan is an Arctic grouse which turns white in winter and brown in summer. In size it is about equal to the ruffed grouse of the eastern United States. By the time visitors begin to arrive in the park, in early June, the male ptarmigan have started to acquire their brown summer dress. At this time, which is the mating season, the brown-backed cock birds with white wings and underparts and orange red combs over their eyes may often be seen beside the road leading into the park. When flushed the males fly up with rapid strokes of their white wings and with hoarse cackles of alarm. This characteristic "crowing" of the cock ptarmigan often awakens the visitor at midnight or at 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning.

The female ptarmigan is smaller and more secretive than the male. Her feathers are neutral colored, so that when she is sitting on her eggs the black and buffy barred feathers of her brown back blend effectively with the brown moss and dead leaves which surround the nest. The nest is placed on the ground, but it is usually well concealed by the overtopping low brush. From 6 to 16 large, reddish-brown eggs heavily marked with black, fill, even overflow the nest.

The female hatches the eggs, but the male usually hides near the nest so as to be ready to sally forth and drive off any thieving short-billed gull or other enemy. Park visitors who make the trip by horseback or by auto up the Savage River to the Caribou Camp are almost sure to flush one or more coveys of ptarmigan from the willow thickets that line the stream. In the air they may be recognized by their white wings and rapid, quail-like flight.

SURF BIRD—*Aphriza virgata* (Gmelin).—The surf bird is the most distinguished as well as the most elusive avian citizen of Mount McKinley National Park. For nearly 150 years, since the species was first given its scientific name, its nest and eggs remained unknown. The surf bird winters in South America as far south as the Straits of Magellan. It breeds among the mountain tops of central Alaska. Twice each year, in migration, it traverses the Pacific coasts of North and South America.

During the past 17 years the senior author (Mr. Dixon) has been a member of five expeditions to Alaska. During each of these trips the unknown nest and eggs of the surf bird were diligently sought, but continued search produced only negative results. On May 28, 1926, the first and only nest of this rare bird known to science was discovered and recorded. (The Condor, Vol. xxix, pp. 3-16, January, 1927.) The natives of Alaska had a legend that the surf bird lays its eggs "on the bare mountains in the interior." This proved to be correct since the nest found was located up on a barren rocky ridge, 1,000 feet above timber line near Mount McKinley.

The surf bird is a shore bird about the size of, but chunkier than, our well-known killdeer plover. It may be recognized in the field in summer as a plump gray bird with a white bar across the wing and a white patch at the base of the tail. These markings show conspicuously when the bird takes wing. When viewed close at hand the triangular black spots on the white lower breast and the rich cinnamon-rufous marks on the back are distinctive characteristics.

During the major portion of the year the surf bird lives on small salt-water animals which it secures from the wave-washed out-lying rocks on the Pacific coast. During the summer it abandons the seacoast and travels far inland, where it runs about on the high rocky ridges and lives on insects, chiefly flies and beetles.

It is useless to look for surf birds outside of good mountain sheep country. Because of the small number of these birds, a considerable amount of searching is required to locate them on their breeding grounds. However, for those who are keenly interested in bird life, to catch a glimpse of the elusive surf bird, or better yet, to find its nest, will mark the achievement of the rarest ornithological experience that the park has to offer.

In addition to the above, bears, both grizzly and black, are found in all sections of the park. The grizzlies range from the lower hills along the northern boundary to the glacier-covered areas in the higher Alaskan range. The color of the grizzly varies from a light, bleached yellow to a very brownish color, at times nearly black, but always the tinge of yellow shows somewhere. The female generally has two cubs, and sometimes three, but rarely one. Their principal food is ground squirrels and bear root, which grows on the gravel moraines at timber line and above. In season they feed on salmon and berries. Occasionally they have been known to kill a sheep or caribou, but these events are exceptions and usually the sheep or caribou killed is sick or a weakling. The fur is prime and beautiful when they first come out of hibernation.

Black bears range only in the lower section along the northern boundary, rarely coming far into the park. The females have been seen with black and brown cubs, the brown being a color variety of the black. The brown bears when fully grown are sometimes taken for the grizzly or the big Alaska brown bear which inhabits the coast sections to the south.

FISHING

The grayling, a very hardy species of the trout family, is found in park waters. They are sporty and playful, and of an average weight of 1 to 2 pounds. Large schools of these fish may be seen swimming in the waters of Savage River, at the north entrance to Savage Canyon. The angler may also try his luck in Riley Creek, about a mile from the park entrance, where grayling abound. There are also trout in the park streams which are classified locally as Dolly Varden. Their weight is in the neighborhood of 1 pound.

Outside the park there is good fishing. At Wonder Lake, about 35 miles due north of Mount McKinley and just outside park boundaries, there is a variety of trout, some weighing as much as 35 pounds.

Practially all the park streams have their source in the snow-capped mountain ranges. None of them are more than 4 feet in depth and consequently during the winter they are frozen almost solid, with only a small trickle of water flowing underneath the ice above the gravel bed. The grayling manages to pass the winter by returning to deeper rivers outside the park and coming back when the ice has disappeared, about the middle of April.

CLIMATE

The climate of Mount McKinley National Park differs on the two sides of the Alaskan Range. On the inland side of the mountains there are short, comparatively warm, summers and long, cold winters, with low precipitation. The area draining into the Pacific

enjoys a more equable climate, the summers being longer and cooler and the winters warmer than in the interior, with much greater precipitation.

The average snowfall in winter varies from 30 to 45 inches during the whole of the season, while in the summer the total precipitation never amounts to more than 15 inches. Temperatures range from 60° to 80° in the summer, and in the winter, although at times the thermometer runs down to 45° and 50° below zero, it usually averages about 5° to 10° below.

The sunshine during the summer months is gorgeous and lasts for more than 18 hours a day. On June 21, the longest day in the year, the sun is visible at midnight, and photographs may be taken at that time. In Fairbanks this occasion is usually celebrated by a midnight sun festival, of which a baseball game is one of the many athletic events. The mere fact of the unusual hour of play creates a novelty which draws many visitors. The rays of the sun, as they shine over this part of Alaska, make a picture of riotous color which it would be difficult for any artist to reproduce. It is a wonderful sight to behold this sheen of glory covering the entire sky, transforming the snowy peaks of the mountains into domes of fire, from which one can almost feel the heat emanating.

Winter in this park has a charm all its own, which appeals to the hardy adventurer. It is first announced by the flaming riot of color made by the frost-touched alder, cottonwood, willow, and quaking aspen. In contrast to these are the great masses of dark green spruce and the sphagnum mosses above timber line. Access to practically all portions of the park can be had by dog team during the long arctic winter, when an indescribable hush broods over everything.

ADMINISTRATION

Mount McKinley National Park is administered by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior. The officer in immediate charge is Harry J. Liek, superintendent, with headquarters about 2 miles southwest of McKinley Park Station. All complaints and suggestions regarding service in the park should be addressed to him. The post-office address is McKinley Park, Alaska.

PARK SEASON

The official park season is from June 1 to September 15. During this time the public utilities are operated.

HOW TO REACH THE PARK

The entrance to Mount McKinley National Park is approximately 1½ miles from McKinley Park station, a point on the Alaska Railroad 348 miles from Seward, the seaport terminus, and 123 miles from Fairbanks, the metropolis of interior Alaska. Trains arrive

daily from each of these cities. A gasoline motor car, commodious as a Pullman coach, operates between McKinley Park station and other points along the Alaskan Railroad. This car has a seating capacity of 40 passengers and also hauls a trailer with the same capacity.

Steamers of the Alaska Steamship, Pacific Steamship, Canadian Pacific, and Canadian National Railways Cos. sail weekly for Alaska. These steamers ply between Seattle and Cordova and Seward, and also between Seattle and Nome, with the exception of the Canadian boats, which go only as far as Skagway. Information relative to travel on these boats may be procured from the offices of these steamship companies in Seattle, Wash.

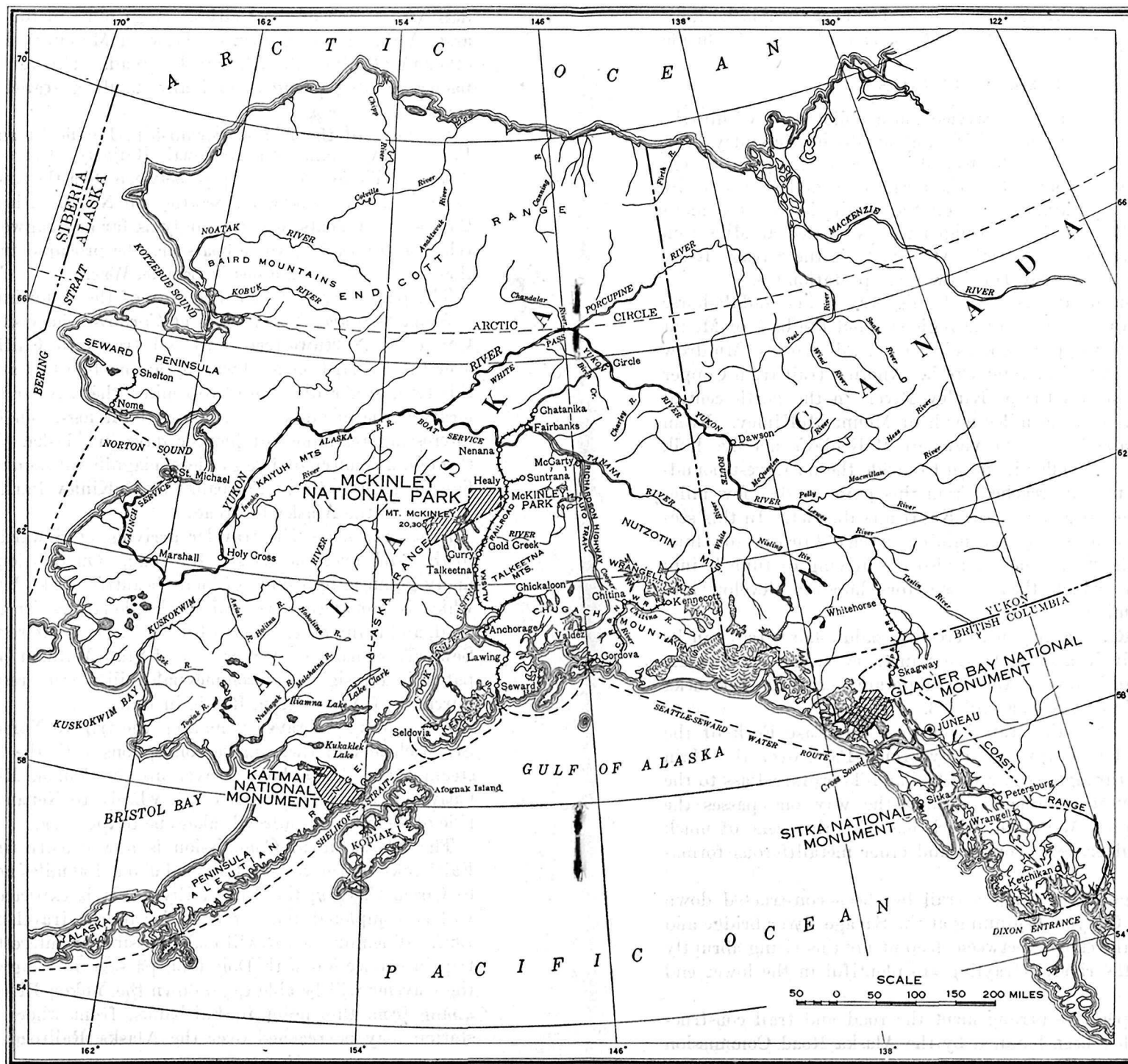
The park may be reached by any of the following routes:

From Cordova.—On arrival at Cordova, the visitor may take the Copper & Northwestern Railroad trains to Chitina, then travel over the Richardson Highway by automobile to Fairbanks. During this trip, over a distance of 315 miles, the traveler may obtain good meals at the primitive road houses, built log-cabin fashion, that are interesting reminders of pioneer days in Alaska. The road passes through a country of live glaciers, magnificent mountains, and swift-flowing rivers. From Fairbanks to McKinley Park station the trip is made on the Alaska Railroad.

From Seward.—The traveler arriving at Seward makes the trip to the park over the Alaska Railroad. On this journey one passes many gigantic light-blue glaciers, beautiful Lake Kenai, Anchorage, which is a modern town and the headquarters for the Alaska Railroad, and many other places of interest. It is interesting to note that Seward was named for Secretary of State William G. Seward, whose patriotic foresight and commercial ability were responsible for the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867.

From Nome.—Travelers making the trip to Nome continue on to St. Michael and there make connections with the Alaska Railroad steamboats. These boats travel up the Yukon River, past crude native villages and primitive fish wheels, to Nenana. From here a ride of 63 miles by railroad takes one to the park.

The Alaska Road Commission is now constructing a road from Fairbanks, on the Alaska Railroad about 150 miles north of the park, to Circle City, on the Yukon River. It is expected that this road will be completed and available for tourist travel by the season of 1929. When finished it will make possible an interesting inside circle trip in connection with Dominion passage to Skagway. From here the traveler will be able to go down the Yukon River to Circle City, motor from this point to Fairbanks, from where McKinley Park station may be reached over the Alaska Railroad. After visiting



MAP OF ALASKA SHOWING NATIONAL PARK AND MONUMENTS

the park the seaport of Seaward may be reached over the Alaska Railroad, and the return to the States or Canada made over the inside route.

ROADS AND TRAILS

There are now 35 miles of graveled automobile roads within the park. This stretch of highway, beginning at Mount McKinley Park station, has an altitude of 1,732 feet above sea level. It is located on a small plateau, surrounded on the north, east, and west sides by mountains in close proximity, and on the south side by the more distant Alaskan Range. Park headquarters is located at Mile 2 on the highway, elevation 2,015 feet. At Mile 12 is the Savage River camp of the Mount McKinley Tourist & Transportation Co.

At the terminus of the automobile highway a fine saddle-horse trail continues into the park to the regions about the base of Mount McKinley. From Copper Mountain the trail crosses Muldrow Glacier to the head of Clearwater Creek. Another trail from Copper Mountain follows down the McKinley River, in the north central part of the park, about 20 miles north of Mount McKinley. From here may be obtained excellent views of McKinley's massive bulk from base to peak. Wonder Lake, just outside the northwest boundary of the park, may be reached from this point, and a few miles farther in the same direction is the Kantishna district. In this section may be seen modern hydraulic mining or the old prospector sluicing out gold in the "97" method; also the driving of tunnels into gold quartz leads which these prospectors hope to develop into dividend-paying mines.

From Savage River camp an interesting saddle-horse trip can be made over the divide and on to the Sanctuary River, at Mile 22. From here the trail leads past Double Mountain, across the Teklineka River, and on to Igloo Creek, at mile 33.

Through Sable Pass the trail leads over the East Fork of the Toklat River, and then through Polychrome Pass, over the Main Toklat River, on through Highway Pass and Thorofare Pass to the lower rim of Muldrow Glacier. Along the way one passes the north side of Copper Mountain, which has been the scene of much prospecting for silver, lead, copper, and other metalliferous formations.

Near the Savage River camp a trail has been constructed down the Savage River Canyon, beginning at the Savage River bridge and continuing down the canyon between steep mountains rising abruptly from the bed of the river. Grayling are plentiful in the lower end of the canyon.

Through a cooperative arrangement the road and trail construction in the park has been handled by the Alaska Road Commission for the National Park Service.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Tent camps have been established in the park by the Mount McKinley Tourist & Transportation Co., which operates under contract from the department. The base camp from which all park trips are made is located at Savage River, where 50 tents, 10 by 12 feet in size, accommodate 100 people. A large tent serves as a dining room and another as a community room for social gatherings, with a matched floor for dancing. In addition to the base camp, other camps have been established at the head of Savage River, Sable Pass, Polychrome Pass, Toklat River, Copper Mountain, and the head of Clearwater.

Passengers are transported from McKinley Park station to the Savage River camp by motor bus. From the Savage River camp the trip to the camp at the head of Savage River may be made either by stage coach or automobile. Sable Pass camp is reached by automobile, 40 miles from McKinley Park station. Trips to the other camps, or into other sections of the park, are made by saddle horse.

The traveler desiring to spend some time at McKinley Park station can secure accommodations at the road house conducted by Maurice Morino.

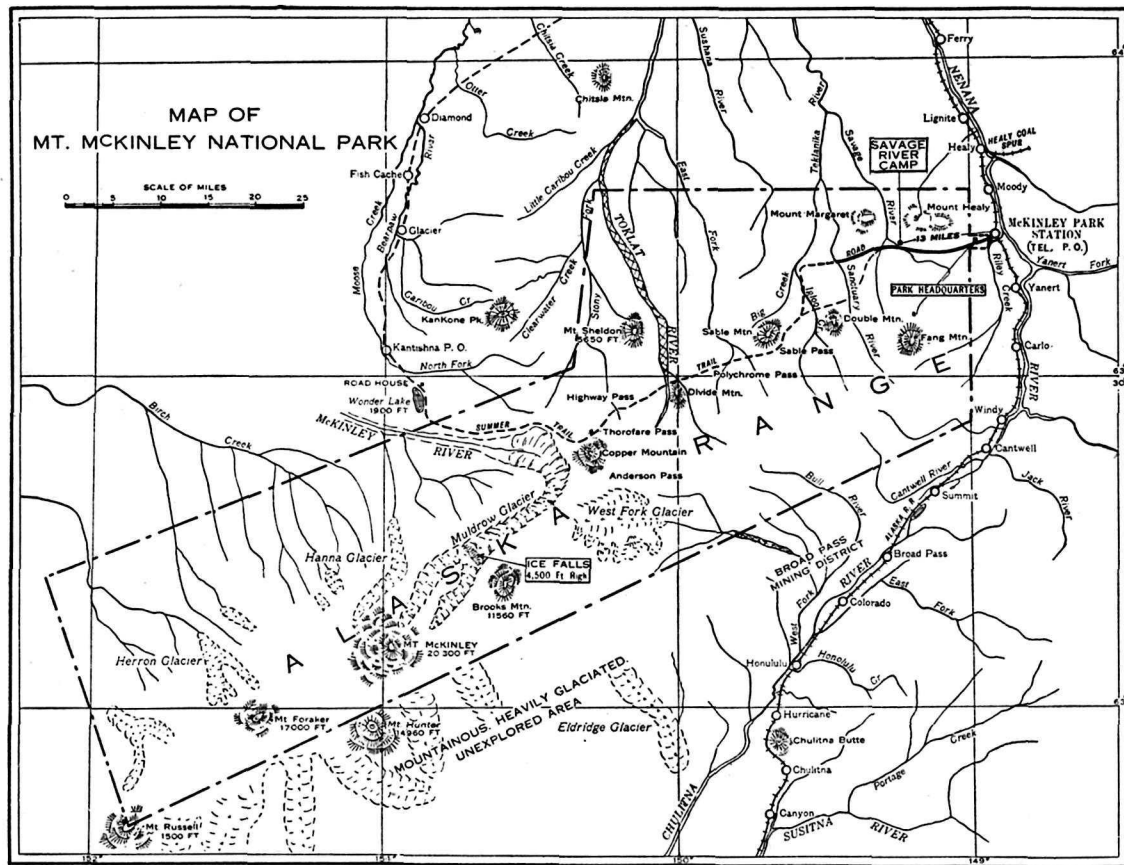
RULES AND REGULATIONS

The following rules and regulations for the government of the Mount McKinley National Park are hereby established and made public, pursuant to authority conferred by the acts of Congress approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), February 26, 1917 (39 Stat. 938), January 30, 1922 (42 Stat. 359), and May 21, 1928 (Pub. No. 452, 70th Cong.):

1. *Preservation of natural features and curiosities.*—The destruction, injury, defacement, or disturbance in any way of the public buildings, signs, equipment, or other property, or the trees, flowers, vegetation, or other natural conditions and curiosities in the park is prohibited.

2. *Camping.*—Camping with tents is permitted but so far as practical only dead or down timber should be used as fuel. All refuse resulting from camping should be burned or carried to a place hidden from sight.

3. *Fires.*—The building of fires in duff or localities where a conflagration may result is prohibited. Camping parties will be held strictly accountable for damage to timber which may result from their carelessness. When camps are broken fires must be completely extinguished and all embers and bed smothered with earth so that



there remains no possibility of reignition. Special care shall be taken that no lighted match, cigar, or cigarette is dropped in any grass, twigs, leaves, or tree mold.

4. *Hunting*.—The park is a sanctuary for wild life of every sort, and hunting, killing, wounding, capturing or frightening any bird or wild animal in the park, except dangerous animals when it is necessary to prevent them from destroying life or inflicting injury, is prohibited.

The outfits, including guns, traps, teams, horses, or means of transportation used by persons engaged in hunting, killing, trapping, and snaring, or capturing birds or wild animals, or in possession of game killed on the park lands under circumstances other than prescribed above shall be taken up by the superintendent and held subject to the order of the Director of the National Park Service, except in cases where it is shown by satisfactory evidence that the outfit is not the property of the person or persons violating this regulation and the actual owner was not a party to such violation. Firearms are prohibited in the park except on written permission of the superintendent. Visitors entering or traveling through the park to places beyond shall, at entrance, report and surrender all firearms, traps, nets, seines, or explosives in their possession to the first park officer, and in proper cases may obtain his written leave to carry them through the park sealed. The Government assumes no responsibilities for loss or damage to any firearms, traps, nets, seines, or other property so surrendered to any park officer, nor are park officers authorized to accept the responsibility of custody of any property for the convenience of visitors.

No game meat shall be taken into the park without prior permission in writing from the superintendent or his nearest representative.

5. *Fishing*.—Fishing with nets, seines, traps, or by the use of drugs or explosives or in any other way than with hook and line or for merchandise or profit is prohibited. Fishing in particular waters may be suspended by the superintendent.

6. *Private operations*.—No person, firm, or corporation shall reside permanently, engage in any business, or erect buildings, including log cabins or log shelters, in the park without permission in writing from the Director of the National Park Service, Washington, D. C. Applications for such permission may be addressed to the director through the superintendent of the park.

Prospectors and miners, however, may erect necessary shelter cabins or other structures necessary in mining operations on bona fide locations in the park.

7. *Cameras*.—Still and motion picture cameras may be freely used in the park for general scenic purposes. For the filming of motion pictures requiring the use of artificial or special settings, or involving the performance of a professional cast, permission must first be obtained from the superintendent of the park.

8. *Gambling*.—Gambling in any form, or the operation of gambling devices, whether for cash, merchandise, or any other thing of value, is prohibited.

9. *Advertisements*.—Private notices or advertisements shall not be posted or displayed within the park, excepting such as the park superintendent deems necessary for the convenience and guidance of the public.

10. *Grazing*.—The running at large, herding, or grazing of livestock of any kind in the park, as well as the driving of livestock over same, is prohibited, except where authority therefor has been granted in writing by the superintendent. Livestock found improperly on the park lands may be impounded and held until claimed by the owner and the trespass adjusted.

11. *Authorized operators*.—All persons, firms, or corporations holding franchises in the park shall keep the grounds used by them properly policed and shall maintain the premises in a sanitary condition to the satisfaction of the superintendent. No operator shall retain in his employment a person whose presence in the park may be deemed by the superintendent subversive of good order and management of the park.

All operators shall require each of their employees to wear a metal badge with a number thereon, or other mark of identification, the name and the number corresponding therewith, or the identification mark, being registered in the superintendent's office. These badges must be worn in plain sight.

12. *Dogs*.—Dogs are not permitted in the park except by special permission of the superintendent. Prospectors or miners operating within the park limits shall have the right to use such dogs as may be necessary for the purpose for a reasonable length of time until their supplies, fuel, mining timbers, and necessary heavy hauling have been accomplished; thereafter a limit of seven dogs will be allowed each prospector or miner during the winter months. In the summer months no dogs are allowed in the park except in special cases when permission must be obtained from the superintendent or the nearest ranger. In no case nor at any time shall litters of pups be raised in the park except by special permission from the superintendent. Persons entering the park with dogs must register at McKinley Park entrance, Kantishna entrance, or the nearest ranger station, giving such information as may be required by the superintendent.

13. *Travel*.—(a) Saddle horses, pack trains, and horse-drawn vehicles have right of way over motor-propelled vehicles at all times.

(b) On sidehill grades throughout the park motor-driven vehicles shall take the outer side of the road when meeting or passing vehicles of any kind drawn by animals; likewise, freight, baggage, and heavy camping outfits shall take the outside of the road on sidehill grades when meeting or passing passenger vehicles drawn by animals.

(c) All vehicles shall be equipped with lights for night travel. At least one light shall be carried on the left front side of horse-drawn vehicles in a position such as to be visible from both front and rear.

14. *Dead animals*.—All domestic and grazed animals that may die in the park, at any tourist camp, or along any of the public thoroughfares, shall be buried immediately by the owner or person having charge of such animals, at least 2 feet beneath the ground and in no case less than one-fourth mile from any camp or thoroughfare.

15. *Miscellaneous*.—(a) Campers and all others, save those holding license from the Director of the National Park Service, are prohibited from hiring their horses, trappings, or vehicles to tourists or visitors in the park.

(b) No pack-train or saddle-horse party, except prospector or mining party, shall be allowed in the park unless in charge of a licensed guide. All guides shall pass an examination prescribed by and in a manner satisfactory to the superintendent of the park, covering the applicant's knowledge of the park and fitness for the position of licensed guide. At the discretion of the superintendent, licensed guides may be permitted to carry unsealed firearms.

(c) All complaints by tourists and others, as to service, etc., rendered in the park, should be made to the superintendent in writing before the complainant leaves the park; oral complaints will be heard during office hours.

16. *Fines and penalties*.—Persons who render themselves obnoxious by disorderly conduct or bad behavior shall be subjected to the punishment hereinafter prescribed for the violation of the foregoing regulations and may be summarily removed from the park by the superintendent and not allowed to return without permission in writing from the Director of the National Park Service or the superintendent of the park.

Any person who violates any of the foregoing regulations shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both, and be adjudged to pay all costs of the proceedings.

17. *Lost and found articles*.—Persons finding lost articles should deposit them at the nearest ranger station, leaving their own names and addresses, so that if not claimed by owners within 60 days, articles may be turned over to those who found them.

LITERATURE

DISTRIBUTED FREE BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The following general park and monument publications may be obtained free on written application to the Director of the National Park Service, Washington, D. C., or by personal application to the office of the superintendent at McKinley Park Station, Alaska:

Glimpses of Our National Parks. 72 pages, with illustrations.

Contains descriptions of most important features of the principal national parks.

Glimpses of Our National Monuments. 74 pages, with illustrations.

Contains descriptions of the national monuments administered by the Department of the Interior.

Map of National Parks and National Monuments.

Shows location of all the national parks and monuments administered by the National Park Service and all railroad routes to these reservations.

OTHER NATIONAL PARKS

Rules and regulations similar to this for the national parks listed below may be obtained free of charge by writing to the Director of the National Park Service, Washington, D. C.

Crater Lake National Park.
Glacier National Park.
Grand Canyon National Park.
Hawaii National Park.
Hot Springs National Park.
Acadia National Park.
Lassen Volcanic National Park.
Mesa Verde National Park.

Mount Rainier National Park.
Rocky Mountain National Park.
Sequoia and General Grant National Parks.
Wind Cave National Park.
Yellowstone National Park.
Yosemite National Park.
Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks.

SOLD BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS

The following publications may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at the prices given. Remittances should be made by money order or in cash. No additional charge for postage:

National Parks Portfolio, by Robert Sterling Yard. 270 pages, including 310 illustrations. Securely bound in cloth, \$1.¹

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¹ Contains nine chapters, each descriptive of a national park, and one larger chapter devoted to other national parks and monuments.

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AUTHORIZED RATES FOR PUBLIC UTILITIES, SEASON OF 1929

All rates of the authorized public utilities are approved by the Government; therefore, complaints regarding overcharges should be made to the superintendent. Employees of the camps and transportation lines are not Government employees, but discourteous treatment by public-utility employees should be reported to the park administration.

The camp and transportation service within Mount McKinley National Park is operated by the Mt. McKinley Tourist and Transportation Co. (Inc.). Service is available during the season from June 1 to September 15.

CAMPS

Camps are maintained at Savage River, the head of Savage River, Sable Pass, Polychrome Pass, Toklat River, Copper Mountain, and at the head of Clearwater Creek.

Authorized rates at all camps

Tent occupied by one person, per day----- \$3.00
Tent occupied by two persons, per person, per day----- 2.00

NOTE.—During periods of heavy travel, at the Savage River (base) camp, tent houses will not be reserved for exclusive occupancy of one person only. The company reserves the right to allocate these lodgings.

Meals:	Savage River base camp	All other field camps
Breakfast-----	\$1.50	\$2.00
Lunch-----	2.00	2.00
Dinner-----	2.00	2.00

Weekly rates to all guests:

All meals, each-----	1.50
Lodging, per night-----	1.00

(Full rates on all transportation.)

Rates for children

Under 5 years (unless occupying individual bed, in which case one-half adult rate will be charged)-----	No charge.
From 5 to 12 years-----	One-half adult rate
12 years and over-----	Full adult rate.

(Above rates for children apply to camp accommodations and transportation.)

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation from McKinley Park station, on the Alaska Railroad, to the base camp at Savage River is by automobile. From the

base camp side trips to the other camps and to the outlying parts of the park are made by saddle horse, except as noted below:

Trip No.

1. McKinley Park station to Savage River camp, by automobile, round-trip fare-----	\$7. 50
2. Savage River (base) camp to head of Savage River, by stagecoach or automobile; round-trip fare-----	7. 50
3. Savage River (base) camp to Inspiration Point on Mount Margaret; round-trip fare-----	2. 50
4. Savage River camp to Sable Pass camp by automobile, round-trip fare-----	17. 50

5. All-expense trips:

A. Savage River base camp to Copper Mountain camp by way of Sable Pass, Polychrome Pass, Toklat camp, Highway and Thorofare Passes, to Copper Mountain camp, near base of Mount McKinley. A 7-day trip, to Sable Pass by automobile, balance of trip by saddle horse. Includes one day's lay-over at camp desired. Round-trip fares:

1 person-----	300. 00
2 persons, each-----	225. 00
3 persons, each-----	200. 00
4 persons, each-----	185. 00
5 persons and over, each-----	175. 00

B. Savage River base camp to head of Clearwater by way of Sable Pass, Polychrome Pass, Toklat camp, Highway and Thorofare Passes, Copper Mountain Camp to Clearwater camp, the nearest camp to Mount McKinley. A 10-day trip to Sable Pass by automobile, balance of trip by saddle horse. Includes two 1-day layovers at camps desired. Round-trip fares:

1 person-----	\$425. 00
2 persons, each-----	325. 00
3 persons, each-----	280. 00
4 persons, each-----	260. 00
5 persons, and over, each-----	250. 00

On all-expense trips the company furnishes everything, which includes help, horses, grub, bedding, tents, and equipment. Each person is limited to 25 pounds of duffel.

Other rates

Saddle horse, per hour-----	\$2. 50
Saddle horse, one-half day-----	5. 00
Saddle horse, per day-----	10. 00
Pack horse, including feed, per day-----	8. 00
Guide service, per day-----	10. 00

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¶ Sent postpaid, upon receipt of price in cash or money order, by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.



Courtesy Dixon and Wright

A MALE SURF-BIRD ON HIS NEST



Courtesy Dixon and Wright

MOUNTAIN SHEEP AT DOUBLE MOUNTAIN



Courtesy Alaska Railroad

MOUNT MCKINLEY



Courtesy Alaska Railroad

LAKE ON DIVIDE AT SANCTUARY RIVER