

10-23
(May 1929)

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Mt. McKinley NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

September - 1935

IMPORTANT

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge.

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK

MCKINLEY PARK, ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

October 9, 1935.

The Director,
National Park Service,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Director:

Following is the report of activities in Mount McKinley National Park during the month of September, 1935.

000 General

010 Introductory

The travel season for 1935, ending September 30 showed that 877 visitors had registered at Mount McKinley National Park during the year. This is the largest attendance in the park since 1929. The month of September showed a 20 per cent increase over the same month of last year, and 40 per cent over the preceeding year.

Railroad and steamship officials are very optimistic over the numerous inquiries pertaining to travel to Alaska.

The Alaska Steamship Company plan next year to operate two passenger steamers each week to Seward, Alaska. The past few years only one steamer each week was in operation. With this improved service more tourists will have an opportunity to tour Alaska.

The publicity given Alaska by organizing the Matanuska colony has made many people Alaska minded.

A prominent September visitor, Mr. Arthur Stringer, writer for the Saturday Evening Post, said, "Mt. McKinley National Park is the most beautiful spot in the world."

0020 General Weather Conditions

Practically the entire month was stormy with temperatures running below normal. The first snow storm of the season was the heaviest for several years. Even old timers remarked that they had never seen a storm quite so severe so early in the season. Snow fell to a depth of two and three feet on the level in the central and western section of the park.

Several of the high passes where drifts were encountered had depths of, from 5 to 7 feet of snow. The road was completely closed to all transportation for five days in this section. Three road crews were marooned until they were able to remove the snow from the highway with trailbuilders, caterpillars and graders.

The maximum temperature reached 62 degrees above zero on Sept. 9. The minimum temperature recorded was 16 degrees above zero on Sept. 15th. Only four clear days were reported during the month.

Following is the report of the weather observer at park headquarters:

	1934	1935
Mean Maximum	54	45
Mean Minimum	34	31
Mean	44	38
Minimum	12 17th	16 15th
Maximum	63 25th	62 9th
Greatest daily range	40 17th	33 9th
Local precipitation	2.90	2.37
Greatest in 24 hours	1.00 3rd	.99 18th
Number of days with .01 or more inches of precipitation	10	11
Number days clear	12	4
Number days part cloudy	10	2
Numbers days cloudy	8	24

100 Administration

110 Status of Work

Administration work has been kept current.

120 Park Inspected by

121 Superintendent

The superintendent made the usual inspection around headquarters and in addition made frequent inspections of park operator's activities and other current park work.

Sept. 1. Drove to Savage River Camp with Mr. E. A. Davidson, Landscape Architect, to inspect grounds and buildings, returned in the evening.

Sept. 2. Departed from headquarters enroute to Wonder Lake with Messrs. Snell, Davidson, Galen and Chief Ranger Corbley, spent the night at Stony Creek.

Sept. 3. Drove from Stony Creek to Mile 74 where we picked up the pack train and continued on to Wonder Lake arriving there at 5:30 P. M.

Sept. 4. At Wonder Lake inspecting possible site for lodge, night at Wonder Lake.

Sept. 5. Returned from Wonder Lake to Mile 74 with horses and then drove car to headquarters, arriving at 7:30 P. M.

Sept. 6. Inspecting hotel site at McKinley Park Station with Messrs. Snell and Davidson. Practically the entire day was spent in measuring ground and staking for hotel and utility buildings.

Sept. 7. Conference with Messrs. Ohlson, Snell and Davidson in the morning, afternoon spent with Davidson at station measuring flow of water in creek and cruising for building stone.

Sept. 8. Drove to Mile 66 with Messrs. Galen and Davidson to inspect proposed lodge site, returned to headquarters in the evening.

Sept. 9. Drove to Mile 64, returned in the evening.

Sept. 10. Departed from headquarters for Fairbanks, with Mr. Davidson, arrived Fairbanks 7:45 P. M.

Sept. 11. At Fairbanks.

Sept. 12. Returned from Fairbanks to headquarters.

Sept. 13. Drove to Mile 74, met horses and continued on to Wonder Lake, arriving there at 10 P. M.

Sept. 14. On annual leave outside the park in the Kantishna district.

Sept. 15. In the Kantishna district.

Sept. 16. Returned from Kantishna to Igloo Creek, night at Igloo Creek.

Sept. 17. Drove from Igloo Creek to headquarters arriving there at noon.

Sept. 18 and 19 at headquarters.

Sept. 20. Made trip to Healy, Alaska, with Messrs. Ohlson and Edmunds, night at headquarters.

Sept. 21. Met Congressman Zioncheck at the station and drove to Sable Pass, returned to headquarters at 7:30 P. M.

Sept. 22. Departed from headquarters at 5:30 A. M. with Messrs. Taylor, Parks, Edmunds, Keil, and Thomason for Wonder Lake. Drove car to Mile 77 and walked to the proposed lodge site at Mile 86, returned to headquarters at 1:30 A. M.

Sept. 23 and 24 at headquarters

Sept. 25. To Savage River, Sanctuary River and Igloo Creek, returned to headquarters in the evening.

Sept. 26 to 30 was spent at headquarters.

122 Special field representatives of the National Park Service.

Mr. Ernest A. Davidson, Landscape Architect of the Branch of Plans and Design, San Francisco, California, arrived in the park on Sept. 1. Mr. Davidson was on a special assignment to investigate and inspect the various sites proposed for lodge locations and for proposed hotel at McKinley Park Station. He departed on September 10.

124 Other Interior Department officers.

Col. O. F. Ohlson, General Manager of the Alaska Railroad, Anchorage, Alaska, arrived in the park on Sept. 2, and departed on the 3rd.

Mr. Harold W. Snell, General Passenger, Freight and Emigration Agent of the Alaska Railroad, Chicago, Ill., arrived in the park on Sept. 2, and departed on Sept. 7.

Col. O. F. Ohlson, General Manager of the Alaska Railroad, Anchorage, Alaska, arrived in the park on Sept. 6, and departed the following day.

Mr. Dewey Metzdorf, General Storekeeper of the Alaska Railroad, Anchorage, Alaska, arrived in the park on Sept. 10 and departed the same day.

Mr. Porter Berryhill, Chief Engineer of the Alaska Railroad arrived in the park on Sept. 10 and departed the same day.

Col. O. F. Ohlson, General Manager of the Alaska Railroad, arrived in the park Sept. 20 and departed the following day.

Mr. Ike P. Taylor, Chief Engineer of the Alaska Road Commission, Juneau, Alaska, arrived in the park on Sept. 21 and departed on Sept. 23.

Mr. George A. Parks, Cadastral Engineer and former Governor of Alaska, Juneau, Alaska, arrived in the park on Sept. 21, and departed on Sept. 23.

Mr. M. C. Edmunds, Supt. of the Alaska Road Commission, Anchorage, Alaska, arrived in the park on Sept. 20, and departed Sept. 23.

125 Other Government officers.

Col. Geo. E. Kumpe in charge of the U. S. Signal Corps in Alaska, headquarters in Seattle, Washington, arrived in the park of Sept. 2, and departed the following day.

Major Henry W. Meisch, M. C., Chilkoot Barracks, Alaska, arrived in the park on Sept. 4 and departed the following day.

Col. R. W. Dusenbury, Commanding Officer, Chilkoot Barracks, Alaska, arrived in the park on Sept. 11 and departed the following day.

126 Congressional committees or sub-committees.

Congressman Marion A. Zioncheck, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, arrived the park on Sept. 21, and departed on the 22nd.

130 Finance and accounts

	<u>Allotted</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>
44405.3 Emergency Reconstruction 1934	8,500.00	8,499.25	.75
40470.3 Donations 776	50.00	48.16	1.84
45426 Mt. McKinley National Park 1935	22,420.00	22,382.97	37.03
46426 Mt. McKinley National Park 1936	24,650.00	8,309.85	16,340.15
4-03/7640.14 NIR Int. NPB&R 1933-37	8,100.00	8,086.16	13.84

140 Labor Situation

There is practically no unemployment at the present time but crews will be laid off the coming month.

150 Equipment and Supplies

Only minor supplies were received during the month.

200 Maintenance, Improvements and New Construction

210 Maintenance

Three bridges were redecked and painted with creosote, one at Mile 4, 5 and 11 respectively.

The bridge across Rock Creek between headquarters and McKinley Park Station was also painted with creosote.

Two crews maintained the highway from Savage River to Mile 74. Considerable time was spent in snow removal in order to move two construction crews from the end of the road at Mile 79 to the Toklat River camp.

220 Improvements

A new corrugated iron roof was placed on the superintendent's residence. Due to the stormy condition that existed at the time the roof was replaced it was considered best not to paint until next spring.

Three stand pipes were placed in the water main at various points to act as fire hydrants for better fire protection.

230 New Construction

Eighty seven men were employed by the Alaska Road Commission during the month.

The following road work was accomplished; regrading from Mile to Mile 15, resurfacing from Mile 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ to Mile 13 was completed. Grading from Mile 76 $\frac{1}{2}$ to Mile 80, and resurfacing from Mile 75 $\frac{1}{2}$ to Mile 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ was completed.

A new bridge was constructed over a dry wash at Mile 11.

300 Activities of Other Agencies in the Park

The Mount McKinley Tourist and Transportation Company closed their camp at Savage River to the general public on September 15. Mr. J. L. Galen, President and General Manager of the company declared there was a 45 per cent increase in tourist attendance over the 1934 season.

Mr. Galen left the park for his home in Cordova on Sept. 26.

311 Character of service rendered to the public

The Mount McKinley Tourist and Transportation Company rendered excellent service throughout the season. No written complaints were received at the superintendent's office.

315 New Contracts

Three new contracts were entered into during the month. These cover coal, cornmeal, tallow and dried salmon.

400 Flora, Fauna and Natural Phenomena.

410 Ranger Service

Rangers have been busy freighting in supplies and making minor repairs to buildings before the cold weather starts.

The hunting season has been open since August 20, only one hunting party was reported by the rangers along the north and east boundary. This party secured a fine specimen of a Toklat grizzly bear on Savage River, four miles north of the boundary. No doubt this was one of our park bears as they often leave the park in search of berries this time of the year.

460 Birds

An early migration of all song birds was noted this month. No robins, blackbirds, fly-catchers etc, were seen after the heavy snows in the middle of the month.

Ptarmigan are rapidly changing from their mottled summer coat to their winter garb of white. Large flocks of these birds are in evidence along the highway.

470 Animals

All game animals are in excellent condition to start the winter. With the abundance of feed and an average winter there should be very little loss.

Sheep. Although the semi annual migration of sheep from their summer range to their winter range started late in August and earlier than usual, many large bands were seen crossing the valleys to the Healy range during the month. More lambs are in evidence this fall than there has been for three years. Nine hundred forty two sheep were counted from headquarters to Mt. Eielson, Sable Pass and Toklat areas having the greater number.

Moose. Seven moose were seen along the highway from Savage River to Igloo Creek. Although moose are becoming more numerous in the east and central section of the park, they are difficult to see as they spend most of their time in the wooded areas. And only on rare occasions when they are crossing the road or feed in some open park, are they visible to the public.

Caribou. The scarcity of caribou in the park this fall would cause one to wonder if they had changed their route of migration. For several years the caribou in making their semi annual migration have traveled from the westward through the park as far east as Wonder Lake. Leaving the park at this point, they would swing north along Moose Creek following it to the Kantishna River at this junction they would swing northwest into the Lake Minchumina area their winter range. No run has been reported through this section up to date.

Wolves. Now that wolves are protected in the park I am wondering if they sense a sort of security. At least there are more in evidence this fall than ever. Twenty two wolves were reported being seen during the month.

Foxes. Foxes are numerous in all sections of the park. No actual count has been made up to date, however, now that the young are practically grown and are traveling by themselves in search of food we will be able to get a fair estimate next month.

500 Use of Park Facilities by the Public

530 Visitors

Mr. Arthur Stringer, Saturday Evening Post writer arrived in the park on September 9 and departed the following day.

Mr. H. G. Amess, Alaska representative for the Great Northern Railroad, Seattle, Washington, arrived in the park September 18 and departed on the 19th.

Very truly yours,

Harry J. Liek,
Superintendent.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS,
BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS

TRAVEL REPORT

Mt. McKinley National Park for the month of September 1935

	This Month	This Travel Year To Date	This Month Last Year	Last Travel Year To Date	Increase for Travel Year	
					Number	Percent

PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION:

Cars first entry, ...		1		2		
Cars reentry, ...						
Motorcycles, ...						
Total motor vehicles, ...		1		2		
Persons entering via motor vehicles, ...		1		5		
Persons entering via other private transportation, ...						
Total persons entering via private transportation, ...		1		5		

OTHER TRANSPORTATION:

Persons entering via stages, .		1	1	1		
Persons entering via trains, .	37	867	11	616		
Persons entering otherwise, . .		8		6		
Total other transportation, .	37	876	12	623		
GRAND TOTAL ALL VISITORS, . . .	37	877	12	628	249	59

	This Year	Last Year	Increase	
			Number	Percent

Automobiles in public camps during month, ...
Campers in public camps during month, ...

10-159
(May, 1931)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATUS OF PERSONNEL

Mt. McKinley National Park for the Month of September 1935

	This Month		This Month Last Year	
	Appointed	Non-Appointed	Appointed	Non-Appointed
Number of employees beginning of month	7	0	7	3
Number of additions	0	0	0	2
Total	7	0	7	5
Number of separations	0	0	0	0
Number of employees close of month	7	0	7	5
Number of promotions during month	0	0	0	0
Aggregate amount of annual leave taken	4 hours	0	0	0
Aggregate amount of sick leave taken	0	0	0	0
Aggregate amount of leave without pay	0	0	0	0

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK
MCKINLEY PARK, ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

September 28, 1935

MEMORANDUM to Park Service Personnel.

Effective this date and until June 1, 1936, Saturdays, from
8 A. M. to 12 P. M. (4 hours) will constitute a day's work.

"Field officers may, in emergency, or in the protection of life, health or property, require any employee not excluded by the foregoing to remain on duty on Saturday afternoon, and such employee may be given not exceeding the equivalent time off during the following week, if and when he may be spared."

Harry J. Liek,
Superintendent.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEATHER BUREAU

COOPERATIVE OBSERVERS' METEOROLOGICAL RECORD:

Month of September, 1935; Station, McKinley Park, Alaska, County, _____
 State, Alaska; Latitude, _____; Longitude, _____; Time used on this form, 5 PM

DATE	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION					PREVAIL- ING WIND DIRECTION	CHARACTER OF DAY, SUNRISE TO SUNSET	‡ MISCELLANEOUS PHENOMENA
	MAXI- MUM	MINI- MUM	RANGE	* SET MAX.	TIME OF BEGINNING	TIME OF ENDING	† AMOUNT	SNOWFALL, IN INCHES	DEPTH OF SNOW ON GROUND AT TIME OF OBSERVATION			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
1.	55	37	18	55						S	Cloudy	
2.	55	37	18	52			T			SE	"	
3.	56	38	18	56	8 A	12P	.06			SE	"	
4.	56	37	19	56			T			SW	"	
5.	57	44	13	46			T			SE	"	
6.	48	40	8	48	4 P		.02			SE	"	
7.	50	38	12	50		8P	.12			SW	"	
8.	50	35	15	47			T			NE	Clear	
9.	62	29	33	56						O	"	
10.	56	29	27	51						NE	"	
11.	51	34	17	46			T			NE	Cloudy	
12.	46	29	17	31			T			NE	"	1st Snow
13.	41	26	15	41						NE	Clear	
14.	41	26	15	33			T			W	Cloudy	Snow & Sleet
15.	33	16	17	31						SW	"	
16.	45	27	18	45	8 P					W	"	
17.	46	32	14	34			.85			NE	"	Snowing
18.	38	32	6	38		4P	.99			NE	"	
19.	39	31	8	32	6 A	10A	.04			NE	"	
20.	33	24	9	27	2 P		.01			NE	"	
21.	28	23	5	28		10A	.05			NW	"	
22.	26	20	6	26	6 A		.10		2	NW	"	
23.	30	22	8	30		5P	.04		1	NE	Pt. Cloudy	
24.	36	20	16	36					0	E	" "	
25.	43	34	9	43			T			SE	Cloudy	
26.	44	36	8	41						S	"	
27.	42	40	2	41	7 A	10 A	.09			NE	"	
28.	44	32	12	36						NW	"	
29.	45	26	19	44			T			NE	"	
30.	48	44	4	48			T			SE	"	
31.												
SUM.	1344	938	406				2.37					
MEAN.	45	31	38									

* Reading of maximum thermometer immediately after setting.

† Including rain, hail, sleet, and melted snow.

‡ Thunderstorms, halos, auroras, etc.

C. F. Lottsfeldt

Cooperative Observer.

(IN TRIPLICATE)

See cover for instructions.

S-268
U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1933Post Office Address, McKinley Park, Alaska.

MONTHLY SUMMARY

TEMPERATURE

Mean maximum, 45
 Mean minimum, 31
 Mean, 38
 Maximum, 62; date, 9th
 Minimum, 16; date, 15th
 Greatest daily range, 33 - 9th

PRECIPITATION

Total, 2.37 inches
 Greatest in 24 hours, .99; date, 18th

SNOW

Total snowfall, 2 inches
 On ground 15th, 0 inches
 At end of month, 0 inches

NUMBER OF DAYS—

With .01 inch or more precipitation, 11
 Clear, 4; partly cloudy, 2; cloudy, 24

DATES OF—

Fog { Light, _____
 Dense, _____
 Killing frost, _____
 Thunderstorms, _____
 Hail { Light, _____
 Moderate, _____
 Heavy, _____
 Sleet, _____
 Auroras, _____

REMARKS: