MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK

Alaska.

File Obj. - 10.

SUPERINTENDANTS MONTHLY

REPORT

for

February, 1926/

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MOUNT McKINLEY NATIONAL PARK

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT — McKINLEY PARK, ALASKA

March 2nd, 1926.

Dear Sir;

I herewith respectfully submit my report on Mount McKinley National Park, Alaska, for the month of February, 1926;

000 - General

We have been disappointed (?) at not having our anticipated cold spell this month. Beautiful and comparatively warm weather prevailed until the middle of the month; from then on to the end of the month, we experienced somewhat colder temperatures, though not disagreeable or inconvenient. It has been possible to keep automotive equipment in operation during the whole month.

All the rangers have been on the job "100%" this month and a large patrol mileage was attained. Taking into consideration the bad condition of the trails, this showing is excellant. The trails still continue to remain soft and travel over them subsequently slower, than if a good spell of cold weather had paid us a visit.

"When it rains, it pours" so runs the proverbial saying and it surely seems to apply to this park. Not being satisfied with breaking the rules regarding the trapping of fur-bearing animals and the illegal hunting of game, some gentlemen have been found to be making a practise of cutting timber promiscuously, irrespective whether it is green and standing or dead and fallen. This is a serious problem and one which will deserve a high degree of discretion and consideration before a decision is rendered. If the cutting of timber within the park confines cannot be stopped, the least that can be done is to curb this destructive practise to a large degree.

100 - Administration

The administration of the park is now vested in a superintendant, clerk and 3 rangers. On January 30th, Ranger Grant H. Pearson was appointed as temporary ranger and entered upon duty as such, on February 4th. On Feb. 2nd, Ranger Fritz A. Nyberg was promoted from a temporary designation to a permanent park ranger at the same rate of compensation and in the same grade.

120 - Park Inspections by;
121 - Superintendant

On February 2nd, Superintendant Karstens returned from the Windy

GPO

Creek Ranger Station section, covering the distance of 32 miles, approx., in 7 hours. He reported having seen caribou, mountain sheep, a bull moose, and also tracks of wolves, lynx, wolverene and fox. The main reasons for his trip were to make this trail to the ranger station, which had been causing the rangers a great deal of trouble, and also to make a general survey of conditions in that locality. His detailed report of this trip may be found in his letter to the Director, of February 4th, 1926.

On February 5th, Superintendant Karstens left headquarters camp for the western section of the park. Upon arriving at Toklat River, he was joined by Ranger Nyberg and accompanied by him, travelled over the many creeks, rivers and hills in that section. The north-west boundary line was blazed, in the vicinity of McKinley Bar (a part of the McKinley River so named that is due north of Mt. McKinley and not many miles south of Wonder Lake). They also put up some boundary and "no hunting" signs. Superintendant Karstens visited Wonder Lake, Copper Mountain, Stony Creek and other vital points in Ranger Nyberg's bailiwick, returning to headquarters camp on Feruary 18th.

It is Superintendant Karsten's idea to revisit that territory during the first part of March.

130 - Finance and Accounts

The following is a status of the two accounts applicable to this park and handled by the S. D. A.;

Appropriation No. 46426, Mount McKinley National Park, 1926.

	Allotment	Expended	Unexpended Balance
Previously reported	$ 13524.00	$ 7353.43	$ 6184.34
February, 1926.		805.33	
Total	$ 13524.00	$ 8158.76	$ 5365.24

Donations (Roads & Trails), Mt. McKinley National Park.

	Donated	Expended	Unexpended Balance
Previously reported	$ 1000.00	$ 700.25	$ 299.75

150 - Equipment and Supplies

Forage for horses and feed for the dogs is about 95% consumned and it will be necessary to purchase additional quantities during the forth coming month. Up to Feb 15th, this office was not cognizant of the Compt. General's decision of Jan. 28, 1926, reconsidering his former decision of October 16, 1925 (a-10659) which makes available for expenditure, funds which otherwise would have been reserved for freight charges on material and supplies purchased and shipped over the Alaska Railroad. It is to be construed from this decision, that this office will not be compelled to pay transportation charges over the Alaska Railroad until after June 30th, 1926.

No equipment or supplies were purchased this month with the exception of 1 only blowtorch, (gasoline).

180 - Circulars, Placards, Publicity Bulletins, etc.

The proposed folder for this park, was completed this month and submitted to the Director, for his approval and "get-up", on Feb. 17th. It is earnestly hoped that this folder may be printed, in mimeograph form, for use during the coming summer, as their presence is urgently required both for efficiency purposes in this office and also for the pleasure and information of future tourists and prospective visitors, to say nothing of the publicity value to such a folder, which attains high proportions.

It is construed that the Service has in their possession, copies of the maps to be used. Attached to this report is a map which is now being used by the Alaska Railroad and which it is thought, would be advantageous to incorporate in the folder. A large map, showing the park features (hills, mountains, streams, trails, etc.) is in the possession of the Service office and it is assumed also, that this map will be used, though a revision has been made of it and also photostatic prints of it are in use.

A short story of "Denali" (Mount McKinley) with a brief treatise on the native Indian language, written by Mr. Mackie from material gathered by Father Jette of Fairbanks, Alaska, was forwarded to the Service for their use, on February 26th.

190 - Signs

A large number of paraffin-coated "no-hunting" signs were used by Superintendant Karstens and Ranger Nyberg during their recent trip over the central and western portion of the park, which leaves practically none at all for future use.

The posting of metallic boundary and "no-hunting" signs is a very urgent and important matter and yet somewhat of a problem - the solution of which must be the purchase of some signs, in the near future. We are anxiously waiting to hear from the Park Sign Standardizing Committee.

210 - Maintenance

No maintenance of a material constructional nature was accomplished this month.

Routine repairs were made on the dog-sleds - one sled suffered considerable damage in an unfortunate accident but was repaired and is now again in serviceable condition.

Routine "chores" occupied their daily and monthly allotment of time.

300 - Activities of other Agencies in the Park

On February 8th, this office received the proposed plans for the season of 1926, of the McKinley Park Tourist and Transporation Company. These plans were perused and submitted to the Director, for approval, during the course of the same week.

On February 12th, we received the annual financial report of the above mentioned permitee, with their check to the amount of $135.45, which represented the assessment on taxable earnings. The full report was duly

submitted to our Washington office.

During the latter part of this month, an executive meeting was held in Fairbanks, Alaska, by the Transportation Company and the following officers elected for the year of 1926. Mr. Thos. A. Marquam, president; James L. Galen, vice-president; John H. Kelly, secretary; Guy E. Jennings, treasurer and Robert Sheldon as general manager.

It is apparent, from the tenur of this meeting, that very extensive improvements in both camp and transportation accomodations, will materialize if the Service sees fit to grant them a justifiable extension of their permits, to cover possibly a period of from 10 to 20 years.

400 - Flora, Fauna and Natural Phenomena

The first signs of Spring are manifesting themselves in the budding of the "Pussy Willow" (a species of the genus Salex), which may be seen growing alongside the park highway between the railroad depot and park headquarters.

The "camp-robbers" and Chick-a-dees are also appearing in appreciable numbers around camp and their shrilly songs are an indication of the break-up of winter.

471 - Caribou

This member of the deer family seems to be very plentiful in the central and western portions of the park but still somewhat scant in the eastern section. Ranger Pearson, stationed at Windy Creek Ranger Station for the last month reports having seen only an occasional one. It is assumed that they are migrating for a short period through the Cantwell district and into the mountains towards to east. Their return will be looked for during the coming Spring.

472 - Sheep (mountain)

Sheep continue to be noticed in many numerous bands through the eastern section, along Riley Creek, to the westward of Windy Creek also north of the Northern Range, in the vicinity of Savage and Sanctuary Rivers. Many bands have been seen by the rangers while travelling through the Savage Canyon. The sheep in this section all show themselves to be very tame and unafraid of man.

In the central and western portion of the park, Superintendant Karstens reports having seen many large bands of these beautiful animals, which were grazing on the bare hillsides. This year, the sheep are experiencing no difficulty in locating forage, account of the scarcity of snow on their range.

477 - Rabbits

Besplendant in their winter coat of fur, these sprightly little creatures may be seen by the thousands in all sections of the park.

479 - Ptarmigan

Literally "clouds of these tame birds may be seen flying through

the air and their presence may be readily located by their pure white plumage, silhouetted against the hillsides. It is possible to approach within a few feet of them, this comes about for it is a natural habit of theirs to be unafraid of man, especially in the summer when a person can have a whole family at his feet and experience the novel sensation of having the mother-hen peck his legs (a her's legs not excluded !).

520 - Weather Conditions - General

February did not bring forth a very noticeable change in the prevailing temperature and precipitation throughout interior Alaska. Only a small amount of snow fell but the mercury dropped a few points lower and remained there. A general average might be said to range about zero to thirty degrees below zero. It might also be mentioned that this unusual and somewhat warm weather has hindered many "freighters" through this section of the country, from operating to full capacity and incidentally raising the rates of the dog-team mushers on account of the added risks of river overflows and snow-slides, etc.

521 - Weather Conditions in the Park

Another beautiful month may be chalked down to our credit. There were about 3 weeks of absolutely clear days with the thermometer more or less steady. Only a small amount of snow fell during the other days, the "melted snow" precipitation being 1.59 inches and an absolute snowfall of 2.69 inches. This is very light as the precedent for this month is usually measured in "feet".

The mean maximum temperature for the month was 14.43°, the mean minimum being 5.46° below zero, with a mean of 4.49°. The highest temperature for the last month was 37° on February 4th, and the minimum was -32° on Feb. 25th. The greatest daily range was 42° which occurred on the 28th, when the thermometer went from 27° above to 15° below zero. The prevailing wind was usually from a north-easterly direction but when it did appear was only light enough to just noticed and that's all. Weather Bureau Form No. 1009 is attached to this report.

600 - Protection
610 - Police Protection

A Mr. Grant, who is a bone fide prospector working in the vicinity of Copper Mountain, was found to be cutting green timber, without permission, within the Park confines. Though charges were not preferred against him, Supt. Karstens advised the Director of the incident in a detailed letter of Feb. 26th, for future action, if any.

900 - Miscellaneous
901 - Ranger Patrol

Another month of excellant patrol has slipped by and it does one good to read the mileage figures on this month's report. Though the trails were a little slow, all the rangers patrolled incessantly as the figures show.

On Feb. 4th, Ranger Nyberg left again for his bailiwick in Toklat

and McKinley Rivers district. He will remain there indefinitely, conditions governing his travels and reporting to headquarters.

Patrol Mileage

Mount McKinley National Park, Alaska.

Officer or Ranger	This month	Last month	Fiscal year to date
Previously reported			2309
Superintendant Karstens	253	76	
a. Ranger Nyberg	-	371	
b. Ranger Winn	504½	165	
c. Ranger Pearson	214	-	
d. Rangers (2)	-	112	
Clerk Mackie	23	44	
Total	994½	768	3303½ Stat. miles.

a. Ranger Nyberg was unable to communicate with this office at the end of the month, subsequently his mileage cannot be reported until next month.

b. This figure represents the distance travelled from the 1st to the 22nd, inclusive, at which time Ranger Winn left for Toklat River section. The balance of his mileage for this month will be reported in March.

c. Ranger Pearson covered this distance from the 4th to the 15th, inclusive, on snowshoes. This is excellant patrol. He was unable to communicate his mileage with this office so that balance of distance travelled this month will be reported in March.

d. Shows the total patrol mileage made by Rangers Armstrong and Sinclair, combined, during the period January 1st. to the 11th, inclusive. They have since resigned.

The above figurs prove conclusively what occurs when good and trustworthy rangers are on patrol. Uncomplaining trips, long trips and efficient patrol trips are the results of having qualified men on the personnel. It is hoped that Congress will appropriate sufficient funds to allow us to place more men of this calibre on our payroll, for such is urgently needed for effective patrol.

Very respectfully yours,

Henry P. Karstens

Henry P. Karstens,
Superintendant.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TRAVEL REPORT

Mount McKinley National Park for the Month of February, 1926.

	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,						
Cars reentry,						
Motorcycles,						
Total motor vehicles,		None		None		
Persons entering via motor vehicles,						
Persons entering via other private transportation,						
Total persons entering via private transportation,		None		None		
OTHER TRANSPORTATION:						
Persons entering via stages,						
Persons entering via trains,						
Persons entering otherwise,	1	1	0	0		
Total other transportation,	1	1	0	0		
GRAND TOTAL ALL VISITORS,	1	1	0	0		

	This Year	Last Year	Increase	
			Number	Percent
Automobiles in public camps during month,				
Campers in public camps during month,				

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STATUS OF PERSONNEL

Mount McKinley National Park for the Month of February, 1926.

	This Month	This Month Last Year
Number of employees beginning of month,	5	4
Number of additions,	1	0
Total,	6	4
Number of separations,	0	1
Number of employees close of month,	6	3

Number of promotions during month 1 (Temporary to Permanent - same grade)

Aggregate amount of annual leave taken, None

Aggregate amount of sick leave taken, None

Aggregate amount of leave without pay, None

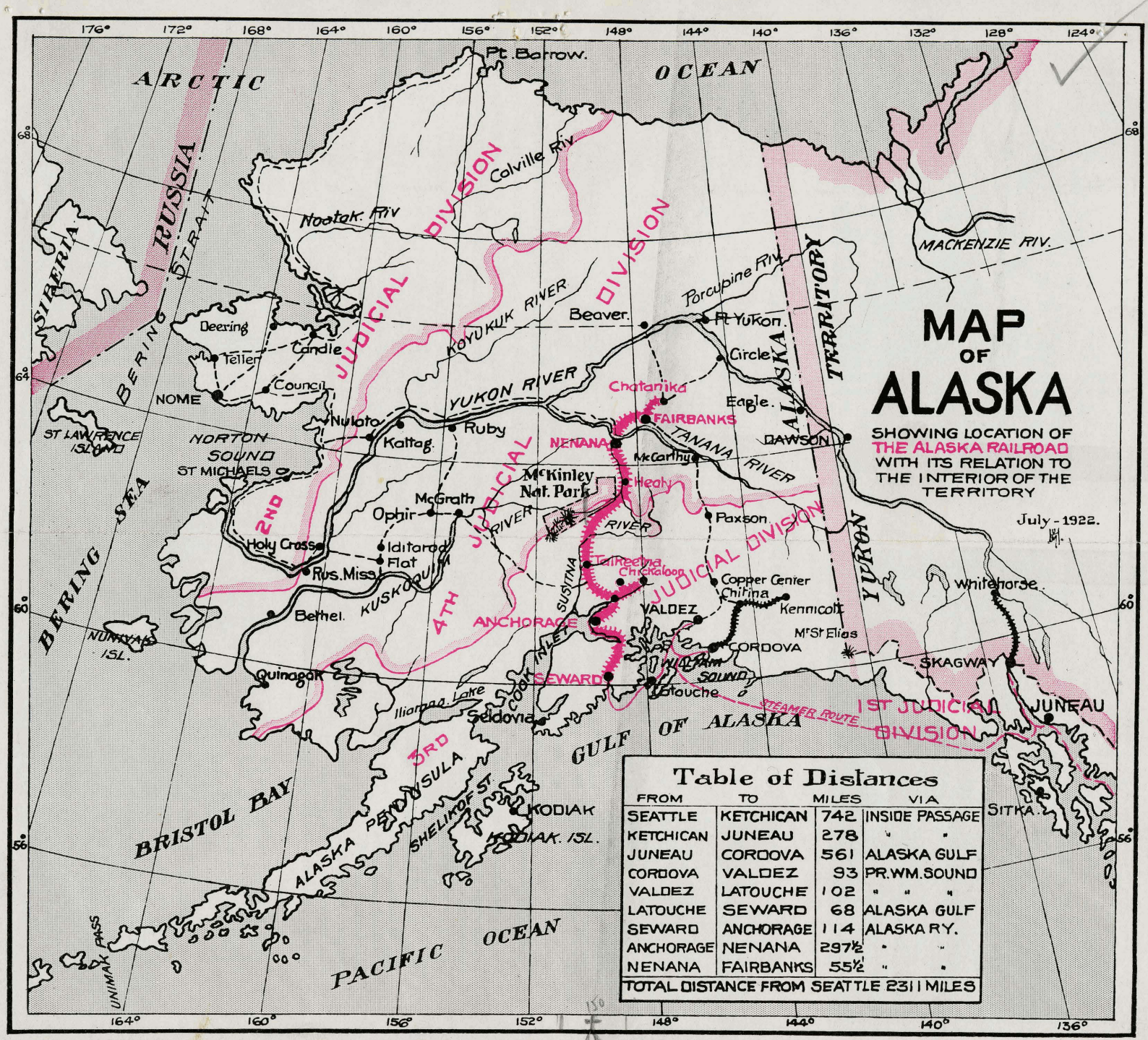


Table of Distances

FROM	TO	MILES	VIA
SEATTLE	KETCHICAN	742	INSIDE PASSAGE
KETCHICAN	JUNEAU	278	" "
JUNEAU	CORDOVA	561	ALASKA GULF
CORDOVA	VALDEZ	93	PR. WM. SOUND
VALDEZ	LATOUCHE	102	" " "
LATOUCHE	SEWARD	68	ALASKA GULF
SEWARD	ANCHORAGE	114	ALASKA RY.
ANCHORAGE	NENANA	297½	" "
NENANA	FAIRBANKS	55½	" "

TOTAL DISTANCE FROM SEATTLE 2311 MILES