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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MOUNT Mc KINLEY NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. Olym-10

SUPERINTENDENTS MONTHLY

REPORT

for

June, 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

July 5th, 1926.

Dear Sir;

I herewith respectfully submit my report on Mt. McKinley National Park, Alaska, for the month of June, 1926;

000 - General

June - the beginning of the summer tourist season has come and gone, leaving in its stead, material results of developement work by the park personnel, a fine amount of well-satisfied park visitors and a general feeling of optimism in regards to the diversified future summer activities.

100 - Administrative
101 - Changes in Personnel

The appointment of Grant H. Pearson, as permanent park ranger, was received on the 10th and he entered upon his new duties as of the 19th. The new fiscal year 1927, shortly approaching, allows the addition of another ranger to the park's personnel. Walter H. Belling was duly recommended for this position and his employment was readily justified in view of the increased activities in the park, which could not be handled by the present force, unassisted.

120 - Park Inspections by
125 - Other Governmental officers

Superintendents Hawley Sterling and M.C.Edmunds, of the Alaska Road Commission, with headquarters at Anchorage and Fairbanks, respectively, made an inspection trip to the park on the 15th. This was Supt's Edmund's initial trip over the park highway and he was accompanied by Supt. Sterling by reason of the fact that the latter official is being transferred from Anchorage to Fairbanks and Mr. Edmunds will assume charge of the Anchorage district. It is under the supervision of the Anchorage office that work done on our park road is controlled.

On the 24th, Major Lunsford E. Oliver, engineer officer of the Road Commission, with headquarters in Juneau, Alaska, made

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a short 1-day inspection trip of the railroad-Savage section of the highway.

Mr. R. J. Summers, territorial road supervisor, also visited this park, accompanying Major Oliver. His headquarters are also in Juneau, Alaska. Both of these road engineers were very favorably impressed with the park at large, particularly the Park Transportation Company's camp.

130 - Finance and Accounts

The status of the two accounts, handled by this park's S.D.A., at the close of business of the fiscal year, 1926, were;

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

	Allotment	Expended	Unexpended Balance
Expenditures made up to and including June 30th, 1926.	$13,524.00	$ 13,378.53	$ 145.47

Donation Account, No.4X469, Mt. McKinley National Park.

	Donated	Expended	Balance.
Expenditures made up to and including June 30th, 1926.	$ 1000.00	$ 910.25	$ 89.75

All park account books were closed June 30th, 1926, with all outstanding obligations settled, and the annual financial reports made out accordingly. A check to the amount of $101.29 was sent to the Treasurer of the United States, representing the unexpended balance in the S.D.A.'s checking account of appropriation No.46426, Mt. McKinley National Park, 1926, made available for expenditure.

During the month of June, this office was notified by the Service, to the effect that the National Park Service had disbursed $341.69, for accrued Alaska Railroad charges. A credit adjustment of $1.86 was also made on our June accounts respondent to request made at the same time. The May accounts were also made to consilidate with the totals of June and our accounts balanced at that final compilation.

150 - Equipment and supplies

Owing to the fact that only a small amount of money was available for expenditure, only a corresponding amount of supplies and equipment were purchased, which included 2 small ranges for the rangers' cabins in the field, a few articles of the hardware nature and a front door for the new office building.

140 - Labor situation

On account of the scarcity of laborers and the wages demaned by those who make themselves available for such work, it has become necessary to recommend an increase of $1.00 per day for such work, or $6.00 per day without board, as now is, increased to $6.00 per day without board, until such time arises when conditions are more favorable for a cut to the old figure. This matter was reported in a concise letter, to the Director, by the superintendent on June 21, 1926.

200 - Maintenance, Improvement and New Construction

210 - Maintenance

Only work on the Savage - Sanctuary section of the park highway has been done this month.

It is anticipated that the road crew will be moved on the railroad - Savage section sometime during the coming month, presumably during the first week or two. This is the section that requires a good deal of care and gravel in order to put it into such condition so as to operate automobiles between the railroad depot and the Savage River Camp, with any degree of comfort, to the passengers.

Heavy rains, at odd intervals, has made it a difficult problem to make any material head-way with the work of gravelling and surfacing. Small bridges have washed out and culverts become clogged, all of which had had a tendency to retard the general progress of the maintenance work-crews. Two of the dump-trucks were transferred from this project to the Anchorage district, during the past month.

220 - Improvement to Trails

During a part of June, a laborer was employed by the superintendent, to swamp out and clear, in a general way, the trail leading from Savage River Camp to the headwaters of Savage River. This runs in a southerly direction, into the hills of the Alaska Range for a distance of 8 miles. It is, by far, the most popular trail in the park, yet developed, for along the way one can see practically each and every species of wild life that abounds in the park, including the Alaskan grizzly. The labor employed this month on that work terminated on the 18th and his wages were charged to the Donation Fund (For improvement to roads and trails). The Park Transportation Company are planning to co-operate with the park and place a man on that work of improvement for a time also, as they would gain a great deal by having easy transportation in that direction.

230 - New Construction

On the 14th of the month, preliminary clearing and burning of brush and bushes was commenced on the site where the chief ranger's cabin will be erected. Excavation for the cellar and the laying of the wall logs began on the 18th. At the end of

of the month, the four walls had been erected and the gable-roof logs were in place. This building will be 17 feet by 18 feet, inside measurements, with a wall height of about 7½ feet. A blueprint drawing will be sent to your office as soon as they arrive from the office of the Alaska Railroad, where the printing is done. It is estimated that this structure will be completed about the 15th of the next month.

300 - Activities of other agencies in the park

310 - Public service contractors

311 - Character of service rendered to the public

The base camp of the McKinley Park Tourist and Transportation Company is now practically completed; that is, as far as this year's accomodations are concerned. Their tent-house "colony" consists of 2 barns, feed and harness cache, garage, store-house, social hall and a dining-room. In conjunction with the tent dining-room, there had been a large kitchen (frame structure) erected, which enables the cook and waitresses to dispense their culinary delicacies to a quick and unhindered advantage. In addition to these tents, there are 26 - 10 x 12 tent-houses, each furnished with two beds, washstands and other fixtures. Running water has been brought into the camp but not piped to each individual tent. The accomodations and meals are excellant and with their present equipment, 52 people can be comfortably housed.

The tent-house camps at the head of Savage River and at Igloo Creek have been erected and are ready to accomodate those who might wish to travel a few miles further westward.

313 - Schedule of rates

On June 14th, this office received a letter from Mr. Robert B. Sheldon, general manager of the Park Transportation Co., relative to a reduction in certain rates charged for meals and lodging at their Savage River Camp. The rates were approved by the park superintendent and the matter referred to the Director, National Park Service, for his disposition in the matter, on June 17th. The changes as suggested were;

Lodging;

Two persons in tent, each person $1.25, reduced from $1.50 ea.

Meals;

Breakfast, each person $1.50, reduced from $2.00 each.

400 - Flora, fauna and natural phenomena

430 - Animal disease control

For the last few weeks, all the sled-dogs, summering at park headquarters, have been attacked by tape-worms. This, of course, is more or less prevalent in all Alaskan dogs during the summer months of inactivity. The drug, areca nut, has been administered to them individually in conjunction with castor-oil and it is believed that the worms have been curtailed though not eradicated.

A new drug, oleoresin male fern, is being used successfully by the Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture, so we have ordered some of this medicine and will use it on the park dogs.

470 - Animals

472 - Mountain Sheep

Much to the disappointment of all concerned, these fine creatures seem to be imbued with the migratory disposition, for the time being. Large bands, which had been formerly making the northern range their feeding grounds, including the Savage Canyon, have crossed over the park highway and have entered the hills of the main Alaska Range. This makes it a difficult matter for tourists to view them unless they travel up Savage River. Only a few scattered ones may be seen in the old spring stamping grounds. This migration is only temporary and they will return to the northern range during the latter part of the summer and early autumn.

From all reports and indications, the sheep are breeding in appreciable quantities this year for nearly all the ewes seen were accompanied by lambs. All the bands appeared to be in fine condition.

474 - Bear

Many times have the Alaska grizzly family, residing on Savage River, been seen.

476 - Fox

These timid fur-bearers are often seen crossing the highway in front of the automobiles and also in the vicinity of Savage River Camp. Both species, red and cross, appear to be plentiful.

500 - Use of Park Facilities by the Public

520 - Weather conditions in the park

Taken on the whole, the past month was a very pleasant one - a long spell of warm weather and only a small precipitation.

The mean maximum temperature for the month was 70.4°, the mean minimum being 43.6°, with a total mean for the month of 57°. The highest temperature recorded during June was 89° on the 18th and 19th, and the lowest point to which the mercury dropped was 34° on the 1st and 3rd. The greatest daily range was 42°, which occurred on the 18th, when the maximum was 89° and the minimum was 47°. The wind was of such a variable nature and so light, that it was neglible.

Yearly Comparative Table

	Max.	Min.	Mean Max.	Mean Min.	Monthly Mean	Total Precip.	Number of days rain
1925.	73	29	63.4	39.9	51.6	2.49	12
1926.	89	34	70.4	43.6	57.0	3.95	11

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540 - Visitors

A very marked increase in the amount of visitors to this

park, is noticed in the registration figures. The small amount of advertising which has been done has had a very beneficial effect though a weak effort is still being made by the local "park opposition" people to retard and divert travel by tourists. The ultimate outcome will not be changed by this influence though. A travel increase of 1007.76% so far this year, gives us a very favorable light in which to view travel for the remainder of the summer season.

900 - Miscellaneous

901 - Ranger Patrol

Owing to the many things to be accomplished around headquarters this month, it was impossible to make any extensive patrols. Ranger Fritz A. Nyberg left headquarters on the 11th, travelling over the northern range, down into Savage River, thence westward towards Sanctuary River. Low clouds and rain prevented him from reaching Sanctuary and he returned to headquarters via Savage Canyon, on the 13th. The purpose of this trip was to endeavour to locate a low pass in that range of hills, over which it would be fairly reasonable to take horses and dogs. None was found.

Respectfully yours,

Henry P. Karstens

Henry P. Karstens,
Superintendent

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TRAVEL REPORT

Mount McKinley National Park for the Month of June, 1925

	This Month	This Travel Year To Date	This Month Last Year	Last Travel Year To Date	Increase for Travel Year Number	Increase for Travel Year 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,	3	3	0	0		
Total persons entering via private transportation,	3	3	0	0		
OTHER TRANSPORTATION:						
Persons entering via stages,	110	112	8	8		
Persons entering via trains,						
Persons entering otherwise,	6	29	5	5		
Total other transportation,	116	141	13	13		
GRAND TOTAL ALL VISITORS,	119	144	13	13	131	1007.76

	This Year	Last Year	Increase Number	Increase 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 June, 1926

	This Month	This Month Last Year
Number of employees beginning of month,	4	4
Number of additions,	1	1
Total,	5	5
Number of separations,	0	2
Number of employees close of month,	5	3

Number of promotions during month None

Aggregate amount of annual leave taken, None

Aggregate amount of sick leave taken, None

Aggregate amount of leave without pay, None