MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK

Alaska.

File Cy- 10.

SUPERINTENDANTS MONTHLY

REPORT

for

March, 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

April 6th, 1926.

Dear Sir;

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

000 - General

Though Spring is now upon us, it did not prevent the ranger force from accomplishing excellant patrol work in their individual bailiwicks. Dog-teams still have to used as the method of transportation and on account of the scarcity of snow, travel is more or less slow, although a good mileage is rung up for this month.

120 - Park Inspections by:
121 - Superintendant

On March 1st, Superintendant Karstens left headquarters camp for Savage River Ranger Station, from which point he passed into the Savage Canyon. The objective of this trip was to endeavor to procure some good photographs of the wild animals in this section. He returned to headquarters on the 4th.

Two days later, Superintendant Karstens left for Ranger Nyberg's bailiwick and went as far northwest as Wonder Lake, at the same time visiting Mr. Joe Quigley and John Andreason, both of whom are bona fide prospectors of that district. It may be said, at this time, that both of these men have done and are doing a great deal of development in their mining properties located in the Kantishna district and are the type of men who abide by all the park rules and regulations. It is only wished that the other prospectors in and around this park were of the same calibre. Their sympathy is with the Park Service in the preservation of the wild animal life. Superintendant Karstens and Ranger Nyberg then travelled to Boundary Creek cabin and making this spot their temporary headquarters, endeavored to locate a site for a ranger station in that vicinity, at the same time travelling up Stony Creek. A spot was located as described in section 230 of this report. On the 20th and 21st, travelling through Mather Pass to Toklat Ranger Station, Superintendant Karstens returned to headquarters camp on March 22nd, travelling a total distance of 228 miles.

130 - Finance and Accounts

GPO

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 Bal.
Previously reported.	$ 13524.00	$ 8156.76	$ 5365.24
Credit adjustment on account waiver of Alaska Railroad charges.		341.69	
Adjusted totals. March, 1926.	$ 13524.00	$ 7817.07 2417.67	$ 5706.93
Total.....	$ 13524.00	$10234.74	$ 3289.26

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

	Donated	Expended	Unexpended Bal.
Previously reported.	$ 1000.00	$ 700.25	$ 299.75

Referring to the above tabulation of the financial expenditures and status of accounts, this office received Service letter of February 15, on March 3rd, reference in which was made to the new interpretation of the Comptroller General's decision, as handed down on January 28, 1926. The substance of this interpretation was the construed waiver of charges over the Alaska Railroad up to and including June 30th, 1926. Thusly it became necessary to make a credit adjustment to current expenditures to the total amount of $341.69, which amount of money had been reserved for payment of these charges and also which had been charged to the above appropriation #46426.

Telegraphic instructions were received on March 19th, to close the accounts of the S. D. A., as of March 31st, 1926. This was occasioned by reason of a new surety bond being issued and approved for Superintendant Karstens, S. D. A., on January 11th, 1926, but same not to be effective until April 1st, 1926. The unexpended balances in all accounts kept in this office, to be returned to the Treasury. On March 31st, check No.333, to the amount of $761.01 was remitted to the Treasurer of the United States. This figure was made up of unexpended balances in the S. D. A's checking account, in the following accounts and amounts;

Appropriation No. 46426, Mt. McKinley National Park,	$ 461.26
Donations, Mt. McKinley National Park,	299.75

150 - Equipment and Supplies

Dog-feed completely gave out during the first part of the month

and after receiving a transfer of funds, from this park's other accounts, Clerk Mackie made a trip to Fairbanks in order to make the necessary purchases. The Detroit Polar expedition, under the leadership of Captain George L. Wilkins, had purchased practically all the dog-feed in Fairbanks and its environs, for his many dog-teams making the trip to Point Barrow. This had a tendency to inflate the market price for any supplies which might be suitable for feed. Prices such as ; ordinary rice @ 18¢ per lb., condemned bacon @ 18¢, beef-tallow @ 20¢ and dog-salmon @ 20¢, with only a very small amount available for purchase, made buying very expensive and difficult, even though a 10% discount had been arranged for with one of the large trading companies. A quantity of horse forage was also purchased, as were other material and supplies for miscellaneous requirements.

180 - Circulars, Placards & Publicity Bulletins, etc.

Inasmuch as there has never been a "Visitors' " register kept in this park, in accurate operation, a number of persons have failed to record their visit into the park area. Now that a proper and adequate record-book has been obtained from the Service, the attached notice was made and will be placed in many conspicuous places on the highway and also in road-house at McKinley Park Colony or any other hostelry where the public visit. By this means, it is hoped that an accurate count may be gotten as to out annual number of visitors.

200 - Maintenance, Improvement and New Construction

230 - New Construction.

During Superintendant Karstens' visit to the central section of this park during the month, he was accompanied by Ranger Nyberg part time and they located a suitable spot for the erection of a ranger station. This place was found on Stony Creek, by the mouth of Boundary Creek, near the north-western boundary line of the park. The cutting of logs, sufficient for the erection of this cabin was done and construction of the cabin was started by Superintendant Karstens and Ranger Nyberg on the 19th of this month. This ranger station will have dimensions of about 10 feet by 12 feet, inside measurements, a gable-shaped roof with poles, moss and dirt placed on top as a protection against the elements. Ranger Winn left for that section during the latter part of the month and will assist Ranger Nyberg in the completion of this station, which it is anticipated will be about the end of the month of during the first week in April.

300 - Activities of other agencies in the park.

313 - Schedule of Rates.

In the letters of March 1st and 13th, received from the Director, National Park Service, Washington, D. C., the following schedule of rates and itineries of tours were approved, for the use of the Mt. McKinley Tourist and Transportation Company, for the season of 1926;

Transportation

Trip No. 1. McKinley Park Station (railroad depot) to

Savage River Camp, 14 miles by automobile, round trip fare ..... $ 10.00

Trip No. 2. Savage River Camp (Base Camp) to Sanctuary River and return, round trip fare 7.50

Trip No. 3. Savage River Camp to Igloo Creek Camp, 18 miles one way. Made by saddle animal train, round trip fare 28.00

Trip No. 4. Igloo Creek Camp to Toklat River Camp, 20 miles one way, made by saddle animal train, round trip fare 30.00

Trips No.1 and 2 can be combined into a one-day trip.

Trips from Savage River Camp (Base Camp).

Trip No. "A" To the head of Savage River by Ford auto, buck-board or saddle-horse, round trip fare 10.00

Trip No. "B" To the head of Savage River, returning via the Sanctuary River. A two-day trip by saddle-horse or partly by buckboard and partly by saddle-horse, round trip fare 20.00

Trip No. "C" To Copper Mountain, near the base of Mount McKinley. An eight-day trip, partly by auto and partly by saddle-horse and animal train, round trip fare 106.00

Twenty (20) pounds of baggage carried free per person, on the above stated trips.

There will also be no charge for guide service on these trips.

Meals and Lodging

Savage River Camp (Base Camp)

Lodging, two persons in tent-house, each per day..	$ 1.50
" one " " " " " ..	2.00
Meals, " " per day	6.00

Igloo Creek Camp

Lodging, in large sleeping-tent, per person per day	1.50
" , in tent-house, " " " "	2.00
Meals, per person per day	6.00

Toklat River Camp

Lodging, in large sleeping-tent, per person per day	1.50
" , in tent-house, " " " "	2.00
Meals, per person per day	6.00

Head of Savage River Camp

Lodging, two persons in tent-house, each per day	$ 1.50
" , one " " " , per day	2.00
Meals, per person per day	6.00

Copper Mountain Camp

Lodging, two persons in tent-house, each per day	1.50
" , one " " " , per day	2.00
Meals, per person per day	6.00

Special or Independant Camping Trips

Pack-Horses, including feed, each per day	$ 8.00
Saddle-Horses, " " " " "	10.00

Guide service free for parties of six (6) persons.
For parties of less that six (6), guides, packers,
and cooks with horse, including board and feed, per day 20.00
Lodging and meals for party members, extra.

400 - Flora, Fauna and Natural Phenomena

471 - Caribou

The caribou seen in the park during this month, seem to be slowing moving in an easterly direction from the central and western portions of the park. A fine band of 87 were seen on the north side of the northern range between Savage and Sanctuary Rivers and also large bands roaming inside and just outside the park in the vicinity of the McKinley River and Boundary Creek. A small band of 15 were seen in the Windy section but in the eastern portion of the park, on a whole, they seen to be somewhat scarce. It is hoped, that incident with the disappearance of the snow and the warmer temperature, they will seek new homes in the vicinity of Savage River and the eastern section.

472 - Sheep (mountain)

These sprightly white-furred animals are getting very tame in the eastern section of the park. Particularly in Savage Canyon, they may be seen in large bands, standing on the hillsides both north and south of the canyon. They have been approached with 50 yards and less and will in a very short time become wonderful targets for the amateur and professional photographer.

Toklat River seems to be one of the finest sheep stamping grounds in the park, for one can always spy numerous bands on the hillsides, some of which have numbered up in the hundreds.

Although none were seen, a great many tracks were apparent on the ground between Sanctuary and Savage Rivers.

No sheep have been seen in the Windy section this month.

475 - Porcupine

Superintendant Karstens reported having seen a great deal

of damage done to the spruce trees in the vicinity of mile 3, by these pests. Their teeth seem to be mightier weapons than the axes of man or the ravages of time and surely harass one's eye with their destructive method of foraging for food.

521 - Weather Conditions in the Park.

The age-old prophecy of March "coming in like a lamb, will go out like a lion" or vice versa, did not prove true to form this month. It "came in like a lamb, and the lion growled a little during the middle of the month" but the third month of the year made its exit "like a lamb". The sun, mounting higher in its zenith, is fast becoming warmer and warmer and has caused what little snow there was on the ground to practically all disappear. During the last few days, large bare spots could be seen and the only snow remaining, to remind us of last winter, was that which occupied former "snow-drifts".

The mean maximum temperature for the month was 42.26°, the mean minimum being 20.3°, with a mean of 32.28°. The highest temperature recorded during the month was 51° on March 26th and the lowest point to which the mercury dropped was 8° below zero on the 2nd. The greatest daily of 45° which occured on the 2nd, was when the thermometer went from 37° to 8° below zero. The prevailing wind during the month, here, was from a south to a south-easterly direction. Weather Bureau Form No. 1009 is attached hereto.

In as much as there has been such an usual warm spell during the last month or two, a comparison between the prevailing climatic conditions of this month and the same month in 1925, may prove interesting.

	Max.	Min.	Mean Max.	Mean Min.	Monthly Mean.	Total Precip.	Number of Days. Rain or Snow.
1925.	39	-28	24.8	1.2	13.0	.44	5
1926.	51	-8	42.26	20.3	32.28	1.21	3

900 - Miscellaneous

901 - Ranger Patrol

Patrol of the park area by dog-team, is only a matter of a few more weeks now, as the snow is rapidly disappearing and travel will be impossible over the bare ground with sleds. Although the trails are now very soft, both Ranger Nyberg and Winn have done excellant work and though their actual mileage may be smaller than it was last month, the fact of this is based on their erecting or rather completing the erection of Stony Creek Ranger cabin.

On one and two occasions, a poacher's sled trail was seen during the patrols and reported by both Superintendant Karstens and Ranger Pearson, but the poacher had managed to slink out before any of the force arrived on the scene. No evidences of any killing were reported.

In the Windy section, Ranger Pearson reported a trapper operating just outside the park line but as he did not appear to be working within the confines of the park, no attention was paid to him.

Ranger Pearson, while stationed at Ewe Creek Ranger Station,

made an extra patrol to the Toklat River section, being fully cognizant of the need of patrols in that vicinity. He made this patrol on foot, taking 5 days and covering a distance of 96 miles. He stopped in cabins located on Teklanika and Toklat Rivers and reported the recent erection of a cabin, just outside the park line, on Teklanika River. It is to be assumed that this cabin is the property of another so-called "prospector." He also reported finding a sled trail leading up Teklanika River but could not locate any trespasser.

Patrol Mileage.

Mount McKinley National Park, Alaska.

Officer or Ranger	This month	Last month	Fiscal year to date.
Previously reported			3303½ miles
Superintendant Karstens	275	253	
a. Ranger Nyberg	-	-	
b. Ranger Winn	-	587	
c. Ranger Pearson	350½	358	
Clerk Mackie	-	23	
Total.....	625½	1091	4125½ miles.

a. Ranger Nyberg did not report to headquarters camp during the month and subsequently it was impossible to report his mileage for the last two months.

b. Ranger Winn did not report to headquarters camp during the latter part of the month, so it was impossible to report his mileage for the month of March. A distance of 82½ miles were added to his last months mileage, representing distance travelled from the 22nd to 28th.

c. This mileage indicates excellant patrol for it was done on foot.

902 - Miscallaneous

On March 25th, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph P. Mackie. Mrs. Mackie had gone to the hospital in Fairbanks, Alaska, for the event, but the honor is conceded to her for having the first baby, born to an employee in Mt. McKinley National Park, during their actual service here.

Respectfully yours,

Henry P. Karstens,
Superintendant.

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UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

T R A V E L R E P O R T

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

	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,						
Total persons entering via private transportation,		None		None		
OTHER TRANSPORTATION:						
Persons entering via stages,						
Persons entering via trains,						
Persons entering otherwise,		4	5	0	0	
Total other transportation,		4	5	0	0	
GRAND TOTAL ALL VISITORS,		4	5	0	0	

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

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UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATUS OF PERSONNEL

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

	This Month	This Month Last Year
Number of employees beginning of month,	6	3
Number of additions, ...	0	1
Total, ...	6	4
Number of separations, ...	0	1
Number of employees close of month, . . .	6	3
Number of promotions during month	None	None
Aggregate amount of annual leave taken,	None	None
Aggregate amount of sick leave taken,	None	None
Aggregate amount of leave without pay,	None	None

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MOUNT McKINLEY NATIONAL PARK
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
McKINLEY PARK, ALASKA

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of the National Park Service, as set down by the Secretary of the Interior, you are hereby requested to register your name and place of residence at the time of entering the Mount McKinley National Park.

This may be done at the office of the Park Superintendant, which is located at Mile 2 on the Park Highway.

Respectfully,

Henry P. Karstens

Henry P. Karstens,
Superintendant

March 31st, 1926.

GPO