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(June 1941)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Mount McKinley NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

for

MAY 1926

IMPORTANT

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

June 1st, 1926.

Dear Sir;

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

100 - Administrative

101 - Changes in Personnel

Owing to a lack of funds in the allotment for temporary rangers, in this year's appropriation, it was necessary to terminate the services of Ranger Grant H. Pearson on the 7th day of the month. On the 25th, Ranger Albert L. Winn tendered his resignation from this park's personnel effective at the close of May 31, 1926. The appointment of former Ranger Grant H. Pearson, as permanent ranger, was recommended, telegraphically, to fill the existing vacancy.

120 - Park inspections by

125 - Other Government officers

Superintendent Hawley Sterling, of the Alaska Road Commission made a 3-day inspection trip of the road maintainence work in the park and returned to his headquarters in Anchorage on the 21st.

140 - Labor Situation

Owing to the extensive operations of some large mining companies and other increased activity in this part of Alaska, with positions offering greater renumeration than those of the Park Service, it is to be construed that great difficulty will be experienced in procuring the services of satisfactory men to fill the pending vacancies. The minimum salary being paid is $5.00 per day with board and lodging included.

170 - Plans, maps and surveys

During the course of this month, plans were completed for submission with the 1928 estimates, of a barn, park rangers' dwelling and a large general warehouse. The Alaska Railroad very kindly did the blueprint work gratuitiously.

200 - Maintenance, Improvement and New Construction

210 - Maintenance

The work of the Alaska Road Commission is progressing rather slowly at present. This tardiness has been caused by the fact that the banks of gravel, from which the trucks were to be loaded, were frozen. A small drag-line scraper with an appropriate loading hopper was duly constructed at Mile 15.6, on the side of the park highway where a fine gravel bank was located. As the gravel was found to be frozen, the use of dynamite was resorted to, but even though this broke up the gravel and allowed it to be moved from its bed giving the sun a better chance to thaw it out before shovelling and dumping, the whole operation was found to be a failure and the scraper and lines were dismantled and shipped back to Anchorage on the 28th.

The gravelling with the dump-trucks is in a westerly direction at present. Having gravelled part of the distance between Savage River (Mile 13.5) and Mile 16, the crew turned their efforts on the other side of their camp and are at present surfacing at and in the vicinity of Mile 19. From present observations, it will require a great deal of work, to put the road into shape such as to allow automobiles to pass over it, to Sanctuary River bridge (Mile 22) from Savage River.

The telephone line from McKinley Park station to Sanctuary River, has been overhauled and repairs made where necessary. This work was done by the park force and the Alaska Road Commission. The line has since been tapped and the McKinley Park Tourist and Transportation Company have cut-in their 'phone from their base camp at Savage River. The whole is operating 100% efficiently.

230 - New Construction

The construction of the office building is progressing very satisfactorily, although in view of the fact that the rangers working on it are not carpenters in the strict sense of the word, somewhat slow. Also 1 ranger who had been working on it during the first part of the month, was removed as stated in para. 1 of this report (sec. 101). The foundation, walls and roof support logs have been placed as well as the first floor laid, doors and windows sawn out and the cellar, 6'-6" deep, dug out. The whole structure is now ready for the sawed lumber and would probably have been finished at this time of writing but for the fact that a cut was made by our headquarters office in our requisition for money, which now prohibits any purchase of materials until the coming fiscal year.

New ground was cleared and a better spot located for the dog corral. It is about 200 to 250 feet further south than where formerly located. This work was done by Ranger Nyberg. Water has been caught, by a dyke, thus providing a steady, though small, flow in front of each of the 27 dogs, thereby saving such time as it would take to water each individual dog once or twice a day and also giving the dogs a better back-ground, from which to be viewed, for the Alaskan sled-dogs are always a source of interest to our park visitors here.

240 - Improvements of Approaches to the Park

On the 18th of the month, a carpenter was sent here from Anchorage to cut and frame the log portal which will adorn the park highway, near the depot. This arch-way was generally described last month. The work was accomplished and the first bents were hoisted into on the 25th and completely finished on the 28th. Four new windows were also placed in the depot at McKinley Park station and the whole interior and floor painted and varnished during the latter part of the month.

300 - Activities of other agencies in the Park

310 - Public service contractors

Mr, T. A. Marquam, president and Robert E. Sheldon, general manager, visited the park for 3 days, on a general reconnaisence trip, returning to Fairbanks on the 7th.

On the 21st, Mr. Sheldon returned, bringing with him 3 carpenters, making the whole force of their employees number 7. Work was immediately started on their base camp at Savage River and up to the end of the month, about 14 small tent-houses have been erected, 1 store tent (14 x 16) and the construction of their cook-house was well under way. As soon as this camp is completed, it is their intention of bending their efforts towards the rapid erection of the various camps in the further reaches of the park.

400 - Flora, fauna and natural phenomena

460 - Birds

A great number of ptarmigan may be viewed at all times along the park highway and also in the vicinity of the base camp at Savage River. At this latter spot, a hen has made her nest beside one of the walls of the cook-house, laid her eggs and is diligently hatching them, paying not the slightest attention to the noise and fervor of the hammering of the carpenters nor the close inspection of her home by interested spectators. These birds have now practically lost their winter's plumage of white and their summering coloring of browns, reds and other hues are now making them a very beautiful bird.

Red polls, tree sparrows, camp-robbers or whiskey-jacks, robins, juncos and yellow thrushes are again coming back into the park from their winter's pilgrimage to the warmer climes and their songs fill the woods with melodious thrills.

470 - Animals

472 - Mountain Sheep

Many are the bands which are making Savage Canyon their summer pasturage and in all cases, they do not seem to be afraid of visitors and their camera "guns". They are getting very tame for as one Transportation Company automobile driver stated -" If they get any tamer, they will be butting our cars off the road".

474 - Bear

On a recent trip, made to the head of Savage River, by Superintendent Karstens, he reported having seen a large female grizzly with two cubs. It seems as though one particular family has

made this spot their home, for they have been seen on numerous ocasions and are always in the same location. They are fine specimen of the large Alaska grizzly.

500 - Use of Park Facilities by the Public

520 - Weather Conditions in the Park

Only small patches of snow now remain on the hills in the close proximity to headquarters, but on some of the higher ones of the Alaska Range, snow-capped peaks are still visible and will remain so all through the coming summer.

The mean maximum temperature for the month was 63°, the mean minimum being 31.5°, with a total mean for the month of 47.3°. The highest temperature recorded during the month was 66° on the 19th, 26th and 28th, and the lowest point to which the mercury dropped was 22° on the 4th. The greatest daily range of 39° occurred on the 26th, when the thermometer went from 66° down to 27°. The prevailing wind was from a westerly direction. Weather Bureau Form No. 1009 is attached hereto.

Yearly Comparative Table

	Max.	Min.	Mean Max.	Mean Min.	Monthly Mean.	Total Precip.	Number of days rain
1925.	68	4	54.3	30.3	42.3	.92	3
1926.	66	22	63.	31.5	47.3	6.61	3

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540 - Visitors

Joseph Dixon, professor of vertebrate zoology at the University of California, Berkely, California, arrived at the park on the 18th, for a sojourn of about 2 months. During this time he will carry out various scientific researches of a biological nature. He will make Savage River his headquarters and may possibly venture further into the spots more isolated from the well-travelled trails and road. Professor Dixon is accompanied by Mr. George M. Wright of Berkely, California, who is acting in the capacity of assistant.

George C. Dickens, passenger agent of the Alaska Railroad accompanied by Mrs. Dickens, paid the park a 3-day vist, leaving here on last day of the month. This trip was in the nature of a honeymoon trip.

900 - Miscellaneous

901 - Ranger Patrol

Due to the fact that all the rangers were working on the log office building during this month, no patrol mileage was hung up. Patrol will again begin during the month of June.

Respectfully yours,

Henry P. Karstens

Henry P. Karstens,
Superintendent

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UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TRAVEL REPORT

Mount McKinley National Park for the Month of May, 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,	2	2	0	0		
Persons entering via trains,						
Persons entering otherwise,	11	23	0	0		
Total other transportation,	13	25	0	0		
GRAND TOTAL ALL VISITORS,	13	25	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 May, 1926.

	This Month	This Month Last Year
Number of employees beginning of month,	6	4
Number of additions, ...	0	0
Total, ...	6	4
Number of separations, ...	2	0
Number of employees close of month, . . .	4	4

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