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1941 Travel Summary for Rocky Mountain National Park

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
David H. Canfield, Superintendent



Rocky mt.
207-1122
(MPS)
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1941 Travel Summary -- EAR 10-13-41

Again leading attendance totals for the western national parks, Rocky Mountain National Park in northern Colorado ended the 1941 travel year September 30 with a new high record of 685,395 visitors arriving in 202,758 automobiles, David H. Canfield, park superintendent, has announced.

Of particular interest is an increase of 96,920 out-of-state visitors. A total of 437,712 people or 63.8 per cent of the entire attendance came from points outside of Colorado. At the same time there was a decrease of 59,474 Colorado visitors, increasing the out-of-state percentage. The so-called European travel is given little or no credit for the out-of-state gain here. Statistics show that if this section had received its proportionate share of the travel which formerly went abroad, the total number of visitors would not have exceeded 300 people.

Thus the 1941 travel gain is directly attributed to a growing national consciousness of the recreational resources and the scenic wonders of this area, the most accessible of all the western national parks to the middlewest and east. Thousands of people arrived here for their first visits and included other national park areas on their western tours.

The vacation months opened in early June with a seasonal decrease due to a drop in winter sports visitors, but this decrease was quickly absorbed by heavy June travel, which showed a substantial gain over 1940. The main increases came in July and August, the former with 202,683 visitors and the latter with 258,682 visitors, taxing accommodation facilities of the entire region. However, inclement weather, including the earliest snowfall in several years, resulted in a decrease in September travel, thwarting expectations of reaching the 700,000 mark for the year.

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The largest out-of-state increase was shown by Illinois with 85,585 visitors, or over 20,000 more than the 1940 mark. Other states showed proportionate gains. Nebraska sent 51,726 visitors as compared to 44,027 last year. Other high states for 1941 include Kansas, 48,934; Iowa, 40,800; Missouri, 40,029; Texas, 32,317; California, 16,328; Oklahoma, 13,383; Ohio, 13,047; Michigan, 12,625.

Travel increases were also reported for recreational areas adjacent to the national park, such as Estes Park, Allenspark, Glenhaven, Devils Gulch, Grand Lake, the South St. Vrain and the Big Thompson Canyon. Hundreds of summer homes, contributing to a 40,000 daily population in the region, were occupied from early June until mid-September.

The famed Trail Ridge Road, also the trans-mountain route of U. S. Highway 34, in keeping with the increased travel, had record breaking traffic which topped the 100,000 mark for automobiles. Motorists from every state in the union used this scenic route between the gateway villages of Estes Park and Grand Lake, pausing at the several parking areas along the way to marvel at the superlative scenery of the high country. As last year, one of the more popular points of interest was the Fall River Pass Museum, 11,797 feet high, which attracted over 125,000 visitors.

An enviable record came with the increase of traffic, especially in view of the hundreds of inexperienced mountain drivers on Trail Ridge Road. There was not a single fatality during the travel year as the result of an automobile accident or any other type of accident. There ^{were} a number of minor mishaps causing injuries to visitors, but no deaths. This outstanding record reflects credit on prevention measures taken by the National Park Service and on cooperation shown by visitors in paying heed to park regulations. Likewise the season passed by without any serious forest fires. Less than an acre of ground was covered by all reportable fires combined. Visitors had been requested to be careful with smoking tobacco and not to leave campfires unattended.

This ought to be omitted; reads as the fatalities were expected. Fine

A further indication that the public is annually becoming more interested in the "why" of park scenery and phenomena is the 13 per cent gain in naturalist contacts in Rocky Mountain National Park to bring the total close to the 240,000 mark for the travel year. Some phases of the naturalist program, such as guided trips, had increases as high as 50 per cent during the peak weeks of July and August. Inclement September weather was reflected in decreases.

Unknown hundreds of thousands of people throughout the nation had 15 minute visits in the park every Saturday for 20 weeks through the magic of radio. The National Broadcasting Company red network presented "Nature Sketches" by remote control from the park under the direction of the park naturalist, Raymond Gregg. The programs, for the benefit of youngsters in teaching them fundamentals of nature study, were also eagerly followed by grownups through the facilities of nearly 50 radio stations in the United States and Canada. The programs were begun in 1938 and were popular from their inception.

Travel figures by entrances reveal that Thompson River station checked in the largest total with 103,104 cars and 335,218 visitors, followed by Fall River, 52,473 cars and 184,609 visitors; Grand Lake, 43,563 cars and 147,251 visitors and minor entrances, 3618 autos and 18,315 people. The minor entrances included scores of parties of hikers and riders.

Use of campgrounds was slightly less than last year and there was also a decrease in the number of trailer houses entering the park. Campgrounds were closed in latter September, which also marked the closing of the several hotels and lodges under government jurisdiction, these including Camp Woods, Brinwood Hotel, Sprague's Lodge, Grand Lake Lodge, Fern Lake Lodge, Bear Lake Lodge and Forest Inn. Private operators closed about the same time. However, year-round accommodations are available in the villages of the Estes Park and Grand Lake.

After the Trail Ridge Road is closed by snow, the latter part of October or early November, travel on this route will be possible to the upper end of Hidden Valley on the eastern slope for the benefit of snow sports enthusiasts throughout the winter.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

1941 ANNUAL TRAVEL REPORT

<u>States</u>	<u>Cars</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Foreign Countries</u>	<u>Cars</u>	<u>Visitors</u>
Alabama	124	404	Canada	24	95
Arizona	566	1600	Cuba	1	8
Arkansas	357	1241	Mexico	5	30
California	5355	16328	China		3
Colorado	74104	247681	England		1
Connecticut	302	967	France		1
Dist. Columbia	324	1101	India		1
Delaware	61	205	West Indies	5	15
Florida	856	2425	Venezuela	2	14
Georgia	146	459	Denmark	1	5
Idaho	533	1074		<u>38</u>	<u>178</u>
Illinois	24303	85585			
Indiana	3647	12499	United States		
Iowa	11867	40800	<u>Possessions</u>	<u>Cars</u>	<u>Visitors</u>
Kansas	13638	48934	Alaska	14	38
Kentucky	320	1067	Hawaii	51	158
Louisiana	849	2913	Philippines	1	2
Massachusetts	554	1745	Puerto Rico	2	10
Maryland	329	970	Canal Zone	37	111
Maine	21	78		<u>105</u>	<u>319</u>
Michigan	3955	12625			
Minnesota	1929	6451	GRAND TOTAL	202,758	685,393
Mississippi	110	405			
Missouri	11931	40029			
Montana	305	981			
North Carolina	64	206			
North Dakota	241	920			
New Hampshire	40	163			
New Jersey	785	2584			
New Mexico	496	1596			
New York	2599	8473			
Nebraska	14775	51726			
Nevada	84	274			
Ohio	3902	13047			
Oklahoma	4032	13383			
Oregon	415	1292			
Pennsylvania	1587	4905			
Rhode Island	49	156			
South Carolina	43	123			
South Dakota	541	1916			
Tennessee	304	999			
Texas	9569	32317			
Utah	538	2000			
Virginia	164	573			
Vermont	21	78			
Washington	404	1235			
West Virginia	105	354			
Wisconsin	2241	7681			
Wyoming	2730	10323			

<u>TRAVEL BY MONTHS</u>		
<u>Month</u>	<u>Cars</u>	<u>Visitors</u>
October	6,768	21,538
November	1,354	4,109
December	1,341	4,234
January	1,170	3,868
February	1,501	4,984
March	1,413	4,375
April	1,115	3,383
May	5,456	17,889
June	27,549	92,961
July	59,684	202,683
August	77,176	263,682
September	18,231	56,687
	<u>202,758</u>	<u>685,393</u>

Out-of-state Visitors 437,712

Representing 63.8 Per Cent of Total

Travel by Entrances for 1941 and 1940:

Entrance	1941	1940
Fall River	52,473	48,708
Thompson River	108,104	90,095
Grand Lake	44,563	40,516
Other Entrances	5,918	4,322
Cars	202,758	182,856
Fall River	184,609	48,708
Thompson River	328,718	90,095
Grand Lake	147,651	40,516
Other Entrances	16,315	4,322
Visitors	685,393	627,847

Greatest Month's Travel:

Month	Cars	Visitors
August 1941	72,176	268,682
August 1940	68,867	214,783
August 1939	61,152	212,777
August 1938	66,894	252,010
August 1937	70,422	282,346
August 1936	44,075	158,421
August 1935	34,633	122,008
August 1934	24,123	117,701

Greatest Single Day's Travel:

Date	Cars	Visitors
August 10, 1941	3633	14,401
August 11, 1940	3261	11,847
August 15, 1939	3207	12,811
July 2, 1938	2205	16,498
July 4, 1937	3219	11,563
August 18, 1935	2025	7,396
August 12, 1934	2090	7,355

Greatest Weekend, 1941:

Day	Cars	Visitors
August 9	2407	8073
August 10	3633	14,401
August 11	2114	8,198
Cars	8154	30,672

Travel by Years:

Year	Cars	Visitors
1941	202,758	685,393
1940	182,856	627,847
1939	130,786	609,039
1938	307,653	639,802
1937	195,815	351,799
1936	161,075	510,496
1935	118,038	307,868
1934	101,642	343,392
1933	28,022	291,834
1932	81,270	382,980
1931	70,422	271,463
1930	73,101	236,874
1929	67,642	271,408
1928	47,711	230,057
1927	54,109	229,062
1926	60,407	222,027
1925	58,047	252,912