Summary of the January 1951 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Everglades National Park

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
January, 1951

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

January was colder than usual with freezing weather in parts of the park. The freeze was brief, however, and did not seriously damage croplands nearby. Rainfall continued to be slightly deficient causing increased fire hazard and a spreading of non-inundated areas. However, one airboat trail from Tamiami Trail to Shark River remained open all month.

Readings from stations were:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	82	76	32	49.5	.26"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	90	73.2	38	46.1	.88"
40-Mile Bend	-	-	-	-	1.15"

INSPECTIONS:

Mr. Ralph Lipscomb, engineer from Region One, went over road maintenance and plans with the park engineer.

Mr. Fred Arnold, Regional Forester, spent several days in the area on fire presuppression problems and helped with a fire school.

Mr. E.V. Buschman, Regional Chief of Public Services went over concession problems in the field, especially those relating to charterboat, skiff, and bait permits.

COMPLAINTS:

District Park Ranger Barnes (Royal Palm District) reported: "Daily requests for camping facilities were made during the month, running as high as 10 in one day. One man said he never heard of a national park before which did not have camping areas. Daily inquiries about sightseeing boat trips were received. People want to know how they can get out into the area." Mr. Lund, of National Parks Concessions, Inc., at Coot Bay, said the same type of inquiries are common there, when asked for comments by the superintendent.

BOUQUETS:

All along the Florida Keys, charterboatmen and resort operators contacted by the superintendent reported conditions in Florida Bay better than before because drag seines had been temporarily frightened away by the

BOUQUETS (Cont.):

Service. One prominent sportsman came to the park office to laud the Service's action of closing Seven Palms Lake to all nets and seines (emergency action pending special regulations). He said fishing is definitely better there than in many years. He also remarked on the excellent patrol work by Park Ranger Bogart and said "I have not seen as many alligators and crocodiles in that country for twenty-five years. People who charter my boat like to go in there to see them and the increasing 'gator and croc population is helping my business."

CONSTRUCTION:

Work on three permanent residences at Pine Island (B-1-1, B-21, and B-22) on force account was organized and ready to start. Footings were dug and some foundation pouring had been started by month's end.

Bid invitations for Royal Palm Ranger Station (Contact-Comfort Station) were sent out January 19. The site has been cleared and scarified.

Contract was awarded for erection of Seven Mile Fire Tower.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE:

The Superintendent gave a talk to the Palm Beach Fishing Club. The park naturalist gave talks to the Miami Beach Garden Club and the Delray Junior Garden Club.

The popular guided walks every day were continued at Paradise Key. On many occasions there were so many at the walk that it was necessary to divide it into two.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

Cuthbert Lake Rookery and East River Rookery failed to form this year. While evidence of pre season activity was reported in December, the birds later abandoned these two rookeries (except for some cormorants and anhingas). The Park Biologist made field studies and delved into weather records in relation to rookery behavior. It seems quite probable that low temperatures in January were the reason for desertion of the rookeries. At Dildo Key - an area surrounded by warm water - the rookery was in healthy condition. In Florida Bay, the roseate spoonbill population appeared normal with young in some nests.

"Wading birds" congregated in vast numbers along the headwaters of the Broad and Shark Rivers (as they did in 1950).

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

Travel continued to be ahead of previous years with 18,143 counted in January. The "season" in south Florida seemed to be holding better than ever before with expectation that the peak month of February would break all records. Although it was cold and many a tourist grumbled at the weather it was still much better than "back home".

RANGER SERVICE:

Rangers and wardens patrolled 4,547 miles with 2066 by boat; 256 by airboat, and 2225 by motor vehicle during the month.

FIRE CONTROL:

A three day fire training school attended by Regional Forester Fred Arnold was held on January 17, 18, and 19.

No reportable fires occurred during the month. Favorable weather occurred with cool, overcast days coupled with considerable rains which kept water levels up on the glades although nearly all grass and other flashy fuel types have been cured by frosts in January.

ACCIDENTS:

Mr. Louis Satter, of Miami Beach was drowned off Middle Cape. He was one of a party of three who hired an old mullet skiff from House's Ditch. Returning after a day's fishing, they ran into a tide rip and headwind which swamped their boat. Charterboatman William Mann rescued two of the party, but Mr. Satter was drowned. The body was recovered.

Mr. Alvin C. Smith, of Miami, drove his car into the canal three miles south of concrete bridge. No injuries were sustained.

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

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Summary of the February 1951 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
February, 1951

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Cold weather prevailed again in February, but there were many pleasant, sunny days.

Readings from stations follows:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	82	75.7	37	50.2	2.89
Coot Bay Ranger Station	82	78	40	40	1.89
40-Mile Bend	-	-	-	-	2.55

COMPLAINTS:

Sports fishermen and charter boat operators were vocal concerning delays in the enactment of special fishing regulations. From the public relations standpoint, the delay was locally a very unfortunate event, but the determination of the sportsmen, conservationists, and many commercial fishermen to rectify the situation was gratifying.

PUBLICITY:

Photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt and Writer Blanford Taylor of Life magazine spent several days in the park to get roseate spoonbill pictures. Mr. Eisenstaedt, recently voted "Photographer of the Year", expressed himself as very pleased with the results. The two, with others, will return in March to finish shooting an Everglades story which had been unsuccessfully tried last year by another Life photographer.

Popular Mechanics carried a feature story by Verne O. Williams entitled: "Rangers Patrol in the Everglades". Park Naturalist Dilley had a story in Highways magazine on the park.

Photographer A.E. Millotte of Walt Disney Studios was in the park all month taking wildlife movies. Mr. Millotte was responsible for the successful "Beaver Valley" and "Seal Island" releases. Reports of his work so far from Disney indicate that the Everglades story is expected to equal or better the previous productions.

Photographer Ray Scott of National Parks Concessions, Inc. came to the area late in February to begin getting pictures for post cards and similar uses.

Stephen H. Briggs, President of Briggs and Stratton had some of his extraordinary wildlife pictures of the park featured in the Miami Herald. Mr. Briggs worked on crocodile and roseate spoonbill pictures in Florida Bay during the month.

PUBLICITY (Cont.):

The superintendent gave a talk on "Conservation by Example" at the fifth annual dinner of the Sailfish Club of America at Palm Beach attended by about 500 people. A talk was also given by the superintendent at a conservation symposium of the Nature Workshop at the University of Miami's Ring Theater.

Roving Editor William Hurd of Readers Digest conferred with the superintendent on an article dealing with mangrove coastline of the park.

CONSTRUCTION:

More construction work was going on in the park than ever before in Everglades history. A resume of its status follows:

Cypress employee's quarters - Pine Island (B-1-1). The house was up except for flooring, trim, hanging doors, painting, and installation of plumbing fixtures.

Employees quarters B-21 and B-22, Pine Island. One structure was about 15% complete and the other about 5% complete. All exterior walls were up and roof sheathing started on B-21. Sewage and water supplies were installed.

Contact-Comfort Station, Paradise Key B-10-1. Mr. J. E. Shaw was low bidder ($50,967.00) on this project. Bids were opened February 6, but no awards made yet.

Preparation of Building Site, Paradise Key - M-19-2. This project which is being done by the Service in connection with B-10-1 was 80% complete with 3605 yards of fill in place.

Seven Mile Fire Tower - B-0. This structure was 75% complete on contract.

Temporary facilities - Coot Bay. Twenty feet of dock was put in south of the Concession dock for skiff use. In addition a small dock was put in for Service use in bringing out skiffs for maintenance work.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:

An attempt was made to orient the park visitor better than before. At Pine Island, a checking station (thatched chickee on skids) was put into service. New park folders were given out. Then, a self guiding trip was started with station markers along the road corresponding with similarly numbered explanations on a mimeographed text. The need for better orientation had long been apparent and the results so far have been excellent. Rangers received fewer complaints or questions. The public generally showed appreciation for the personalized services rendered. More people stopped at Anhinga Trail and more went to Coot Bay. As an experiment, the checking station and self guided trip was entirely successful and both are "here to stay". Naturalist walks at Royal Palm were well attended all month.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

East River and Cuthbert Lake rookeries remained deserted in February, as previously reported. Dildo Key rookery in Florida Bay was progressing normally. Major roseate spoonbill nesting areas were confined this year to Cotton Key (outside park S. of Intercoastal Waterway), Porjoe Key, Stake Key, and Tern Keys. Mortality of young spoonbills was noted on Middle Tern Key and seemed attributable to weather conditions.

The normal, seasonal dearth of rain and progressive drying up of the fresh water in the Glades was accelerated in February. Virtual stoppage of fresh water flow down mangrove-bordered rivers permitted the annual southwest to northeast increase in salinity. A sharp reduction in alligators, towards the end of February, below the dam on Ingraham Canal at Nine Mile Bend is attributed to increased salinity. Wading birds concentrated in deminishing fresh water areas feeding on organisms characteristic of these sections.

Unusual observations were:

Dr. Julian Covington of the University of Miami with his anithology class observed swallow-tailed kites on February 24. This is earliest arrival date on our records.

Seasonal Ranger Damm and William Robertson, University of Illinois ornithologist, observed a Florida burrowing owl on Camp Key in Florida Bay.

Acting District Ranger Bogart noted a concentration of thirty man-o'-war birds at Cowpens in Florida Bay on February 28.

Park Warden M. Barnie Parker reported seventeen eastern glossy ibis at Rodgers Creek on the thirteenth.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

The season in south Florida reached its peak in February with 19,177 estimated visitors. This is slightly less than last year, but may not be altogether indicative. Study is being made to determine a more accurate counting method in the park. It is noteworthy that checking station tabulation of car licenses show the following were the highest number of out of state cars entered (in decending order of numbers): New York, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and New Jersey (same), and Pennsylvania.

VISITORS:

Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Beattey, Chief Naturalist of Glacier National Park.

Mrs. Ethel Meinzer, Personnel Clerk from Glacier National Park.

Earl Batten and John W. Sams from Blue Ridge Parkway.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

District Ranger Maxwell inspected the work of the U.S.D.A. on pink bollworm control. Generally, the work was considered satisfactory although there were some places where a new foreman was in charge that a little overcutting of guide lanes for string lines was noted. So far this year, 200 miles of string have been used for guide lines. Records indicate that the abundance of wild cotton (that harbors pink bollworms) drops after hurricanes then builds up as the land becomes sweeter. The length of time the seed remains virulent is not known, but seems to be several years.

Dr. F. G. Walton Smith, Director of the Marine Laboratory of the University of Miami offered to make studies of shrimping operations in Florida Bay and outside the park. George Vathis, Supervisor of Conservation agreed to expenditure of state funds by Smith's scientist on this. The purpose of the study would be to determine the ecological effects of bait shrimp netting in order to regulate gear and handling methods. There is some probability that shrimping in Florida Bay effects or may effect the Dry Tortugas shrimp industry.

PERSONNEL:

Mrs. Theodore Hackett entered on duty as temporary Project Clerk. Mrs. Hackett was formerly employed at Rocky Mountain National Park.

Charles Damm, seasonal ranger for two seasons, resigned to join the Navy as an ensign.

Chief Ranger Semingsen and Fire Control Aide Gray were confined to Pratt General Hospital, Coral Gables.

Clerk Stenographer Pauline Bogart was in James Archer Smith Hospital, Homestead.

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

Summary of the March 1951 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
March, 1951

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Sports fishermen, commercial fishermen, and others in southern Florida outlawed drag seines in Florida Bay by means of special Service regulations. It was a good, solid accomplishment in the face of some strong minority opposition.

All drag seiners pulled out of Florida Bay with little comment other than to say laconically, "Well, I guess this is it". Some were back again in a week, using legal gill nets.

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Generally, the temperature began the slow, upward swing, although it continued cooler than normal. Precipitation was slight and the country was drying up rapidly. Readings from stations were:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	85	81	44	55	.25
Coot Bay Ranger Station	82	79	49	49	.44
40-Mile Bend	-	-	-	-	.93

INSPECTIONS:

Director and Mrs. Newton B. Drury were welcome visitors in March. They looked over the Coot Bay area and experienced Anhinga Trail at its most colorful and interesting period. Commenting on the existing road in the park from Royal Palm southward, Mr. Drury coined a useful term when he called it "just the tradesmen's entrance".

Donald E. Lee, Chief of Public Services, inspected the concession at Coot Bay.

Scudder Griffing, landscape architect, spent several days in the park and helped in a complete revision of the P.C.P.

PUBLICITY:

Photographic work was continued in the park by Alfred Eisenstaedt of Life, Alfred Millot, of Walt Disney Studios, and Murl Duesing, of the Milwaukee Public Museum. Outdoor writer Gordon MacQuarrie of the Milwaukee Journal, as well as several other writers and photographers were in the park at various times.

CONSTRUCTION:

Crews continued to push various construction projects in the Royal Palm area where the residential area and new ranger station are going up. The cypress residence (B-1-1) was just about finished. The two concrete block houses (B-21 and B-22) were moving along fast and should be ready for occupancy by early May. Notice to Proceed on the Royal Palm Ranger Station (Contact-Comfort Station B-10-1) was issued on March 14 and work was begun on footings and utility lines soon afterwards.

Seven-mile fire tower was complete except for installation of grounding wire.

CONCESSIONS:

Mr. and Mrs. H.S. Sanborn, of National Parks Concessions, Inc., were at Coot Bay for several days. They studied plans for the 1951-52 season with the superintendent. The concessioner sold 1,966 meals in March, making a total of 5,790 for the season. The concession will close for the season May 1.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

Two meetings were held with the Civilian Defense, Protection of Wild Lands. District Ranger Paul Barnes represented the Department for Florida.

The U.S. Coast Guard inspected charter boats working out of Coot Bay.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:

Anhinga Trail is now becoming such a well known attraction that most people can pronounce the name. With the drying up of surrounding glades, wildlife concentrated in Taylor Slough where the Trail is located. It was a good show all month and many compliments were received on this simple, yet very effective interpretive "station".

Twenty-nine guided walks were conducted at Paradise Key with a total attendance of 613.

RESEARCH & OBSERVATION:

James Higman, of the University of Miami, Marine Laboratory, began a study of shrimp in Florida Bay on the basis of a memorandum of understanding. The study is expected to give the Service data upon which this activity can be better regulated.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

A total of 19,120 people visited the park in March. At the checking station (22 days of operation) 11% of cars were re-entries, 9% were local (Dade County) cars. The largest number of out of state cars was New York, followed by Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and others.

RANGER SERVICE:

Shortage of funds made it necessary to terminate seasonal rangers while the tourist season was still on. The very successful checking station on Pine Island had to be closed.

Protection Division personnel continued to log patrol miles that are paying off in better law enforcement throughout the extensive park area. A total of 4,729 miles were covered by car, 2,609 by boat, and 130 by airboat.

FIRE CONTROL:

Fire hazard increased and special emphasis was placed on prevention and early suppression. Four fires occurred, the largest being 80 acres; but only two were in the park burning a total of 28.25 acres.

PERSONNEL:

Engineer Frank Shomaker was married to Suzanne Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R.B. Brown of Homestead, Florida.

A daughter, Deborah Lynn, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Luther Jones. Mr. Jones is the park mechanic.

Chief Ranger Earl M. Semingsen was convalescing at home all month following a major operation at Pratt General Hospital in Coral Gables.

Chief Clerk James H. Smith and Assistant Chief Ranger Edward P. Stephanic attended the personnel training school at Richmond, Va.

DANIEL B. BEARD, SUPERINTENDENT

Summary of the April 1951 Monthly Narrative Report
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EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

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Police Protection:	Evidence of deer hunters found in area of unposted boundary.	6
Fire Control:	One fire during April. Fire hazard increasing.	6
Commercial Fishing:	Fishermen advised of closed season on stone crabs.	6

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
April, 1951

Enlargement of Everglades National Park

After consultation with Service officials in Washington and in the field, U.S. Senator Spessard Holland gave a talk to the Florida Legislature concerning enlargement of the park. The reaction of the legislators was reported to be entirely favorable.

Senator Holland's speech followed several field studies by high Service officials and was followed by an inspection by Chief of Lands Charles Richey. The proposal which requires Congressional and Legislative action is to round out park boundaries by inclusion of (1) watershed protection along Tamiami Trail (Shark River Basin), (2) a representative section of big cypress habitat, (3) a portion of the Ten Thousand Islands, and (4) relief from the dissected east boundary by straightening of lines.

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

The water table in the park was higher at the end of April than at the end of March - an unusual condition due to more rainfall than normal. Temperatures began their normal upward creep, but it was generally fairly cool for April. Readings from stations follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	88	80.2	43	58.3	7.27
Coot Bay Ranger Station	88	80.1	50	60.9	4.89
40-Mile Bend	-	-	-	-	5.29

Prevailing winds were from the southeast.

INSPECTIONS:

Associate Director Conrad L. Wirth attended the meeting of the American Civic and Planning Association in Miami and conferred with the superintendent on the park.

INSPECTIONS (Continued):

Herbert Evison, Chief of Information made his initial visit to the park. He was able to sample various areas of the Everglades to get the trend of visitor use and public relations problems.

Charles A. Richey, Chief of Lands spent several days studying on the ground the areas proposed for inclusion in the park.

Ross Sweeny, Engineer, was in the park following a meeting with the Corps of Engineers relative to flood control in the Everglades.

PUBLICITY:

The Miami Herald ran a feature article on a Sunday about Anhinga Trail. Result - about 1,000 visitors that day with over 600 reaching Coot Bay.

COMPLAINTS:

District Ranger Maxwell, at Coot Bay, reported: "There have been fewer complaints this year than last mainly because of the concession . . . . However, we still get many questions that are hard to answer: What is there to see? Where is the wildlife? Are there any walks we can take? Can we get a boat? Where can we camp or have a picnic? Should we go down to Flamingo and what is there to see there? Are you going to fix the road? . . . . . .Looking forward to next year, I think we should try to answer these questions with deeds." He suggests extention of dock and walk to Coot Bay proper, a "thick mangrove" walk, a sightseeing boat "by all means", a temporary camping and picnic site at Flamingo, continuation of concession operation to some degree all summer, and extension of the Coot Bay parking area.

Park Ranger Mrazek noted complaints on lack of orientation at Royal Palm since we were forced to close down the temporary checking station. He suggests leaving the checking station with a literature dispenser and sign: "Ranger not on duty due to lack of personnel. Take one folder".

MAINTENANCE:

Work was begun on preparing Ingraham Highway for the rainy season by filling holes, grading, and general maintenance work. Five miles of "hedgerow" cutting was completed to give better visibility on curves. This artificial row of trees and shrubs has grown up bordering the road and has become a traffic hazard.

Flamingo Bridge was completely rebuilt by U.S. Department of Agriculture labor and Service-provided materials and supervision. The so-called "Barrelhead House Memorial Bridge" above Coot Bay was torn out and the area filled with road rock.

CONSTRUCTION:

Work continued during the month on our two, major projects: employees' quarters (3) on Pine Island and the Royal Palm Ranger Station (Contact-Comfort Station) at Paradise Key. The frame quarters were near completion requiring only some exterior finishing and landscaping. The two concrete block quarters were moving ahead and should be ready for occupancy in early June.

Piers for Royal Palm Ranger Station were poured. Floor slab (with steel) and beam forms are in place. Some delays were experienced due to cement shortage.

Quonset huts were erected at both fire towers to house electric light plants.

Temporary channel markers were set out in part of the Coot Bay - Shark River boatway for experimental purposes.

CONCESSIONS:

National Parks Concessions, Inc., closed their doors for the summer at Coot Bay after a season starting in late December during which 7,064 meals were served, 1,274 of which were in April. They found unexpected weekend travel during the month (local people) and one jam up as big as anything all season. Weekday use of concession facilities fell off rapidly.

The National Audubon Society ended its Everglades Wildlife Tours. A total of 550 people went on these tours this season. Last year, with more scheduled tours, the total was 936.

Captain Dick Moore, of Everglades, moved his charter boat "Kaybara" to Coot Bay; but was not permitted to come into the government dock as he had no permission to use the boat from that location.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

Rains early in the month caused dispersion of wildlife from concentrated areas such as Taylor Slough. However, the inundation was of brief duration and some "reconcentrations" occurred.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION (Continued):

It seems probable that the wood ibis population drifted north of the park in April seeking better habitat conditions. The same seasonal movement was evident among the egrets, herons, and white ibis. By the middle of the month, the remaining wading birds had begun to shift to their normal summer feeding grounds along tidal flats of the mangrove coast.

Park Biologist Moore completed a manuscript describing the range of the manatee in Florida with emphasis upon its occurrence and possible management in the park. Another manuscript on an annotated list of marine mammals of Florida is complete except for notes on four of the 21 species.

A non-parous female mangrove fox squirrel captured by Park Warden Winte was released at Paradise Key where the species had been extirpated since 1919.

Alligators were studied in what may be mating behavior at Seven Mile Fire Tower moat during April. The Biologist and Collaborator Robertson found crocodile tracks ascending and descending Madeira Point Beach in Florida Bay, but no nests were located. Nine female and 2 male alligators 2-3 feet long were released along 7-Mile Road Canal.

Noteworthy Observations:

District Ranger Maxwell saw a flamingo several times in the Cape Sable region.

Park Warden Winte reported bear signs at Seven Mile Tower. The bear had climbed a wild fig tree.

Mr. Winte also reported watching an otter pup drag its highway killed parent off the road. He also saw a great white heron take a 10-inch garfish away from another otter pup.

Collaborator Robertson and Biologist Moore added *Maytenus phyllanthoides* to the park shrub list from Nest Key in Florida Bay. Although authorities had listed the park as generally being in the species' range, it had not been previously recorded by Service personnel.

TRAVEL:

A total of 16,450 visitors were recorded for April which was more than 4,000 above last year. There were two reasons for this: the winter season in southern Florida lasts a little longer each year, and the popularity of the park - Anhinga Trail especially - has grown. Many of the visitors were local, Dade County people who had been intending to drop in all winter, were too busy during the rush season.

VISITORS:

Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer and sons.

Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Schevill, of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, attempted to record porpoise noises. They heard shrimp at every listening post.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Eisenstaedt, of Life, completed photographic work of the park.

Mr. Murl Deusing, of the Milwaukee Museum, completed first phase of park wildlife photography.

Mr. Carl Biemiller, Associate Editor of Holiday, gathered information for an article.

Dr. Thomas A. Cockburn, Epidemiologist, U.S. Public Health Service.

Rev. and Mrs. W.T. Bartlett, of Andrew Johnson National Monument.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Millotte, of the Walt Disney Studios, continued photographic work of wildlife.

Mr. William Lord, park ranger from Blue Ridge Parkway.

Mr. and Mrs. David Larsons, of Ookala, Hawaii.

Superintendent and Mrs. John DeWeese, of Ft. Jefferson National Monument.

Miss Harlene James, Executive Secretary, American Civic and Planning Association.

RANGER SERVICE:

Park Ranger patrols totalled 6,134 miles, with 4140 by road, 1719 by boat, and 275 by airboat and glades buggy. Equipment difficulties restricted boat patrols this month.

POLICE PROTECTION:

Park Warden Winte made a special glades buggy trip on April 15 to the park boundary south of Loop Road with Donald Poppenhager, of the Everglades Conservation and Sportsmen's Club. They found that hunting for deer had taken place in the gap where park boundaries have not yet been posted (extreme east end of east-west line). No entry into park lands was done where the boundary is posted. Plans have since been made to plug this up with posting. He also found evidence of four large fires along and near park boundaries evidently set by hunters for "deer burns".

FIRE CONTROL:

Only one fire occurred during April on park lands. This was along Tamiami Trail where 2 acres of sawgrass and willows burned. Generally speaking, the fire situation was much improved with better detection and suppression facilities this year. Weather conditions were good. Fire hazard in April was relatively low for that month of the year; but hazard was rapidly increasing by the end of the month.

COMMERCIAL FISHING:

Stone crab fishermen were warned by Acting District Ranger Bogart of the coming closed season under State Law. As far as is known, this is the first time that particular law has been enforced on the surprised, but cooperative stone crabbers. Admittedly, they took about a week to get their traps out; but it was a good start.

Bogart and District Ranger Maxwell witnessed the cunning jump net technique demonstrated by fisherman Fred Shivers. Ellis Knight and Elmer Saxon showed how mullet can be jumped right into a boat. It took about an hour to drive the mullet into a set up with 500 yards of legal net. The "jump" count was 275 large mullet and 30 small ones.

Commercial fishing rules and regulations continue to be obeyed. One boat was located with an unused trammel net, but that was all.

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

Summary of the May 1951 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Everglades National Park

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
May 1951

THE LANDS SITUATION:

Federal Judge Holland of the Southern District Court in Miami affirmed an order by Judge Whitehurst that occupancy of lands obtained by declaration of taking in the park would cease as of June 1. Petition for extension of period of occupancy made by Mitchell House, E.C. Lundsford, and Loren Roberts was denied by Judge Holland because, he said, no new reasons had been given to justify any change in the order issued by Judge Whitehurst in late January.

The Service was ordered to erect a barrier across the road above the hamlet of Flamingo to preserve en toto the physical facilities there until a jury could pass upon their value next November. By month's end, the gate was up but not closed. Flamingo was a scene of activity with the fish companies still holding one foot on the ground just in case a last second decision was made or a bluff might be called. Frank Irwin, former commercial fisherman (resident of Homestead and former owner of Frank Key) got a petition off to Senator Holland. Dr. E.C. Lundsford stirred the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to demanding that an airstrip on Lundsford's former land be kept open - to which Judge Holland replied, "Since title to all lands are now vested in the United States, this is entirely an interdepartmental affair."

The pot, which had simmered since the park was created, came to a boil in late May of 1951.

Hearings held before Judge Holland on the validity of the park's inland map resulted in a favorable decision for the Service with credit going to the Land Acquisition Office for its painstaking work, attorneys Jack Ball and W.D. Jones of the Department of Justice, and Cadastral Engineer Siler of the Director's Office, who appeared as a witness.

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Ground water levels in southeastern Florida declined with losses ranging from 0.1 to 1.4 feet. The greatest losses were below Tamiami Trail. Rainfall was generally far below normal. An unseasonal hurricane approached the east coast May 17 - 18 and controls in some Everglades canals (above park) were opened to lower water levels for possible rains. The Everglades were very dry and there was no flow across the line of Tamiami Trail. The salt front moved steadily inland everywhere.

WEATHER CONDITIONS (Continued):

Readings from stations follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	97	89.3	53	62.4	1.15
Coot Bay Ranger Station	89	86	56	65	1.43
40-Mile Bend	-	-	-	-	1.93

INSPECTIONS:

Forester Bernie Campbell spent several days in the park, participated in two fires, and helped on the completion of the Forest Protection Requirements Report.

MAINTENANCE:

All funds have now been expended on the reconstruction of the road from old Humpback Bridge to Coot Bay. This summer, for the first time, we shall have rainy season access to Cape Sabel District Ranger Station at Coot Bay.

Approximately 2,600 cubic yards of road rock have been placed on the section of Ingraham Highway damaged by storms. Manpower and equipment shortages caused this work to be temporarily halted so that other projects could be pressed.

Work on a Quonset type hut for Seven Mile Tower was continued part of the month, but fund shortages made discontinuance necessary. Glass was installed in the tower cab and a generator installed for radio communication power.

NEW CONSTRUCTION:

The Florida Light and Power Company completed a line (7 miles) to bring their service to the park's residential area.

Following is the status of construction projects:

1. Contact-Comfort Station, Paradise Key, 35% complete.
2. Two C.B.S. residences, Pine Island, 95% complete.

NEW CONSTRUCTION (Continued):

3. Seven Mile Fire Tower, Tamiami Trail District, 100% complete.
4. Water system, Paradise Key, 75% complete.
5. Sewage system, Paradise Key, 80% complete.
6. Power & Light System, Paradise Key, about 10% complete.
7. Completion of Radio System, 75% complete.
8. Preparation of Site, Paradise Key, 95% complete.
9. Entrance Road & Parking Area, Paradise Key, no work in May.
10. Entrance Road, Pine Island, 70% complete.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATIONS:

Alligators were mating in May and their nuptial behavior was observed and recorded by several observers. Acting District Ranger Bogart located a crocodile's nest which was studied later by the park biologist on Cup-a-Whiskey Key in Florida Bay. The nest contained 56 eggs. No other nests were located although 16 crawls were recorded along Davies Creek.

Cuthbert Lake rookery remained dormant, but Louisiana herons nested and laid eggs at East River rookery. The normal occupation of Whitewash Key roost in Oyster Bay began in May.

Generally, the rainfall deficiency was reflected in a decrease of forms of park wildlife such as wading birds which had to seek food elsewhere.

NOTEWORTHY OBSERVATIONS:

Two pair yellow warblers nesting, a knot, and a Connecticut warbler - all new park records by Collaborator Robertson.

Manatees were reported at Hells Bay for the first time.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

Attempts to get boat travel records have not been successful so far. An estimate for Florida Bay alone was 400; but we are not as yet considering these figures in our monthly travel count.

Weekend travel in the park held up rather well with a peak of 1,172 on the third Sunday. The travel total for the month was 13,562 compared with 8,470 for May, 1950.

RANGER SERVICE:

Protection Division personnel patrolled 6,813 miles during May, 2,385 of which was by boat and 80 by airboat.

POLICE PROTECTION:

On May 10, Ranger Bogart apprehended commercial fishermen in Lake Monroe which is closed to netting. They had nets. The case is pending in federal court after the men were released on bail by the U.S. Commissioner.

FIRE CONTROL:

The normal spring rainy season did not come, so a state of emergency existed by the end of the month. Although grasslands were greening up, much inflammable herbaceous material killed by frosts last winter made for hazardous conditions. High temperatures, excessive evaporation, and rainfall deficiency caused the emergency. We are, however, much better prepared to meet it than last year because we now have two towers in operation, better equipment, and crews experienced on large fires.

Four fires occurred with 1,100 acres burned, 21.25 of same inside the park.

INSECTS AND TREE DISEASES:

Park ranger Mrazek reported that a species of tent caterpillar is attacking and destroying the few mahogany trees on Wedge Point in Florida Bay. The superintendent has noted a similar infestation in the past in the Madeira Bay country.

ACCIDENTS:

On May 19, Grady Pope of Homestead was arrested for drunken driving and causing an accident involving injuries to Barbark Skovies, age 11. Mr. Pope was turned over to the Florida Highway Patrol.

PERSONNEL:

Alfred L. Graham entered on duty as mobile equipment operator May 21. Jack E. Lewis entered on duty as truck driver on May 23.

Ted Hackett, son of "Judge" Hackett (U.S. Commissioner at Rocky Mountain National Park) and seasonal fire control aide established a new record. He and the park biologist were brought off a key by Ranger Bogart through an intense storm during the month's hurricane scare. Mr. Hackett had accompanied the biologist to a crocodile's nest. The new record Mr. Hackett has established is being the only man from Rocky Mountain National Park who ever went through a hurricane warning asleep in a jungle hammock over a crocodile's nest. We doubt if this record will ever be equalled.

PUBLICITY:

The park received considerable local publicity concerning action to be taken on vacation of properties at Flamingo. The opportunity to exploit this occasion by distorting the plight of land occupants was not taken to the degree we had expected and reports were generally factual and unbiased.

Science Digest for May carried an article entitled "Florida's Never Never Land" by Keith Wheeler. It dealt with the park.

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

Summary of the June 1951 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Everglades National Park

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
June, 1951

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Ground water levels throughout southeastern Florida declined during June, when they normally would not. Losses ranged from 0.1 to 0.6 of a foot at various recording stations. The greatest losses were believed to be in the central area of the park. North of Tamiami Trail levels ranged 0.5 to 1.7 feet higher than in May; but this had no noticeable effect on the park south of the Trail.

Rainfall continued well below normal. Stages in canals inside and outside the park were near record low during early June. No flow occurred over the surface southward across the line of Tamiami Trail. The salt front (1,000 p.p.m. chloride) remained a short distance above salt barriers in Dade County.

Temperatures for June were about normal, but lack of rainfall made it very uncomfortable during mid-afternoons when rainstorms usually occur.

Readings from stations were:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	95	91.7	59	64.6	2.65
Coot Bay Ranger Station	95	90.8	62	68.8	1.31

INSPECTIONS:

Assistant Chief Forester Cook and Regional Forester Arnold were in the park while fires were burning. They observed and participated in suppression work. They also studied the fires from the air and observed methods used in fire suppression.

Chief Architect Richard Sutton spent several days in the park inspecting work in progress, completed structures, and sites of proposed buildings.

CONSTRUCTION:

Very little work remained to be done on the two C.B.S. quarters at Pine Island (B-21 and B-22). Both structures would have been completed if fires had not interrupted the work. The cypress quarters (B-1-1) is in the same situation. All of these structures will be completed in July. The only originally planned work that cannot be finished will be planting of trees. There will not be enough money left to do this.

The Contact-Comfort Station (Royal Palm Ranger Station) moved ahead slowly under contract. The roof slab was poured in June, but labor difficulties slowed other work. However, this structure is going up in a satisfactory manner and all of the rough work is finished. It will be in use during the next winter season.

The park radio system is almost complete. Installation of new sets by contract has worked well and the "blanks" have been filled. The only major requirement now (for existing park setup) is to obtain sets more powerful than the handy-talkies which are too limited in sending range. Funds are not available for this at present.

All base rock is now in place on the entrance road to Pine Island residential area. Materials are on hand for the surfacing of this road and completion is programmed for July.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

Travel for June held up very well with a total of 9,130 of which 3,914 went to Coot Bay in spite of the fact that the snack bar and gasoline station are closed for the season. Total 1951 fiscal year travel was 139,115 compared to 111,445 for 1950 fiscal year and 70,836 for 1949 fiscal year.

RANGER SERVICE:

The Protection Division spent most of the month on fires. Nevertheless, the patrol record of park rangers and wardens for 1951 fiscal year was excellent.

Two years ago, the obstacles of law enforcement in this park seemed almost insurmountable. There was not enough equipment. We did not have enough men. Bases for patrol were completely lacking. Although it is still far from being a satisfactory setup, the park is now much better protected. Patrol mileage for 1951 fiscal year was 60% above that of the previous year with totals of 25,147 miles by boat, 25,087 miles by car, 1,907 miles by airboat, bringing the patrol mileage total to 52,141.

This important duty of park rangers and wardens seems well worth noting because it is an "intangible" job which sometimes goes unappreciated and but slightly understood.

FIRES:

In 1938, the present park superintendent reported: "The Everglades Park area (proposed) was badly burned during the winter of 1937-38 and there was no time during the drier part of the year that one could not see smoke somewhere on the horizon." He estimated a burn of 80% of the Everglades, 30% of the coastal prairies, 50% of the pinelands, and 5% of other areas. All these fires were attributed to man because "there are no records of 'dry lightning' in southern Florida and almost without exception thunder storms occur during the rainy season when the land is more or less wet." The fires that winter were probably man caused all right.

Other bad fire winters occurred in almost regular succession. In 1945 the Fish and Wildlife Service began to take over the area that is now the park. That June they had one man on duty who reported that the rainy season had not begun and fires were breaking out. He flew the area and said that about 75% of the Everglades and pinelands had burned. The fires were believed to have been started by man.

During the park's brief history, there were two abnormally wet years - 1947 and 1948. As had been predicted before the park was started, man caused fires along the eastern boundary was the biggest problem. Public relations work coupled with relative accessibility of eastern boundary areas paid off in the winter of 1950-51.

June of 1951 must have been like June of 1945. The spring rains were not up to par and the hot, summer sun sucked up all the moisture from the Everglades. Of all the park's fires up to this time, only one had been listed as possibly being caused by lightning. A state of fire emergency was declared; but several widespread rain storms brought it to an end. The rainy season seemed to have begun, but rains did not follow rains and the hot sun again went to work. Fires began to break out and, for the first time, it was found that these fires were caused by lightning. Thunder storms were scattered and small, sometimes hardly wetting the ground.

A total of eight fires occurred during the month (one non statistical). All were believed to be lightning caused. They blew up fast and because of inaccessibility could not be reached before they had covered many hundred acres. A total of 53,954 acres were burned of which 42,428 were inside the park. It was found that trained crews with mechanized equipment are definitely the only way to combat those fires. Excellent fire fighting was done, but shortage of qualified men, lack of equipment, and time lapse because of inaccessibility mitigated really successful suppression. A great deal of the park that would otherwise have burned was saved; but the loss was serious to hammock growth in the central Everglades, hammock reproduction on Long Pine Key, to muck deposits in Shark River Valley and to algae (which helps to form marl). Actual damage to wildlife was not considered as extremely serious except that the fires set back changing ecology of several areas.

PERSONNEL:

Park Naturalist Willard E. Dilley was assigned to Yellowstone National Park for the summer and left late in June.

THE LAST OF FLAMINGO:

The commercial fishing hamlet of Flamingo, strategically located at the terminus of Ingraham Highway in the park, became a ghost town in June. All occupants had vacated the premises in accordance with federal court order following declaration of taking.

The full history of Flamingo will probably never be known. It must have been lurid in spots, - certainly the reputation of the area through the years tends to convey the impression. When the park was created, Flamingo was a commercial fishing base perched precariously on the edge of Florida Bay. It's stilted houses, fish houses, and piers were built helter-skelter, well above high tide and hopefully beyond the reach of hurricane waters. Most of the inhabitants did not own any land. A few were squatters; but the main population, which fluctuated according to season, was made up of commercial fishermen who worked for the companies under an economic and social arrangement in many ways similar to tenant farming. Characteristically, the inhabitants went by nicknames: "Barrelhead", "Cootie", "Bull", "Preacher", "Sweet Tater", "Honest John", "Slim", "Boob", "Jolly Cholly", "Mutt House", "Dollar Bill", "Uncle Steve", "Blue Heron Brown", and a few that had better not be noted here.

It has been said that Flamingo once boasted of a school and a post office. Louis Louden was the postmaster. Sugar cane (from which an alcoholic drink called "aguadent" was made) tomatoes, peppers, and other produce was raised on the fertile, frost free Flamingo flats. Lime groves were planted there. (The produce was shipped by sailboat to Key West.) Unwise drainage operations followed by hurricanes put an end to this economy. Plume hunting was once a big business and plume hunter Smith shot and killed his Flamingo neighbor Bradley who was employed by the Florida Audubon Society. During the prohibition era, Flamingoites began driving expensive cars down the streets of Homestead. After repeal, the community slipped back into a commercial fishing base. The terrible Labor Day hurricane of 1935 washed practically the whole town away, but few of the weather-wise inhabitants were lost. The Irwins clung to mangrove trees near Bear Lake. The Roberts' clan waded out through chin-deep water and Bill Ganbees' boy was swept away from his father's arms and drowned, en route. Several almost perished after a wild night in the hold of a fish barge.

During World War II, the fish trucks from Flamingo ground through the deep mud to bring large catches of mullet, trout, snapper, and redfish to the inflated markets; but Coast Guard regulations more or less kept the fishermen in port at night. A large load of sugar (perhaps many) is reputed to have been carried out with the fish.

THE LAST OF FLAMINGO (Continued):

After the war, Everglades National Park was created. Some at Flamingo turned to entertaining the increasing tourist traffic in various ways. Park Rangers and Flamingoites had several minor skirmishes over alligators, "eatin'-size" white ibis, loggerhead turtles, and other "legitimate" attempts to supplement a diet of grits and fish or add a few dollars from 'gator hides to the kitty. A large turtle named after the park superintendent was gleefully butchered and consumed amidst the masses of mosquitoes which were ignored because of liberal, internal applications of the finest products of milwaukee.

The post war economy of Flamingo - commercial fishing and sports fishermen - were rudely interrupted by the 1948 hurricane which sent some of the town slithering across the flats into the mangroves. More insiduously the drag seines which began to be used generally throughout Florida Bay fishing grounds decreased the catch of fish by Flamingo people using their less expensive, traditional gill nets. Always flexible to new methods, the people of Flamingo began to employ drag seines themselves and turned to hauling out live shrimp for sports fishermen who could get good catches, in spite of dwindling supply, with this sure fire bait. Park special regulations put an end to the drag seines after Florida Bay was transferred to the park from the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The economic pattern of Flamingo was undergoing change when declaration of taking was invoked by the government to obtain title to all remaining private lands in the park. A court order told former land owners to evacuate the premises by early February of 1951. Appeal was made and the order was extended to June 1, 1951. The deadline approached, as noted in our May report, with hope that somehow it would not happen. A last minute appeal was denied.

Early in June, Chief Ranger Semingsen and his assistants began putting the pressure on Flamingo. The House Fish Company was out - lock, stock, and barrel. With money obtained from the court, they had moved to the west coast near Marco. Roberts Fish Company had done nothing. Here and there throughout Flamingo commercial fishermen remained. Some were frantically building house boats. One was constructing a run boat to carry fish from the fishing grounds to the Florida Keys. Finally, Attorney Ball of the Department of Justice wrote letters to the last inhabitants (only one of whom had owned any land) mentioning that contempt of court action might be necessary. The last stragglers left. The Service issued net rack permits for Joe Kemp Key and Flamingo became a ghost town of delapidated shacks, filth, and rusting iron. Off Joe Kemp Key a flotilla of craft defying all description lay anchored.

Joe Douthert, "Boob" Weeks, and Bill Ganbees had a little too much of the modern equivalent of "aguadent" and decided to rip down the park's sign and gate in a last act of defiance. U.S. Attorney Duhaime has subpoenaed them to come to Miami for a talk, but no formal action was lodged against them. This was the only "incident".

Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent

The inflorescence of Brassia caudata, perhaps the rarest of the native, epiphytic orchids in the park. Once believed extirpated from Florida, the species was found last year on Long Pine Key. Flowers are light yellow with brown spots. The species is found also in Mexico, the West Indies and farther south in the tropics. When not flowering, Brassia is often mistaken for Epidendrum cochleatum, a relatively common species. Like most orchids in the park, late rains meant late blooms this year.

RENDEZVOUS AT IRON POT HAMMOCK FIRE

With Regional Forester Arnold seated on poop deck, the fast "wheel buggy" belonging to Poppenhager of the Everglades Conservation Club brings supplies to a Service "track buggy" and pumper crew on the fire. The "wheel buggy", much faster than the versatile "track buggy" worked back and forth from base at Seven Mile Fire Tower bringing in supplies, relief crews, and did fast scouting for both the Iron Pot Hammock fire and the Shark River Valley fire about fifteen miles farther in.

BURNING OUT TECHNIQUE IN SAWGRASS

Burning out around a hammock to prevent another breakout. Hammocks contain muck and peat which smolder for days then break out into surrounding sawgrass.

This is typical crew found most efficient in Glades fire fighting. Track buggy with track trailer-pumper is basic unit. Crew consists of crew boss (background), buggy operator, hose man, nozzle man, and two flapper men.

THE LAST OF FLAMINGO

SYMBOLIC OF THE LAST OF FLAMINGO ARE A PAIR OF DESERTED MUD SKIS LEFT BY THEIR INHABITANT WHEN HE DEPARTED AND A MULLET SKIFF HASTILY CONVERTED INTO A HOUSE BOAT BY THE LAST MAN TO LEAVE.

The following page of photographs show the desolate shacks, cluttered waterfront, and filth left in Flamingo for the Service to clean up.

Summary of the July 1951 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
July, 1951

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

The summer rains finally arrived in July putting the fire season to such an abrupt end that the park staff was sent scurrying to get all fire equipment out while the water was still low. Precipitation for July was about normal, but accumulated calender year deficiency stood at nearly seven inches. Temperatures were close to average and prevailing winds (south Florida area) were from the south.

Ground-water levels increased with rises estimated from 0.2 to 2.4 feet in the park and vicinity, although there was a lowering of the water table to the north.

As a result of normal rainfall, there was considerable rise in stage and increase in discharge from most Everglades area canals. There was some inundation in the park at lower elevations and in the Shark River Valley, but very little if any flow across the surface. The salt front (1,000 p.p.m. chloride) retreated generally.

Insect annoyance was great. This was blamed upon a dry spring season by Dade County's Mosquito Abatement Chief who said, "When you get big Everglades fires in spring, it'll be a bad mosquito year". It is not the fires, but weather conditions that cause the mosquitoes, of course. When the glades fill up, probably in late August, the mosquito annoyance will subside to "normal".

Readings from Stations follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	94	90.5	69	70.4	9.31
Coot Bay Ranger Station	96	89.9	69	72	6.75

CONSTRUCTION:

The Contact-Comfort Station - Royal Palm Ranger Station - is now 85% complete (as far as contractor is concerned). Every effort is being made to have this a completed, functioning unit by winter.

All permanent residences at Pine Island are now considered finished. Other construction work is pending as per Engineer Shomaker's monthly report.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

The State Internal Improvement Board set aside several thousand acres of bay bottom lands along Overseas Highway on recommendation of the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Monuments. The lands are to be dedicated for scenic purposes. One of these tracts is Lake Surprise and its mangrove shoreline starting about ¼ mile below the park boundary at Jewfish Creek vicinity and extending to Key Largo.

A hearing was held at Key West relative to the proposed Key Deer Refuge. Although the superintendent was asked to attend as a director of the Florida and Tropical Audubon Societies, he felt it inadvisable. The important Service aspect of the hearing (at which Congressman Lantaff was chairman) was the vitriolic attack on the park by State Representative Bernie Papy. Mr. Papy accused the Department of taking valuable lands from Monroe County already and now attempting to get more for the Refuge through the Fish and Wildlife Service.

A semi-public hearing took place on proposed levee L-31 in the Corps of Engineers Flood Control Plan at Homestead. Controversy has developed on L-31 due to articles that appeared in The Miami Herald. Associate editor John Pennekamp attended the meeting. Criticism has taken the angle that L-31 is becoming a political matter rather than an engineering matter.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

The American crocodile's nest on Cup-O'-Whiskey Key in Florida Bay found May 10 was the subject of continued study. Very little appears in literature on this and Dr. Karl Schmidt, of the Chicago Museum (Field Museum) who is a crocodile authority, has indicated interest in the research. In late July, embryo crocodiles were well advanced and one survived after the egg was opened for inspection.

With the glades water table coming up, most species of wildlife were well dispersed rather than concentrated where observation by visitors could be easy. Wading bird concentrations were still restricted to tidal areas along the mangrove coast.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION (Continued):

Duck Rock, northwest of Lostmans River and outside the present park, was again a summer roost. Audubon wardens reported unusually large white ibis flights with well over 50,000 birds and as many as 200 roseate spoonbills. Other birds were present in varying numbers.

Louisiana herons started nesting at East River Rookery prior to July, but left sometime during the month. It is noteworthy that this was the only rookery activity in that area this year.

Scattered deer were seen, several in Shark River Valley. One, young buck was seen by the superintendent and later by the district ranger and fire control aid on the road by Anhinga Trail.

Noteworthy observations:

Two alligators eating a full grown otter at Seven Mile Tower.

Bobcat catching birds in full daylight at Nine Mile Bend.

Five white pelicans at Snake Bight, July 15 and 29.

A stranded pilot whale at Marathon in Florida Bay.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

Travel in the park during July was embarassingly high (7,867) because there was little to see and the mosquito population had reached the brushing off rather than individual swatting stage.

The work of the park personnel not on annual leave was such that very little visitor contact work could be done. This was unfortunate but could not be helped. Although about eight thousand people is not a very high figure for a Service area, even in off season, the problem of summer use is beginning to become one of the more difficult ones facing the park staff.

VISITORS:

Messrs. Conn and Blocker, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wild Cotton Eradication, Coral Gables, Fla.

Dr. John M. McDonald, Director, Division of Industrial Hygiene, Florida State Board of Health, Jacksonville.

J.P. Schuck, Chief Investigator, Florida Forest Service, Tallahassee, and Mitchell Parker, Investigator, District No. 1, Panama City, Florida Forestry Service.

Director A.W. Marion and Family. Mr. Marion is Director of the Department of Natural Resources for the State of Ohio.

RANGER SERVICE:

With rising glades waters, the airboat route from Loop Road to Lostmans River was open the latter part of July and the Service's aluminum boat was made ready for patrol of this region.

Patrol activity was stepped up and Protection Division personnel covered 2,347 miles by car and 1,700 miles by boat.

ACCIDENTS:

Mr. George C. Jones, of 10950 N.W. 5th Ave., Miami, was drowned in the Ingraham Canal at Nine Mile Bend on July 22. Mr. Jones was a passenger in a car driven by Russell Franz of Miami. They were going fishing and failed to make this sharp corner. The car skidded and turned over in the canal.

COMMERCIAL FISHING:

Flamingo remained the "ghost town" reported upon last month. There was some sneaking in and out as will continue as long as the shanties remain there, but it is not yet a problem.

Net fishing was slow, yet catches were better than former drag sieners had expected. Former Flamingoites occupy the area west of Buoy Key and Key's fishermen from Tavernier and elsewhere seem to be working the country east of Buoy Key. Trout fishing is poor this season.

COMMERCIAL FISHING:

There were no infractions of fishing regulations noticed and no reports of any.

In general, charterboat guides in Florida Bay have not yet noted any substantial changes in fishing since drag seines were eliminated. A few reports, however, are coming in that may possibly indicate improvement. In the Calusa Keys area channel bass are more numerous, trout about average, snook slightly better. During July, around Rabbit and Cluett Key Banks snapper and trout fishing had improved, tarpon migrations were very large; but there was a scarcity of silver mullet.

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

Report 1ml

Summary of the August 1951 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Everglades National Park

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
August, 1951

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Precipitation for August was about normal. Temperatures were close to average and prevailing winds for south Florida were from the southeast.

Insect annoyance still remained great. "Old Timers" say that this is one of the worst mosquito years that they can remember.

Readings from Stations follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Sta.	96	91.6	69	72.6	10.21
Coot Bay Ranger Station	94	91	-	73.7	7.78
Tamiami Trail Ranger Sta	-	-	-	-	6.92

INSPECTIONS:

Architect Ed. Merrill, of the Region One Office, made an inspection trip to the park during the month. He inspected the Contact-Comfort Station now nearing completion.

CONSTRUCTION:

The Contact-Comfort Station - Royal Palm Ranger Station - should be completed in September. The structure was painted during the month and only minor touch-up painting is left to be done.

The water, sewer, and power project for the residences at Pine Island is now 97% complete.

COOPERATING NON GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES:

The old wooden bridges along the Loop Road (Tamiami Trail District) have been replaced with rock fill and culverts by the State Road Department.

Wildlife Officers of the State Game Commission were active in checking airboats for guns, etc., in the Lostmans River area.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

The crocodile nest on Cup-O-Whiskey Key wound up a failure as far as hatching was concerned, but the information derived from the six or seven inspections will provide a contribution of knowledge of the life history and breeding habits of this poorly known reptile.

The chief ranger and the biologist attended the Whitewash Key Roost sundown show on the 16th. They made a good count of the white ibis coming in, and this totaled 3,600. Compared with the counts obtained during this month in 1949, of 3,400 and 4,000, this suggests a fairly consistent population of white ibis using this roost. The number of egrets using it this year, however, is estimated to be considerably less.

Park Warden Barney Parker inspected Duck Rock at sunset on the 15th and estimated 35,000 to 40,000 birds coming to roost there and counted 78 roseate spoonbills among them.

The only concentrations of feeding wading birds to be seen this month were on mud flats off the mangrove coast and Snake Bight. These included spoonbills all month. The glades area and the inland mangrove area were almost entirely bare of such wildlife.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

5,840 people visited the park during the month of August, compared to 4,315 for August of 1950, and 3,950 for August of 1949.

VISITORS:

Coordinating Superintendent and Mrs. O.R. Vinten, Southeastern National Monuments, St. Augustine, Fla.

Robert P. Allen, of the National Audubon Society, Tavernier, Florida.

Superintendent and Mrs. Jack DeWeese, of Ft. Jefferson National Monument, Key West, Fla.

James Higman, of the Marine Laboratory, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla.

Drs. W.M. Lauter and Carl H. Johnson, of the University of Florida. They visited the park to continue their studies of the manchineel tree.

Messrs. Harry Innes and C.A. Johnson, of the Curtis Publishing Company. Mr. Johnson is Publicity Agent for this company in the state of Florida.

Mr. Eckhart Bennewitz, Budget Examiner of the Bureau of the Budget, Washington, D.C.

RANGER SERVICE:

Protection Division personnel covered 2,358 miles by car, 2,182 miles by boat, and 334 miles by airboat during the month.

A hurricane plan, for the 1951 hurricane season, was prepared and distributed to all of the Protection Division personnel.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION:

First fires ever reported in August - two statistical, total of 460 acres; one non-statistical of 5 acres in Florida Bay, one undetermined near headwaters of Shark River.

ACCIDENTS:

District Ranger Paul Barnes separated bones in his left ankle when he slipped on wet stairs at Royal Palm Ranger Station. He will wear a non-walking cast until September 18. The cast will then be changed to a walking cast.

PERSONNEL:

George W. Fry entered on duty on the 5th as Chief Ranger replacing Earl M. Semingsen who is now Superintendent of Wind Cave National Park. Mr. Fry was formerly Chief Ranger at Mammoth Cave National Park.

Park Naturalist Dilley returned the latter part of the month from Yellowstone National Park where he was on temporary duty during the summer months.

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

Summary of the September 1951 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Everglades National Park

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
September, 1951

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

The U.S. Geological Survey reported: "As compared with a year ago, ground-water levels (in September) ranged from 0.2 of a foot to 4.0 feet lower, with the greatest losses occurring in the West Palm Beach, Homestead, and Fort Lauderdale areas. Some areas in the lower Everglades north of Tamiami Trail showed water level gains of about 0.9 of a foot." . . .Rainfall during September was less than 50 percent of normal at all stations. . .Flow southward across the line of Tamiami Trail remained practically unchanged at between 500 and 600 record-feet. Much of the ground surface of the Everglades remained under a shallow depth of water."

Readings from stations follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.
Royal Palm Ranger Station	93	90.2	70	71.2
Coot Bay Ranger Station	95	91	71	73.4
40-Mile Bend	-	-	-	-

Deficiency of rainfall during September is alarming when one considers that it seems to have direct bearing on fires the following spring when accumulative dry season conditions reach their peak. If September (and October) rains are barometers of the fire season to come, some figures are worth noting.

September Rains (in inches)

	1949*	1950**	1951
Royal Palm Ranger Station	9.26	12.41	6.57
Coot Bay Ranger Station	10.03	10.91	0.79
40-Mile Bend	-	-	2.40

* Followed by project fires May, 1950.
** Followed by project fires June-July, 1951.

Glades water conditions were lower in September, 1951, than any other September since the park was started. Precipitation in October will be watched with particular interest.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS:

Park Warden Winte completed posting the northwestern park boundary, thus closing the gap where hunters slipped through last year. On the excuse that they did not know the boundary location, hunter trespass during 1950 season is now known to have been severe. There was even a cleared airstrip inside the park where hunters could drop in with small planes.

CONSTRUCTION:

Royal Palm Ranger Station (contact-comfort station, B-10-1) should be completed in October. The parking area has been held up, however, pending delivery of a road roller. Curbing was poured and the sidewalk will be completed in October.

INTERPRETATION:

The following talks were given:

Chief Ranger Fry spoke to the Men's Brotherhood, of the Homestead Methodist Church, on "Mammoth Cave National Park".

Superintendent Beard addressed the annual meeting of the Florida Wildlife Federation on the subject: "Sports and Commercial Fishermen Cooperation".

Park Naturalist Dilley showed the park movie to cub scouts and parents at North Miami.

A prospectus for interpretive exhibits at Royal Palm Ranger Station was prepared and submitted to the Regional and Washington Offices for comment.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

Park Biologist Moore reported: "Cape Sable Prairie and marshes to the north were teeming and throbbing with flocks and voices of wildlife again. . .The blue-winged teal, wood ibis, black-necked stilt, black skimmers, and other members of the cast are back. . .The glades and inland mangrove areas remain destitute of notable bird life, except for the return of the bittern to the glades and a scattering of black-crowned night herons drowsing by day in mangrove bordered creeks."

Vegetation was green in September. Dahoon holly was conspicuous with bright red fruit and marlberry, Ardisia paniculata, was blooming throughout the piney woods. Cypress trees began to take on a tinge of autumn brown before losing their foliage.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION (Continued):

Noteworthy observations:

1. A four foot manatee calf in Shark River was noted by District Ranger Maxwell.
2. The Park Biologist observed a small, baby porpoise in Florida Bay.

3. Five white pelicans were still at Snake Bight on the 10th according to Ranger Mrazek.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

A total of 4,256 people visited the park by car in September, 2,430 of whom reached Coot Bay. Mosquito annoyance was a deterrent to visitors.

VISITORS:

Dr. Benjamin B. Leavitt, Biologist, from the University of Florida, at Gainesville.

Steve Trumbull, Columnist with The Miami Herald, Miami, Fla.

W.N. Moreland, Engineer, with the U.S. Army Engineers, at Jacksonville, Fla.

A.L. Huttinger, Guard, at Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, at St. Augustine, Florida.

Dr. Bruce Ledin, who has just recently joined the staff at the Subtropical Experiment Station in Homestead.

Col. Noble P. Wiley, U.S. Army (Retired), from Jacksonville, Fla.

Chief Ranger M. Dale and Ranger James Godbolt, from the Blue Ridge Parkway, accompanied by Dr. Andy Noble, of San Francisco, Cal.

RANGER SERVICE:

Chief Ranger George Fry continued his orientation trips in the park by airboat, glades buggy, car, and boat. Park ranger patrols were stepped up with the following mileage totals: truck, 3919; boat, 2470; airboat, 360; glades buggy 42. Emphasis of patrol activity was around Cape Sable and the Florida Bay area off Flamingo where habitual violations used to occur at this time of the year.

RANGER SERVICE (Continued):

Acting District Ranger Bogart began weekend contact work with sports fishermen along the Intracoastal Waterway boundary to appraise them of the line and the Service regulations.

Park Warden Winte made numerous contacts with airboat operators between Loop Road and the park boundary for the same purpose.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Captain Lowe, of Everglades, was ordered to report to the superintendent in early October after being apprehended by Acting District Ranger Bogart and Ranger Mrazek, with a shotgun in his possession. The incident occurred at Lake Ingraham.

An interesting type of complaint has been coming in. Hunters are objecting to the still unmarked eastern boundary of the park south of Tamiami Trail. They say that unless this boundary is marked, they do not know whether they are on park lands or not - times have changed since the hunting fraternity spoofed at our early, frantic efforts on law enforcement!

ACCIDENTS:

Elmer Wright, of Miami, fell asleep at the wheel while returning from a fishing trip in the park. His car struck an Australian pine at the edge of the Ingraham Canal south of Paradise Key. Mr. Wright received lacerations of the neck.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

Summary of the October 1951 Monthly Narrative Report for EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
October, 1951

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Although October was a rainy month, there was not enough precipitation to rectify the accumulated deficiency in ground or surface waters. In the Miami area, for instance, there was a total calendar year rainfall deficiency of 14.29 inches.

Rainfall varied from about 75 percent of normal in the south to about 150 percent of normal in the north Everglades around Lake Okeechobee. Flow southward across the line of Tamiami Trail was slightly under 1,000 record feet at end of October. Inundation of the glades was general, but less than last year.

The ground water condition was fair, but falling towards the latter part of the month.

Average temperatures for October were higher than normal. The records of the past summer (including October) indicated it was one of the hottest ever recorded in south Florida.

Readings from stations follow:

	Max. Temp	Mean Max.	Min. Temp	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	93	86.4	61	68.1	6.06
Coot Bay Ranger Station	90	85.9	65	69.2	4.25

Hurricane "Barnie" struck Lostmans River the night of October 2. Warden Barnie Parker radioed in at three in the morning and asked about a hurricane warning. A freak storm with estimated 70 miles per hour winds had struck his station.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS:

The Engineer and Naturalist made a survey of the Royal Palm Ranger Station - Taylor Slough area for an accurate base map.

PUBLICITY:

Carl Bienniller's article on the park appeared in the November issue of Holiday magazine replete with colored pictures, anecdotes picked up unobtrusively at a Service party, and an excellent overall coverage of the current situation.

Proofs for a Life feature on the park were received and reviewed during the month. Publication date is indicated for late winter.

INSPECTIONS:

Architect Edward Merrill from Region One made the final inspection of Royal Palm Ranger Station (Contact-Comfort Station).

We were privileged to have Director Demaray visit the park on his last, official inspection trip before retirement. His party included Mrs. Demaray, Regional Director Allen, Editor-in-Chief Story, and Coordinating Superintendent and Mrs. C.R. Vinten.

CONSTRUCTION:

Royal Palm Ranger Station B-10-1 (Contact-Comfort Station). Final inspection was made by Superintendent, Engineer, Architect Merrill, and the contractor.

Power and Light System, Paradise Key, U-14, and Water System, Paradise Key, U-1-1. These projects were completed except for delivery of generator.

Entrance Road and Parking Area, Paradise Key, R-1-4. Curbing and sidewalk were completed on contract. Service personnel began to work up finished grade.

MAINTENANCE:

Employee quarters B-4, Pine Island, was repainted.

A great deal of painting up went on all month in the Protection Division as Chief Ranger Fry began getting tools and equipment ready for the tourist season. Rangers refinished shabby office furniture for use in Royal Palm Ranger Station. Ranger kit boxes for two patrol vehicles were started.

INTERPRETATION:

Several talks were given by staff members in October.

By park naturalist:

Soroptomist Club of Homestead
Miami Beach Anglers Club
Miami Shores Boy Scouts and parents

INTERPRETATION (Continued):

By superintendent:

Tropical Audubon Society

By superintendent, park naturalist, and chief ranger:

Executives Club, Pan American Airways

Preparations were made for orientation exhibits at Royal Palm Ranger Station. Masonite cutouts of birds were prepared by the park naturalist and Homestead High School manual training class. The superintendent began color paintings of the birds for wall exhibit.

TRAVEL:

Travel remained light all month, with the exception of weekends. A total of 5,644 visitors was recorded.

VISITORS:

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Milotte, Walt Disney Studios, Burbank, California.

C.A. Johnson and Harry Innes, Publicity Agents, Holiday Magazine, Miami, Florida

Donald Herold, Junior Museum of Miami, Florida.

Mark Clark, Roving Editor, Readers' Digest.

RANGER SERVICE:

Ranger patrol declined because rangers were working on equipment. A total of 4,984 miles were covered, 1,976 of which were by boat, 2,749 by car, and 259 by airboat.

As much commercial fishing is done at night, Ranger Bogart worked some of the Florida Bay country for several nights contacting mullet fishermen.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Messrs. May, McHargue, and Santini of Tavernier were arraigned before Judge Whitehurst on October 12, charged with violation of special fishing regulations. They pled guilty of using nets in closed waters and were fined $25.00. Arrest was made by Ranger Bogart.

Mr. McCord, vice president of Commonwealth Oil Company, was involved in a brief controversy with the Service when his crews began to test drill beyond his base area. A "tempest in a teapot"

LAW ENFORCEMENT (Continued):

occurred with telegrams of complaint coming to the park and Washington. It was all cleared up and a better understanding has resulted from it.

FIRE PROTECTION:

The Fire Control Plan was completely revised. Patrols began along east boundary. Farmers were contacted and permits issued for controlled burning outside the park. The chief ranger and fire control aid Gray worked on getting mobile fire equipment ready for the season.

COMPLAINTS:

A complaint was made by Mr. Crawley of the U.S. Navy concerning a net in Blackwater Sound. Ranger Bogart found it to be a 4½" stretch pompano net - perfectly legal. "This was more an attempt to help than complain", he reported.

District Ranger Barnes found that the mosquito annoyance at Paradise Key picnic area (temporary) caused much unfavorable comment. Our experience this year indicates very clearly that spraying or fogging operations in public use areas and work or residential areas will have to be a part of a continuing program.

The highway condition caused many mounting complaints. It has become rough in places, but cannot be brought back into first class shape this year because of personnel ceiling limitations.

People seem to miss Anhinga Trail and then register complaint because so little is seen from the highway. It was decided to erect a sign at Pine Island to indicate approach to Anhinga Trail.

PERSONNEL:

Mechanic Luther Jones resigned on October 19 to go into business for himself. The vacancy will remain open temporarily.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

Summary of the November 1951 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Everglades National Park.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK November, 1951

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Ground-water levels were considerably below normal throughout southeastern Florida. Rainfall was less than normal. Flow southward across the line of Tamiami Trail declined below 800 second-feet at the end of the month.

It is now quite evident that water deficiency will exist this winter making a serious fire and bird feeding situation.

The temperatures in November were close to normal. It became a little colder than usual during an early "norther" but it was generally very pleasant.

Readings from stations were:

	Max.	Mean Max.	Min.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	87	80.5	41	59.1	.78
Coot Bay Ranger Station	87	83	43	61	.40

An interesting observation was reported by Park Warden Winte: "A greater precipitation (north of park) and continued dike building by Army Engineers along the eastern edge of the glades (north of Trail) has tended to accelerate flow of water . . . southward into the park."

INSPECTIONS:

Engineer Ross Sweeney from the Regional Office was in the park several days. He worked on plans for a boat way at Coot Bay, cooperation with Army Engineers, and to check construction projects.

J. Paul Hudson was at the park at month's end. Mr. Hudson came down from Richmond to work on museum exhibits for Royal Palm Ranger Station.

Leo Diederich, Chief of Park Conservation from Washington, made his first trip to this park. He visited several areas where boundary extensions are being considered.

STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS:

Park rangers worked with representatives of the Land Acquisition Office on marking lands along the Gulf Coast which were the subject of condemnation trials late in November.

On November 27, the federal jury investigating lands got lost in Whitewater Bay while returning home. With the help of handi-talkie radios, District Ranger Maxwell finally found them and guided the boats back to Coot Bay that night. Judge holland, the bailiff, several attorneys, Project Leader Manly, and a few others were the only ones who got back to the station without losing their way. The main flotilla had all sorts of trouble.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS:

Plan NP-EVE-5356, Boat Ways, Coot Bay was prepared by Engineer Sweeney and Shomaker.

Plan NP-EVE-5357, Parking Area at Coot Bay was prepared by same engineers.

The east park boundary was posted for about 5½ miles south of Tamiami Trail to close off the airboat route into the park.

CONSTRUCTION:

Details are contained in Engineer Shomaker's report, following is brief summary:

Contact-Comfort Station, Paradise Key - contract completed.
Power & Light System, Paradise Key - Power Plant as yet not delivered.
Entrance Road & Parking Area, Paradise Key - Ready for topping.
Stabilization of Ingraham Highway - cutting of rock started.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

Park Warden Winte attended a hearing at Miami to determine whether the sawgrass country north of the Trail should be closed to hunting or not. The hearing was conducted by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. It was attended by many hunters and froggers including four seminoles. No immediate decision was reached, but Service officials here hope it will be opened to controlled hunting since the park now prohibits it in so much area below the Trail.

INTERPRETATION:

The park movie was used on a University of Miami television show with an estimated 60,000 "interpretive contacts". The park naturalist gave a talk at the Miami Beach Garden Club, the superintendent spoke at the general session of the Institute of Park Executives' conference.

MUSEUM ACTIVITIES AND EXHIBITS:

Mr. Paul Hudson, of the Regional Office, began work on interpretive exhibits for Royal Palm Ranger Station with the park naturalist. These exhibits will serve for general orientation purposes this year. Panels are entitled: "The Sea is Rising", "Influence of the Tropics", "Man in the Everglades", "The Park Today", and "National Park Service Areas of Southeastern United States", life-sized oil painting cutouts on masonite of conspicuous birds will be on one wall. A park map will complete the exhibits.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

The park biologist attended the annual meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences and was at the University of Florida to discuss Everglades' problems with Dr. W.C. Allee, now head of the Department of Biology.

The only rookery activity in mainland areas during November was some nesting cormorants at Cuthbert Lake. Roseate spoonbills were seen in greater numbers than last month at their nesting sites in Florida Bay.

"The most compelling spectacle of birdlife this month" reported Biologist Moore, "was that on Cape Sable Prairie. . . .Here the spectacular roseate spoonbills, wood ibis, and immense white pelicans flocked and shared the gala scene with hundreds of snowy egrets and numerous other wading birds."

Birds were generally moving to inland areas including Anhinga Trail.

Special observations:

White-crowned pigeons at East River Rookery (W.E. Dilley and M.B. Parker).
Three bobcats together at Seven Mile Road (E.C. Winte).
Wurdemann's heron at Slagels Ditch.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

Travel began to creep unward as the winter season approached. 9,336 people entered the park in November. Three sightseeing bus companies were making weekly trips.

VISITORS:

Mark H. Raspberry, Inspector, U.S. Park Police, Washington, D.C.
Joe Brooks, in charge of the Miami Metropolitan Fishing Tournament.
Henri C. Morel, Inspector of Forestry, Department of Agriculture, Paris, France.
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond E. Hoyt, Assistant Regional Director, Region Four, National Park Service.
Professor Harold Monroe Fox, Professor of Zoology, Bedford College, London University, London, England.
Ross Allen, Ross Allen's Reptile Institute, Silver Springs, Florida.
Dr. and Mrs. Roger Conant. Dr. Conant is Curator of Reptiles, Philadelphia Zoological Garden, Philadelphia 4, Penna.
Mr. Charles M. Brookfield, National Audubon Society, Miami, Fla.
Edward J. Kelly, Superintendent, National Capital Parks, Washington, D.C.
Professor Albreicht, Landscape Architecture, Syracuse University, N.Y.
Superintendent Jack DeWeese, Fort Jefferson National Monument, Key West, Fla.

RANGER SERVICE:

Miles patrolled total 5,303 with breakdown as follows: by boat, 1540; by airboat, 578; by pickup, 3185.

Barnes, Bogart, Gray, and Fry attended a ten-hour course in traffic control conducted by the F.B.I. for the Homestead police.

Two park ranger patrol cars were completely equipped with field kits during the month. For the first time, Ingraham Highway will receive regular patrol from Pardise Key to Coot Bay during the winter season.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION:

An early fire occurred near Grossman Hammock east of the park and was controlled by the park staff. It did not enter the park.

Seasonal fire control aides Rohn, Tierney, and Robertson entered on duty.

Fire Control Aid Gray reported: "The water table in this area is now 15 inches below normal, which moved our fire condition two rontths in advance". Park Warden Winte said: "Falling water table south of Loop Road made use of Lostman's River airboat trail all but impossible during the latter part of the month".

ACCIDENTS:

On November 13, Ruth Walkup shot Virgil Lopez, commercial fisherman, through the lower abdomen on his houseboat at Lake Ingraham. Lopez was brought to Coot Bay then taken to the hospital at Homestead. County officials handled the case in cooperation with the Service. No charges were filed as Miss Walkup seems to have aimed and fired the .38 revolver at Lopez completely by accident. Lopez survived although altered slightly physically. Chief Ranger Fry conferred with U. S. Attorney Duhaime as to firearms in houseboats within the park. Cooperative efforts are to be made to get rid of this nuisance.

SCRAP IRON DRIVE:

Very little scrap iron is available at this park. Permission was given to persons in Homestead to pick up scrap iron at the site of the former fishing hamlet of Flamingo. Two old cars and a truckload of miscellaneous scrap has been moved.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

DEMARAY PARTY IN LATE NOVEMBER

1. Trying out new Glades Buggy
Top Row - Supt. Beard, Coord.
Supt. Vinten, Asst. Director Allen
Second Row - Arthur E. Demaray
Bottom Row - Editor-in-Chief Story,
Mrs. Demaray, Mrs. Vinten, Asst.
Chief Ranger Stephanic
Driver - Engineer Shomaker

2. Mr. Demaray and Alligator
(not shown) on Anhinga Trail

3. Inspection of water conditions by airboat. Park Warden Winte, Operator, Asst. Director Allen in "jump" seat (rear).

RANGER KIT ON PATROL CAR

Ranger Brief Case Containing
    Accident form, etc.
Gallon of Emergency Gas
Electric Lantern
Funnel
2 Red Flags
Insect Dope (3)
First Aid Kit
Snake Bite Kit
Canteen
Kit of Flares (3)
Jack
Tow Chain
Blanket
Rope
Flashlight
Lumber Crayon

Splints
Big Wrench
Ballpein Hammer
Tire Pump
50' Steel Tape
Pulaski
Wrecking Bar
Tool Box Containing:
    Assorted Wrenches
    Pliers
    Screw Driver
    Friction Tape
    Wire
    Assorted Nuts
    Bolts
    Screws
    Nails, etc.

RANGER PATROL CAR WITH MOUNTED KIT BOX

SIDE VIEW
Showing Location of Box, Siren, Lights, etc.

REAR VIEW
Showing Location of Box, CO_2 Fire Extinguisher, Radio, Lights, Trailer Hitch, etc.

Summary of the December 1951 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Everglades National Park

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
December, 1951

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Generally dry, warm, and windy conditions were prevalent during the month. Small craft warnings were up almost every week. As black mullet season was closed during December, the roughness of the water had little or no effect upon commercial fishing.

Rainfall over the general Everglades area during December was deficient. Surface water levels generally fell below ground level except immediately behind some of the new flood control levees north of the park and in the Shark River Valley. The barriers and coastal canals were completely or partly closed by the end of the month outside the park and the salt front was slightly above the barriers in some cases. This is a normal situation for December.

Readings from Park Stations were:

	Max.	Mean Max.	Min.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	85	81.3	38	58.1	.32
Coot Bay Ranger Station	88	77.5	41	60.4	.12

INSPECTIONS:

Mr. Karl Metz, of the Secretary's Office, spent a day in the Park. He went to the headwaters of the Shark River.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE:

Twenty-six guided walks (446 total) were conducted by the Park Naturalist and seasonal Ranger-Naturalist in December. They were in the Royal Palm Ranger Station vicinity.

Attendance at the orientation exhibits in Royal Palm Ranger Station totalled 2,635 contacts.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

Service personnel cooperated on the annual Christmas bird censuses at Cape Sable area and Paradise Key vicinity. Eight parties worked a circular area with a 7.5 miles radius at the former area.

Cuthbert Lake Rookery began to build up late in the month. The start was late, but at least the season had begun. At East River Rookery, wood ibis and American egrets were in. No nest building had started, though. Down on Dildo Key off Flamingo in Florida Bay, cormorants and Wards herons were nesting. American egrets were beginning to move. By month's end, the situation was looking good after last year's failure.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION (Continued):

The roseate spoonbill rookeries in Florida Bay remained in fine shape. Noteworthy was the Cotton Key situation. This key, just outside the park (State owned) had 61 pinks, the largest group on one island.

Observations of special note:

Two Virginia rails in House's Ditch by W.B. Robertson
Maytenus phyllanthoides growing at Palm Key by J.C. Moore (3rd site known in park)
Common Loon on Joe River by Moore and Robertson
Fox squirrel nest at Gumbo Limbo Trail by Moore
Guinaplum, Drypeter Lateriflora at Royal Palm Hammock by Robertson (1st in park)

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

"The Season" which means the winter tourist season, got off to a very slow start in southern Florida in spite of predictions that it was going to be the best in history. A total of 14,049 people were estimated as entering the park. On Christmas Day there was a noteworthy jump in attendance. The trend continued. Many visitors during the holidays were accompanied by children.

VISITORS:

Guy J. Bender, Chief, and E.C. Rogers, of the Everglades Fire Control District.

Kelly Floyd of Sturgis, Kentucky. Mr. Floyd is a Seasonal Ranger at Yellowstone National Park.

James Light, Assistant Chief Ranger, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and his father-in-law, Mr. Roy E. Ammons, Marysville, Tenn.

John Barstow Morrill, Landscape Architect, and his son John, from Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois.

RANGER SERVICE:

The Park Rangers' Administrative Manual was completed and distributed to protection personnel on December 5.

All Everglades National Park personnel attended an In-Service Training Conference on December 12th.

During the month, the protection division patrolled 4,691 miles by car, 456 miles by airboat, and 1,357 miles by boat. This makes a total covered in the year of 1951 as follows: by boat, 22,703 miles, by car, 38,125, by airboat 2,932 miles and by glades buggy 46 miles.

FIRE PROTECTION:

As predicted last month, fire hazard increased during the month - caused by low water conditions. Park personnel fought fires December 3, 6, 20, and 30. None of these fires reached the park lands. All were man

caused fires at this time of the year. Training was started for seasonal personnel as they entered on duty.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

The Government accepted exclusive jurisdiction of Everglades National Park from the State of Florida on December 1, 1951. No Commissioner has been appointed as yet.

PERSONNEL:

Chief Ranger and Mrs. Fry are announcing the birth of a son, John Peter Fry, born December 3, 1951.

The following seasonal personnel entered on duty during the month:

Fire Control Aid Robert Handley - from Grand Canyon
" " " David C. Monne - from Glacier
Seasonal Ranger Charles T. Hotchkiss - from Grand Teton
" " C. Robert Morey - from Yellowstone
" " Anthony F. Geis - from Yellowstone
" " Joseph S. Lynch - from Mammoth Cave
Ranger-Naturalist David Beal - from Yellowstone.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

Summary of the January 1952 Monthly Narrative Report for EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
January, 1952

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Average temperatures were a little below normal for January, but there was only one "norther" cold spell. Ground water levels were generally lower than the previous month, which is normal at this time of the year. However, the ground water was less than a year ago. Rainfall continued deficient averaging throughout the Everglades region about 15 per cent of normal. Flow southward across the line of the Tamiami Trail dropped rapidly to less than 30 record feet at month's end. Except for sections of Shark River Valley, a few sloughs, and similar spots, the country was dry.

Readings from stations were:

	Max.	Mean Max.	Min.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	83	78.7	36	53	.42
Coot Bay Ranger Station	83	78	45	61	.40
Tamiami Ranger Station*	-	-	-	-	1.57

* Formerly reported as "40-Mile Bend"

INSPECTIONS:

Mr. E. V. Bushman, Regional Chief of Concessions Management, was in the park several days. He renewed and made additional contracts with concessioners.

STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS:

The Zadie property at 40-mile Bend of Tamiami Trail came into Service hands. It had been purchased previously, but one of the sale's provisions was for Mr. Zadie to remain until January 1. This property was used as a gas station and small restaurant. It will be utilized by the Service as a base for protection personnel at Tamiami Ranger District and as a base camp for fires in that area. Public contact will not be emphasized; but the structures will, in effect, be the temporary Tamiami Ranger Station.

Verdict was reached in the Southern District Court of Florida, Judge Holland presiding, on Suit No. 3378-M Civil-Lunsford and Low tracts (Cape Sable). Dr. E. C. Lunsford, former member of the Everglades National Park Commission, was awarded $110,000 for his three tracts, most of which were beach property. Howell C. Low estate (uncontested) was awarded $200. Dr. Lunsford testified to a value of $600,000.

PUBLICITY:

Among the several articles relating to the park, appearing in January in magazines and newspapers, a Life picture essay was the most prominent. Photographs were made by Alfred Eisenstaedt and copy was prepared by Ralph Graves.

A design for the U.S.S. Everglades (AD-24) commanded by Captain T.M. Brown, United States Navy, now has an official insigne as shown below.

COMPLAINTS:

Several complaints are beginning to crop up which should be noted. Shortage of picnic tables at Paradise Key has become a problem. Many families now picnic in their cars or spread out on the ground. The Ingraham Highway has become dusty because of heavy use this year and is a constant source of annoyance to visitors.

Surprisingly, we have had numerous complaints about trash at Anhinga Trail and Paradise Key. The new rest rooms at Royal Palm Ranger Station are already being complained about because of conditions during heavy use periods.

It is well worth reporting here that the shortage of funds and ceilings have forced the rangers to: clean the picnic area, haul all garbage, clean rest rooms, pick up trash at Anhinga Trail, and haul all drinking water to Coot Bay. All of this maintenance work done in the park during January was by personnel of the Protection Division who had their regular work to do as well.

CONSTRUCTION:

Stabilization of Ingraham Highway PCP-R-31. All base rock is in place. A rock pit was opened on Long Pine Key and all surface stone for the road is being taken from it.

Boat Ways at Coot Bay Pond (Rehabilitation). Timber work - docks and cribbing - was completed. Contract for the steel work was let, but no work begun.

CONCESSIONS:

Mr. Bushman of the Regional Office and the superintendent held conferences and met with concessioners. This resulted in recommended permits for small boat rentals, bus operations, sightseeing craft, bait sales, and charterboat operations.

National Parks Concessions, Inc., had better business in January than the same month last year at Coot Bay.

National Audubon Society Tours ran full all month. They covered Cuthbert Lake Rookery and, out of Tavernier, the Spoonbill areas of Florida Bay.

NATURALIST SERVICE:

January was a busy month for the Park Naturalist and the lone Seasonal Ranger-Naturalist. Contacts totalled 2,421. Regular conducted walks were handled from Royal Palm Ranger Station. Several special groups were handled including 40 men from the U. S. Fleet Sonar School at Key West.

Work was begun making Gumbo Limbo Trail a better self-guided one and brushing out an old trail to give it better alignment. Final touches were put on the exhibits at Royal Palm Ranger Station. This orientation area has functioned very well and has filled a big need.

The park naturalist gave a talk at a meeting of the Islamorada Fishing Club. The superintendent installed new officers and gave a talk at the South Florida Anglers Club.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

The accumulated rainfall deficiency did not appear to effect bird rookeries, but may have reduced feeding area concentrations. Rookeries were again "in session" at Cuthbert Lake, East River, and Dildo Key. There was a build up of bird life along the Tamiami Trail. Coots and ducks (perhaps 10,000) were on Coot Bay.

Observations of special note:

An adult hen turkey on Seven Mile Road by Winte.
Fourteen manatee in one group in Shark River by Parker.
Short-tailed hawk on three of four weekly censuses, of Paradise Key-Anhinga Trail by Hotchkiss.
Striped skunk on Ingraham Highway by Moore and Parker.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

A total of 22,015 people were estimated to have entered the park in January with 10,909 of them getting as far as Coot Bay. Conditions in the park were condusive to visitation. It is noteworthy that travel during weekends is heaviest. This poses a question still not satisfactorily answered: Why should out of state cars choose weekends when the people are on vacation? One answer has been suggested--festivities around Miami, such as at race tracks, are curtailed on the weekends.

VISITORS:

Dr. W. H. Thorpe, Cambridge University, England.
C. R. Vinten, Coordinating Superintendent of South Eastern National Monuments.
Dr. Roger Barbour, Department of Zoology, University of Kentucky.
William P. Dale, Hot Springs, Arkansas.
Mr. Abbie Rowe, National Capitol Parks.
Don McNeil, "The Breakfast Club" radio program.
A princess from Norway.

RANGER SERVICE:

Patrol mileage kept the park well and strategically covered in January (7,157 miles by car, 1,637 miles by boat, and 370 miles by airboat).

On January 5, the night patrol by airboat verified that Seminoles had apparently entered the park from the Osceola village. Chief William McKinley Osceola was contacted by Warden Winte the following day and he and sons were warned of regulations.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Two juveniles were apprehended discharging firearms south of Tamiami Trail. Their guns were taken from them, and they were brought before the Chief Ranger. Letters were written their parents after they were released. The guns were returned to them.

FIRE CONTROL:

Hazardous fire conditions prevailed throughout January, especially in the pinelands. As an indication, the United States Geological Survey placed ground water level at Homestead 1'8" below normal.

Patrolling and lookout work was stepped up. A special patrol was put on in the Paradise Key-East boundary section on Sundays to cover heavy use areas. Installation of a radio in the new Royal Palm Ranger Station gave added protection.

Two fires occurred. One, in the northwest corner of the park was scouted by plane and allowed to burn itself out that night. The other was a roadside blaze that was controlled with a Panama pump.

The annual fire school was held for three days. Every type of fire situation that would be likely this year was discussed. Use of equipment for mechanized fire fighting was stressed.

ACCIDENTS:

Herbert Wysong, fire control Aid, was injured and hospitalized when his personal car collided with a dump truck near Long Pine Key.

Mr. Cecil Tew of Homestead drove off the road.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

Summary of the February 1952 Monthly Narrative Report
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
February, 1952

* * * * *

James Howard Smith

October 19, 1910 - February 1, 1952

On the first day of February, James H. Smith, Chief Clerk of Everglades National Park, was killed when the official car he was driving collided with a pickup truck driven by Mike Flora of Florida City. Mr. Flora died later. Smith was driving south to the park when he crashed into Flora's car coming east at an unmarked intersection. The pickup turned over and Smith's car was spun in a tight 360 degrees by the momentum.

James H. Smith was a native to Tennessee although part of his boyhood was spent in Texas. He attended high school in Chattanooga and graduated from McKenzie Business School, where he met his future wife, Evelyn. In 1933, after holding clerical jobs with Southern Railway and Burroughs Adding Machine Co., he joined the National Park Service. His first job was as a clerk in the Southeastern Field Office, Plans and Designs Division under the C.C.C. program. His abilities and understanding of fiscal affairs were recognized early and he moved progressively ahead in the Service at Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park, Southeastern National Monuments, and Everglades. His personnel file contains numerous, laudatory comments from his superiors such as:

"His duty. . . .has been without question of a superior nature and his voluntary perfomance. . . .notably significant."

". . . .he exhibited a spirit of exceptional loyalty, progressiveness, and real efficiency."

". . . .has handled all normal responsibilities most efficiently."

"It is recommended that authorization be given for meritorious promotion."

"During his assignment here, Mr. Smith straightened us out."

"Mr. Smith's services were most valuable. . . ."

"I would be reluctant to lose the services of Mr. Smith."

"Appreciate your sending Smith immediately. Auditor now here."

"Urge Smith be detailed to help us a few days."

"He is an unusual combination of office man and outdoorsman too."

Three months after Everglades National Park was established, Smith was assigned to the area. He spent his first four nights at Homestead sleeping on a table (without mattress). His "office" consisted of an abandoned restaurant table with an avocado crate for a chair. Living conditions for his wife and two children were scarcely better at first. Slowly and doggedly, he laid the foundation for the organization to come. He provided the means for the orderly growth of the park. When some benches were needed with no funds to get them, Smith built them with cabinet maker skill from scrap lumber. He kept his fire fighting clothes in a file drawer where they would be handy. This unusual "Chief Clerk" drove trucks, piloted boats on lonely patrol, ran a bookkeeping machine, and operated tractors. There were no limits to his competence and industry.

"Smitty" came to Everglades with fourteen years of park office management under his hat. He knew how to use the manuals, rules, and laws to get tangible results. Things had to be right - he was intolerant of waste, irregularity, and inefficiency. In many ways he was a realist because he understood human weaknesses and accepted them as well as strength, as a part of life's pattern. So, at times, he found it necessary to be blunt and unyielding. Yet, he was infinitely patient and always ready to explain in full detail the reason for some restriction or seemingly foolish procedure. His reputation for integrity, square dealing, and no nonsense on business matters gave the new park a fine reputation among the business firms of the local community.

A stout and able defender of what for some unfortunate reason is referred to as "the field viewpoint", Smith had no personal ambitions beyond a field position in the Service. He was amenable to new ideas, but always cautioned against too ready acceptance of words not yet backed by deeds. His efforts were consistently to provide the means for the main job of the Service: protection and public use. And, to his everlasting credit, he fully realized that his duties and responsibilities were solely to expedite this "main job". He was impatient and sometimes strongly critical when demands were made upon him or others which were trivial, out of proportion, or irrelevant to the "main job".

Like many other successful members of the National Park Service, Smitty had a combination of administrative ability, mechanical know how, a deep natural love of the land, and a well developed esthetic sensitivity. He liked the feel and smell of wood under a plane as he constructed a whole set of beautiful porch furniture for his house. He enjoyed making things grow: a royal palm with just the right amount of fertilizer;

a cutting from a double poinsetta induced to bloom magnificently exactly at Christmas time; a clean, sweet lawn that made you want to lie down on it. Often, after supper he walked down the road to Anhinga Trail. At the end of the boardwalk he would sit with legs dangling over the water watching the birds come in to roost. Then, in the gathering darkness he would hike back home refreshed. A "jam session" of kodachrome slides with his friends and family was his idea of one type of an interesting evening. Unknown to most of his colleagues, Smitty was proficient at making pen and ink sketches.

Smith was, in effect, the executive officer of Everglades National Park. As such, his contribution was not spectacular; but it was nevertheless substantial. As the years go by and credits are given for this national park, the name of James H. Smith should be well up in front. We think it fitting and proper to record this brief account of one of the National Park Service's finest, stopped tragically in mid career, where it will become recorded in the archives of the organization he served so well.

* * * * *

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Warm days prevailed during the month with some rainfall, but by the end of the month the water level was again falling.

Readings from stations were:

	Max.	Mean Max.	Min.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	86	78.6	40	51.7	2.50
Coot Bay Ranger Station	83	77.0	42	54.0	1.46
Tamiami Ranger Station	-	-	-	-	2.77

INSPECTIONS:

Mr. Ralph Lipscomb, Engineer from the Regional Office and Mr. Paul Miller, of the Director's Office were in the park for several days. Their welcome inspection of the area resulted in a better organized road program with emphasis on safety, convenience, and sufficient equipment and personnel to carry it through.

COMPLAINTS:

Park Ranger Mrazek has noted that orientation of park visitors is not as good as last year, resulting in complaints: "This can be partly attributed to the absence of the checking station and self-guiding tour. The information desk (new Royal Palm Ranger Station) contacts people from 75% of all cars that enter the park (10% pass without stopping and about 15% stop but do not ask for information) and hand out literature only to those who ask for it; whereas the checking station contacted 95% of all cars. . .and handed out self-guided tours which served as a constant source of reference along the road, in addition to verbal information. It may be worthwhile to mention that either the checking station or the self-guiding tour would be less effective without the other."

Manager M.C. Lund of Coot Bay concessions echoed Ranger Mrazek's comments. Plans have consequently been started for bringing both the checking station and self-guided tour (improved and printed) back for the 1952-1953 season.

CONSTRUCTION:

Flag pole installation - Paradise Key. Complete.

Stabilization of Ingraham Highway. This project is moving ahead rapidly. Gravel has been placed almost to Flamingo Bridge.

Boat Ways - Coot Bay. This rehabilitation project moved ahead with completion of the timber contract and most of the work on the steel contract.

CONCESSIONS:

Willard M. Fletcher brought in the first of the sightseeing craft. It is a fiberglass launch, twenty-six feet long, powered by diesel. Operations began at once out of Coot Bay Pond to Whitewater Bay and return. The launch carries twenty-four people. Although this much needed service was started late in the season, it did fair business. The craft was found to have deeper draft and slower cruising speed than desired which limits its usefulness.

National Parks Concessions, Inc., operated the snack bar and service station all month. The volume of business was greater than the same month last year with travel year increase at 60.4%.

Benjamen Cole, small boat concessioner, got off to a bad start through a misunderstanding with the Trail Tackle Shop of Miami. The mix-up was because the shop thought it could make skiff reservations in advance. Result was that people who had reserved skiffs and paid money down found none when they got to the park. So, temporarily at least, the skiff concession business was not working out according to plan. When tempers and suspicions abate, it may settle into a more workable arrangement.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

The Chief Ranger and District Ranger of Cape Sable District made an inspection of pink bollworm control work with Camp Superintendent Weaver of the United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Work is being carried on in accordance with a memorandum of understanding. All aspects of the work were satisfactory to Service representatives.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE:

A total of 13,668 interpretive contacts were made in February. Broken down, these were: 564 on guided walks, 3,879 orientation at Anhinga Trail, and 9,228 at exhibits. No records were kept of interpretive contacts by park rangers at Coot Bay which would have swelled the total considerably. But, as it was, interpretive contacts were made for more than half of the visitor total. Recognizing that statistics are misleading (some people were contacted more than once), this, nevertheless, indicates a healthy trend.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

East River Rookery and Cuthbert Lake Rookery failed again. No evidence of nesting occurred in now defunct Shark River Rookery. The situation has become serious because the bird rookeries are focal attractions at Everglades National Park.

Biologist Moore attributes rookery failures to a combination of circumstances resulting from accumulated rainfall deficiency which reduced feeding grounds. As early as last October, Wardens Parker and Winte, both old Everglades' hands, began predicting future trouble. On February 2, a violent storm hit south Florida with cold rain and winds up to sixty miles per hour. The rookeries were already "in session" with some birds hatched and others incubating. Following the storm, the rookeries slowly became practically deserted.

Roseate spoonbills nesting in Florida Bay was a bright spot in this otherwise unfortunate situation. Approximately 150 young "pinks" were brought off the nests this winter. No violations in Ranger Bogart's Florida Bay District were reported this year. The "pinks" came through fine with steady, annual improvement.

Enormous concentrations of birds developed along Tamiami Trail. Instead of shooting them, as people used to do, the Trail was a scene of many snapping cameras. Florida Highway Patrolmen were forced to patrol the area because of traffic hazards created by parked cars.

Observations of Special Note:

Warden Parker saw 14 manatees in a herd at Shark River.

Warden Winte reported eastern glossy ibis on Seven Mile Road.

Short-tailed hawks were observed at Paradise Key (Hotchkiss and Dilley) and Lostmans River (Parker).

The earliest record of swallowtailed kites was made February 26 (Beard).

Robertson added two trees to the park check list: Mexican Alvaradoa, Alvaradoa amorphoides and Inkwood, Hypetate trifoliata. This brings the list to 92 species.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

February is normally the peak of the travel months in this park. Following have been the counts since first records were kept:

	1949	1950	1951	1952
February	15,147	20,097	19,177*	25,009

*Change in counting methods may have accounted for slight decrease in figures.

The "season" in southern Florida is under debate as usual this year. Some contend that it is less successful than last year. Others claim it is a little better. Utility use statistics are employed by the "little better" school; but it is argued that these are in part offset by increase of permanent residents and other factors. Florida Power and Light Company furnished 7.3% more customers so far this winter in the Dade County area. The Miami Water Department put out 1,788 billion gallons (in January) which is a 20.2% increase over the same month last year. Attendance at dog tracks (to February 23) was up 212,306 or 13.94% (with betting up $8,298,905, by the way). Horse tracks were up 116,878 or 13.96% (betting up $14,815,896).

While horse bets and dog race attendance increases may not be quite appropriate in a national park's report, they are indicative of the success of the season in southern Florida which reflects in park attendance. It is a good season so far, but nothing phenominal. Part of the increase in park visitors is unquestionably because of a recent Life article and several other items in newspapers and magazines. With existing park facilities, one can predict that the saturation point is being reached.

VISITORS:

Superintendent and Mrs. Jack DeWeese, of Fort Jefferson National Monument, Key West, with their friend Mr. George Heath.

Mr. and Mrs. Murl Duesing. Mr. Duesing is from the Milwaukee Museum.

Mr. and Mrs. Devereux Butcher. Mr. Butcher is editor of the National Parks Magazine, Washington, D.C.

Drs. Paul Kellogg and Arthur Allen from Cornell University, Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York.

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Anderson, Photographers from Washington, D.C. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are producers of the film "The Monarch Butterfly" now being distributed by the Encyclopaedia Britannica Films, Inc.

Mr. E.R. Howard, District Forester, Florida Forestry Service, Lakeland, Florida.

Superintendent and Mrs. Guy D. Edwards of Shenandoah National Park.

Mr. Alfred Jones, of Sea Island, Georgia.

Mr. H.S. Sanborn, Manager, National Park Concessions, Inc., Mammoth Cave, Kentucky.

Bob Becker, Outdoor Editor for the Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Ill.

Mr. Bayard Reade, of the National Audubon Society.

Abbie Rowe, Photographer, National Capital Parks.

Jack Dermid, Managing Editor "Wildlife of North Carolina".

Dr. Julian Corrington, Professor of Ornithology, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida.

RANGER SERVICE:

Protection personnel patrolled 6,557 miles by car, 1,551 miles by boat, and 200 miles by airboat in February.

Two organized searches were conducted during February for parties in remote regions of the park. One party, who had left a pickup truck at Bear Lake were finally located in camp at Cape Sable. The second search was to apprehend a 'gator poacher supposed to be camped in upper Broad River.

RANGER SERVICE (Continued):

Rendezvous was made with Warden Parker in the Gulf and the entire watershed was scouted thoroughly including Broad and Woods Rivers. Fortunately, no indications of illegal operations were found.

Emphasis was placed upon road patrol and traffic control to handle park visitors during the month. Rangers made a determined effort to slow traffic down to safe speed on the Ingraham Highway.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Federal Judge Holland appointed Mr. Tom Hodson, of Homestead, as U.S. Commissioner to handle cases mainly in the park. Mr. Hodson is a graduate of Duke University and law partner of Vernon Turner.

ACCIDENTS:

John E. Cantrell, 61, and Gilbert F. Montgomery, 48, both farm laborers were killed when the car in which they were riding went off the shoulder of Ingraham Highway into the canal. Cantrell was owner and driver of the car. Artificial respiration was rendered by park rangers and Dr. J.A. Smith, of Homestead. One passenger was in the car. All occupants had been drinking whiskey.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

file

Report 1ml

Summary of the March 1952 Monthly Narrative Report
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Everglades National Park

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VISITORS:		5-6
RANGER SERVICE:	Region One Chief Rangers' Conference at Shenandoah attended. Mr. Fry led discussion on "Safety". Regular patrols made.	6
LAW ENFORCEMENT:	Maxwell and Bogart apprehended two drag sein offenders.	6
FIRE CONTROL:	No fires in March.	6

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
March, 1952

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Rainfall for March was considerably above normal over the entire Everglades region of southern Florida due largely to rains towards the end of the month. This was good news to park fire fighting crews because the first project fire of the year is expected to break that month. The rains caused some release of water from the North New River Canal in the new flood control reservoir or basin to the east. Flow into the park across the line of Tamiami Trail had ceased early in the month, but began again after the rains. The whole Shark River Valley became inundated in a series of "lakes". Water in Taylor Slough (Anhinga Trail) came up about a foot.

March lived up to its tradition on winds. Acting District Ranger Bogart, caught in Florida Bay with his patrol skiff, was forced to spend the night at Black Betsy Keys. Strong winds all month made marine conditions throughout the park difficult. Otherwise, the weather was excellent with temperatures approaching those of the summer months.

Readings from stations follow:

	Max.	Mean Max.	Min.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	90	83.2	39	59.6	3.76
Coot Bay Ranger Station	86	82	47	62	1.44
Tamiami Trail Ranger Station	--	--	--	--	1.97

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

Park Warden Winte made a survey on his days off to determine to what extent lumbering operations had denuded virgin cypress stands in Collier County along the Loop Road. Three virgin tracts were examined.

He reported: "Familiar with the natural beauty of the open cypress woods along ponds and water flow-ways before it had been logged, it was hard to believe that tree limbs, uprooted young growth, and torn earth was all that remained of these fine stands of timber. A check of long bridge and sweetwater cypress stands lumbered some years before along Loop Road in Monroe County told a story of recovery. Here medium and medium-large trees are to be noted along waterways and ponds; and the scars of lumbering are fast becoming obliterated."

It is to be noted that the recently-logged areas are outside the proposed extension area for the park, the older lumbered areas are inside.

INSPECTIONS:

Assistant Director Ronald Lee spent several days in the park. He was especially interested in the research and interpretive programs and plans. Mr. Lee had not been to the park for several years and did some "catching up" on developments, current plans, and proposals for boundary extensions.

Chief Biologist Victor H. Cahalane was here with Mr. Lee. He was interested in wildlife problems that are developing in the area and programs for research.

Regional Director Elbert Cox came in the latter part of the month. He described his trip as his "A.B.C." one as regional director. He was especially interested in concession problems, boundary extension proposals, master planning, and personnel. Considerable construction had taken place since his last trip that he wished to inspect.

Chief of Planning and Construction Thomas Vint, Assistant Regional Director Edward Zimmer, and Regional Landscape Architect V. R. Ludgate came as a party to work on master planning and programming of construction.

Communications Engineer Rowley spent several weeks in the area working on communications plans.

Regional Engineer William O'Neil worked with Mr. Rowley and went over the engineering program.

STATUS OF LANDS:

Miles and Barron Collier deeded to the State of Florida the remaining tracts of lands they owned in the Ten Thousand Islands region to be held in escrow by the Internal Improvement Board until legislative authority permits inclusion in the park. It is to be noted that the west line of the deeded lands follows a stairstep of sections in the vicinity of West Pass instead of a blocking in of the entire township. It is possible that the blocking in may be done at a later date. The deed was dated March 21, 1952.

COMPLAINTS:

Small boat operators McGilvary, Patton, and Mills complained that they do not like the way Concessioner Cole is taking over and handling the job. This subject was discussed with Regional Director Cox and an investigation will be made of the situation to determine if it is correctable or action will be necessary.

MAINTENANCE:

Park personnel under District Ranger Barnes moved two live oak trees to the parking area at Royal Palm Ranger Station. They had previously planted four mahoganies which are beginning to leaf out.

The residence at Tamiami Ranger Station was given a coat of paint and other work was done in the structure in an effort to get it in shape for occupancy.

CONSTRUCTION:

Power and Light System - Paradise Key - PCP-U-14. The generator was received and installed except for the underground fuel storage tank.

Stabalization of Ingraham Highway, PCP-R-31 and Temporary Connection, Ingraham Highway PCP-R-5-1. Rock continued to be obtained from the rock pit and hauled to the site where it was spread. The job should be complete in April bringing a rock surface road all the way to Flamingo.

CONCESSIONS:

National Parks Concessions, Inc. served 2,646 meals at Coot Bay as against 1,966 last year for the same month. Gross income for the season is up 46.2 per cent.

Boats for sightseeing purposes ran out of Coot Bay three times daily all month. Concessioner Fletcher estimated that 80 per cent of all visitors to Coot Bay (not including fishermen) took the trip. Improvement was noted in guide service on the craft and visitors generally reacted favorably to the trips. However, Mr. Fletcher was not getting enough visitors to carry the concession yet.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

The Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the Central and Southern Flood Control District (State body) began construction of L-31, the levee that will run north and south one mile west of Krome Road then angle in a southwesterly direction to the vicinity of Grossman Hammock. Twelve miles of construction is in the project. Bulldozers began scarifying the ground and drag lines were moving in. The park is getting a fine fire break which should be completed (bulldozing) by the end of April.

This will complete the line of levees that are being constructed as top priority along the eastern edge of the Everglades - L-8, L-40, L-36, L-35, L-37, L-33, L-30, and the top twelve miles of L-31. All of these are completed or construction contracts are complete. A portion of L-40, the lower part of L-30 (just north of Tamiami Trail) and, as mentioned, L-31 are still unfinished.

The line of levees starts at Lake Okeechobee at the northern Palm Beach county line, proceeds south and eastward following the edge of the Everglades to the location of L-31 as described. The objective is to contain the flood waters in the Glades and prevent them from spilling eastward to inundate Gold Coast cities.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE:

Chief Ranger George Fry gave talks to two groups of students at Miami Edison High School on "Forestry as a Career". He also spoke at a meeting of Miami Cub Pack #60 on "Fire Prevention". Another talk was given by him to Redlands District School assembly on the park.

A total of 12,457 interpretive contacts were made by Park Naturalist Dilley and Seasonal Ranger-Naturalist Beal. This was a good showing indicative of the special efforts being made to reach as many visitors as possible this year. Unrecorded were the many interpretive contacts made by members of the Protection Division. It should be noted that the well qualified permanent and seasonal rangers of this park are actively engaged in interpretive work.

Park Naturalist Dilley attended the annual meeting of the Florida Audubon Society at Winter Park and gave a talk on this park there.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

The vast show of birdlife on the Tamiami Trail diminished rapidly after mid-month, but there was a good show of wading birds at Seven Mile Tower, of white pelicans, shore birds, and skimmers at Alligator Bight, and of white pelicans, wading birds, and shore birds at Snake Bight, all month. Visitors patronizing the concessioner sight-seeing boats had the pleasure of seeing great rafts of coots and ducks which stayed on Coot Bay all month.

A report "Status of the crocodile in the Everglades National Park, with life history notes" contemplated for the herpetology journal Copeia, has been prepared by biologist Moore.

Local zoo escapees contributed surprises in the Tamiami Trail District this month. A black-bellied tree duck (West Indian) had park warden Winte confused, and a jabirau stork from South America turned up among the wood ibis at Seven Mile Tower to make the tower man question his own sanity. Not to be outdone Florida Bay produced an exotic feline (eyra or jaguaroundi?) to startle acting district ranger Bogart on a wild, lonely beach.

Traffic on Ingraham Highway took heavy toll of alligators this month, four known cases having been reported, all between 3 and $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet long.

VISITORS:

Senator George Smathers and two sons
Mr. and Mrs. Newton B. Drury, former Director of National Park Service
Mr. William Voigt, Jr., Executive Director of the Isaac Walton League
Mr. and Mrs. Karl Fredrick, American Rifle Association and many others
Mr. John Baker, President of the National Audubon Society
Mr. Robert Beatty, Editor of Outdoor America
Mr. and Mrs. Olaus J. Murie of the Wilderness Society
Mr. Carl Biemiller and family of Holiday Magazine (Associate Editor)
Mr. Richard Westwood, President of American Nature Association
Mr. Harry Radcliffe, Vice President of American Nature Association
Mr. I. N. Rasmussen, Utah Cooperative Wildlife Unit
Mr. Hoys Lloyd, Former Chief Migratory Bird Officer of Canada
Mr. Harry Ruhl, Director of Michigan Game Commission
Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, President of the American Wildlife Institute
Mr. Earl Fry, Assistant Director, Florida Fresh Water Fish and Game Commission
Dr. Fred F. Barkalow, Director of Wildlife Management, University of North Carolina
Dr. Elizabeth Beard, Professor of Wildlife Management, University of Michigan
Dr. Charles Dambach, Chief, Wildlife Division, Columbus, Ohio
Dr. William Elder, Professor of Wildlife Management, University of Missouri
Mrs. D. E. Byerrum, Conservation Chairman, General Federation of Womens Clubs
Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., of National Audubon Society

Mr. Freeman Tilden, author of the recent book on National Parks
Mr. Stuart Walley and party from Department of Agriculture, Ottawa
Mr. Richard Pough, American Museum of Natural History
Mr. and Mrs. William Anderson, photographers for Encyclopedia Brittanica
Mr. and Mrs. Murl Duesing, photographers for Milwaukee Museum and Disney Studios
Mr. Seth Gordon, former Game Commissioner of Pennsylvania
Mr. Carl Bucheister, Vice President, National Audubon Society, New York

RANGER SERVICE:

Chief Ranger George Fry and District Ranger Ralph Maxwell attended the Region One Chief Rangers' Conference at Shenandoah National Park. Mr. Fry led the discussion on "Safety".

Ranger patrol work continued with 225 miles by airboat 1,121 miles by boat, and 8,535 miles by car. All seasonal rangers remained on duty throughout the month.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Reports came in of some sneak drag seining for trout, but they were not verified. District Ranger Maxwell and Acting District Ranger Bogart teamed up in the airboat for Florida Bay patrol work. They apprehended Roy Lucas and Turf Carraway with nets in the waters of Lake Monroe which is closed to all nets and seines. The violators were brought before U. S. Commissioner Hodson (his first case) and fined $25 each. Seven hundred odd pounds of fish were sold and proceeds turned over to the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

FIRE CONTROL:

March ended without a reported fire!

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

file

Summary of the April 1952 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Summary of the April 1952 Monthly Narrative Report
(Continued)

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
April, 1952

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

April was a cool and beautiful month in southern Florida with moderate rainfall.

Readings from stations were:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	89	82.1	43	56.3	2.09"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	85	78.3	50	59.4	1.44"
Tamiami Trail Ranger Sta.	-	-	-	-	1.17"

April was the fourth straight month this year with high winds. Old timers along the Keys say there has been more wind and rough water this winter than they can remember before. Sports fishermen and commercial fishermen have thus given the fisheries of Florida Bay a short reprieve.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

Park Biologist Joseph C. Moore was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Society of Mammalogists at their annual meeting at Charleston, S.C.

Chief Ranger Fry attended a luncheon of the Dade County Advisory Committee on Agricultural Education, of which he is a member.

INSPECTIONS:

Regional Director Cox, Assistant Regional Director Zimmer, Regional Landscape Architect Ludgate, and Chief of Planning Vint remained over into April. Report was made on their trip last month.

STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS:

Government appraisers, attorneys, and engineers, and soil scientists made careful field inspections of lands to be handled in federal court next month. Large acreages with the farming question bound to arise, make this court action one of the most hazardous so far. Principal lands are Paradise Prairie, Hall-Belcher, Dorothy Dewhurst Parker, and Annat Estate.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS:

Plans were furnished for a self-guiding tour of Ingraham Highway. The plans with other data were being prepared for submission to the Region in May.

The park staff reviewed revised plans for headquarters maintenance area and submitted suggestions on same to the Region. As a result of field conferences, the site was changed from Parachute Key to Pine Island.

On contract, Angus Engineering firm of Jacksonville made a topographical survey of lands roughly in Township 59 S., Ranges 35 and 36 E., for court trials on same. This careful survey revealed that lands are very low in the area (about one foot above sea level at Concrete Bridge (S. 14, T. 59, R. 35). Data obtained will be of later use in park road planning.

MAINTENANCE:

Specifications were prepared and bid invitations issued for repairs to Flamingo Ranger Station (old Coleman Erwin house) and Tamiami Ranger Station (old Zady service station) which will be activated as temporary stations when the work is finished. Flamingo Ranger Station is on Florida Bay in Cape Sable Ranger District on western edge of the former commercial fishing hamlet. Tamiami District Ranger Station is at intersection of Tamiami Trail and the Loop Road. The old bar and restaurant will be used as a bunk house for fire fighting crews. The residence will be for the park ranger.

CONSTRUCTION:

The only work that went on of consequence was stabilization of Ingraham Highway. All surface rock was placed on road and a "hard road" now exists to Flamingo.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

The long line of L-31 began to take shape. This levee along the eastern edge of Shark River Valley is outside the park, but may become its eventual boundary. Several of the twelve miles had been dug and thrown up for the levee by the end of April.

Wildlife officers of the state made two trips by plane to Grossman Hammock and Lostman Pines areas in an effort to apprehend deer poachers near the park.

NATURALIST SERVICE:

Interpretive contacts fell to 7,409 because seasonal personnel were terminated, although travel held up quite well.

A joint picnic of members of three Audubon Societies (Miami, Key West, and Palm Beach) was held in the park with a program developed by the park staff.

Conducted walks were arranged for five school groups.

Talks by staff members included:

By Superintendent Beard at the Annual banquet of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (1,500).

By Naturalist Dilley, at Gulf Stream Council of Boy Scouts (275).

By Ranger-Naturalist Beal, at Boy Scouts of Opa Locka (110).

By Chief Ranger Fry, at Cub Pack 325, Homestead.

During the 1950-51 winter season, 15,863 interpretive contacts were made. This year (1951-52) it was 30,906 which represents an increase of 195%.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

The Glades were exceedingly dry and devoid of birdlife. The only concentrations of note were at Snake Bight, Alligator Bight, and Seven Mile Road. Migratory waterfowl and coots were practically all gone by month's end.

About mid-month, American and snowy egrets re-populated the earlier deserted Cuthbert Rookery. East River and Dildo Rookeries remained inoperative.

The manuscript "Status of the Crocodile in the Everglades National Park, with Natural History Notes" by Biologist Moore was submitted to Copeia for publication.

C. Tyler Hotchkiss, Fire Control Aid, added a rough-legged hawk to the park's check list.

Biologist Moore found round-tailed muskrats (Neofiber) abundant at the head of mangrove coast rivers.

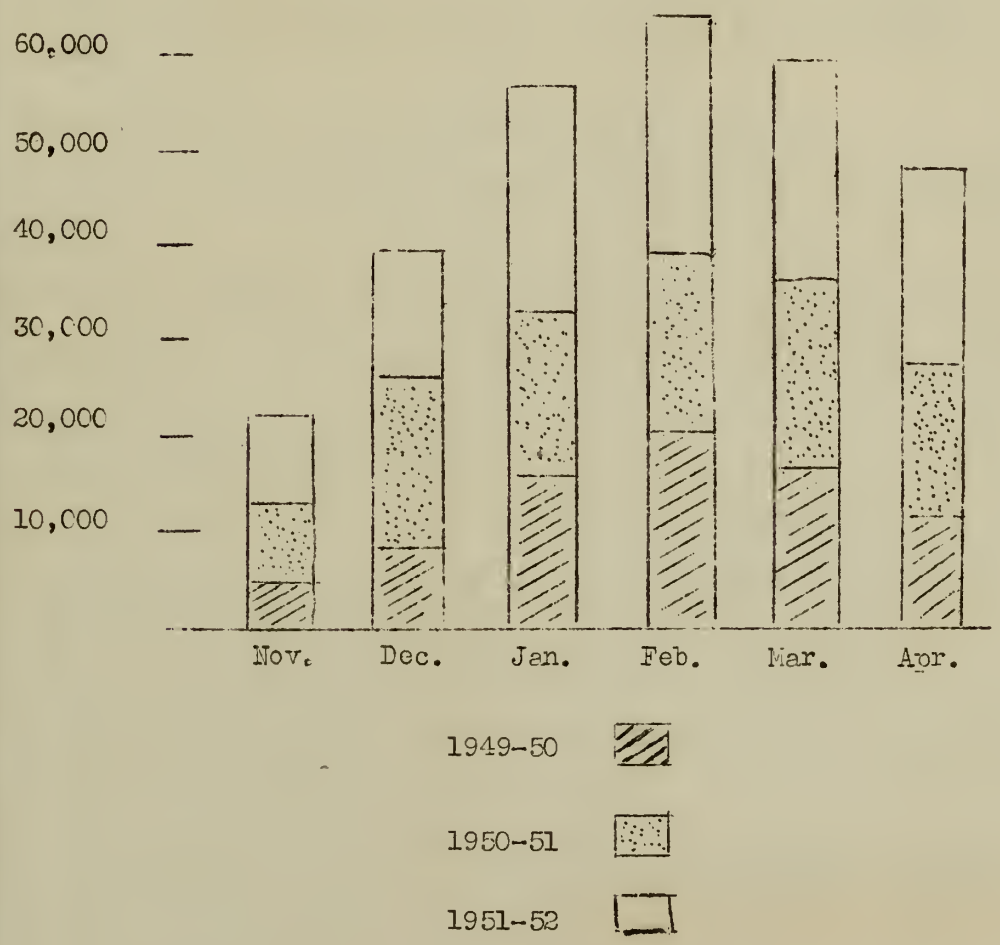
Saul Schefflin, University of Miami, recorded a worm-eating warbler at Paradise Key.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

It was once thought that November was a big month in the south Florida tourist season. By mid April, all the yankees were supposed to have gone home to look at their tulips and admire the flowering dogwood. If it was once so, it is no longer. April is a part of the season, more so than November. Travel records at the park reflect this as follows:

Winter Season Visitors

	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
1949-50	5,000	8,500	15,085	20,097	17,415	12,682	8,470
1950-51	8,838	16,686	18,143	19,177	19,120	16,450	13,562
1951-52	9,336	14,049	22,015	25,009	21,070	18,046	-
	23,174	39,235	55,243	64,283	57,605	47,178	



Graph Showing Relative Number of Visitors

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL (Continued):

It appears that April has about twice as many park visitors normally as November, with May holding up well, too. This is worth noting because concessioners in the park have been figuring on a November 15 - April 15 season, seasonal rangers are budgeted for only December 7 to April 1.

Of the 18,046 visitors, 9,245 reached Coot Bay in April. In March 12,383 reached Coot Bay out of 21,070.

VISITORS:

Mr. Freeman Tilden, now engaged in writing a companion volume to "The National Parks - What They Mean to You and Me", St. Augustine, Fla.

G.S. Walley (leader), Dr. O. Peck (specialist in microhymenoptera), Mr. R. Vockeroth (dipterist), Mr. J. McGillis (technician). All men employed by the Taxonomic Unit, Division of Entomology, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Canada.

Mr. J.A. Weber, Retired Mallacologist, Miami, Fla.

Dr. H.A. Pilsbry, Emeritus Curator of Mullusks, National Museum, Washington, D.C.

Dr. W.B. McDougall, Park Naturalist, Natchez Trace Parkway.

Mr. Edwin C. Childs, Audit Division, Director's Office, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Hal H. Harrison, of Tarentum, Pennsylvania, who is working on a new film, "Atlantic Adventures".

Al Schwartz, Castillo De San Marcos National Monument, St. Augustine, Fla.

Mr. and Mrs. Vexil Weisgerber. Mr. Weisgerber is Curator of the Betsy Ross House, Philadelphia, Pa.

Mr. William H. Lane, Standard Pyroxoloid Corp., Leominster, Mass.

Mr. Roy Harvey, of the Comptroller General's Office, Washington, D.C.

RANGER SERVICE:

Protection personnel patrolled 6,189 miles by car, 1,741 miles by boat, and 268 miles by airboat in April.

Rangers assisted in getting the federal jury to Lake Monroe and Seven Palms Lake for inspection of lands.

FIRE CONTROL:

There were six reported fires in April. The largest was off the end of Lucille Drive with 1,104 acres burned, 160 of which were in the park. A strange little fire broke out among the mangroves along the edge of Tarpon Creek between Coot Bay and Whitewater Bay.

Fire hazard was high, but not critical. A little rain helped for a time.

Three Fire Control Aids left for other jobs. One was replaced by a Seasonal Ranger whose time had expired. The others were replaced by local residents.

ACCIDENTS:

The Royal Palm Ice Company truck went into Ingraham Canal near Nine Mile Bend. No one was injured, but alligators were treated to a new experience more appropriate to polar bears.

Mrs. L.S. Vann, of Homestead, lost control of her car and turned over below Paradise Key; she received lacerations requiring medical attention.

CONCESSIONS:

Charterboats at Coot Bay were checked twice by Protection Division personnel for conformance to Coast Guard standards.

Fletcher cruise boats continued all month to operate sightseeing service. Customer counts were sporatic.

National Parks Concessions, Inc. made plans to decrease activities for the summer. Instead of closing the snack bar and gas station, they will keep it open on a limited scale this year. Manager Lund closed full operations on April 15.

Audubon Wildlife Tours ended for the season in the park on April 29. Later on, tours will be started at the Town of Everglades when they will go to Duck Rock.

COMMERCIAL FISHING:

The State closed season on crawfish and stone crabs was on all month. With it came the usual grunts, roars, and fencing tactics as one group or another said the laws were being violated or they were not. With crawfish trapping permitted "for bait only" and little definition on trap sizes outside the park, all sorts of evasions and misunderstandings were in vogue. A person could say he was catching crawfish for bait, or that they just happened into his blue crab trap (and he was going to throw them back). During this season, Miami restaurants still sell delicious stone crab and crawfish dinners labelled "from Haiti" or somewhere.

PERSONNEL:

Mr. Paul Heaton was transferred from Morristown National Historical Park to fill the Chief Clerk vacancy at Everglades created when James H. Smith was killed in an auto accident. Mr. Heaton had formerly been with the Service at St. Augustine, Florida, before going to Morristown. His wife is a native Floridian from Melbourne.

Park Warden Erwin Winte was promoted to the position of Park Ranger, Tamiami District.

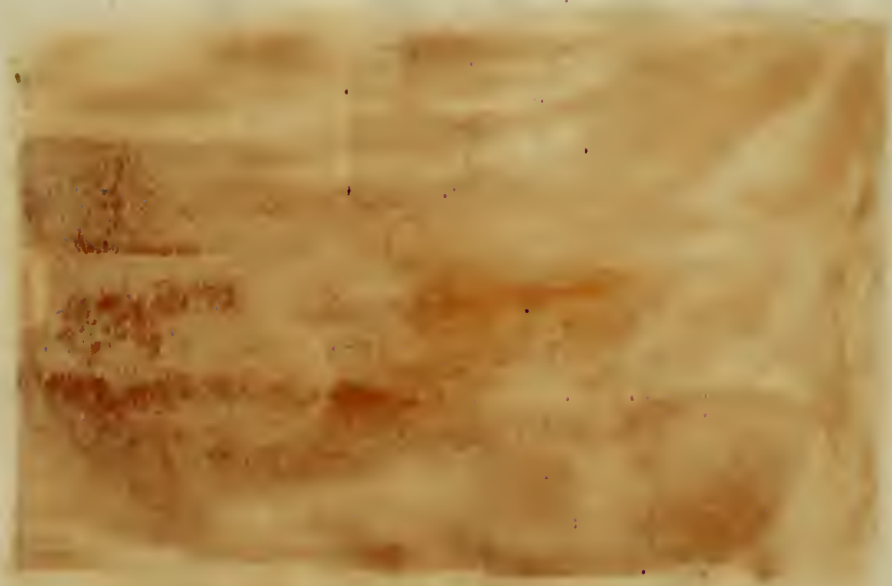
Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

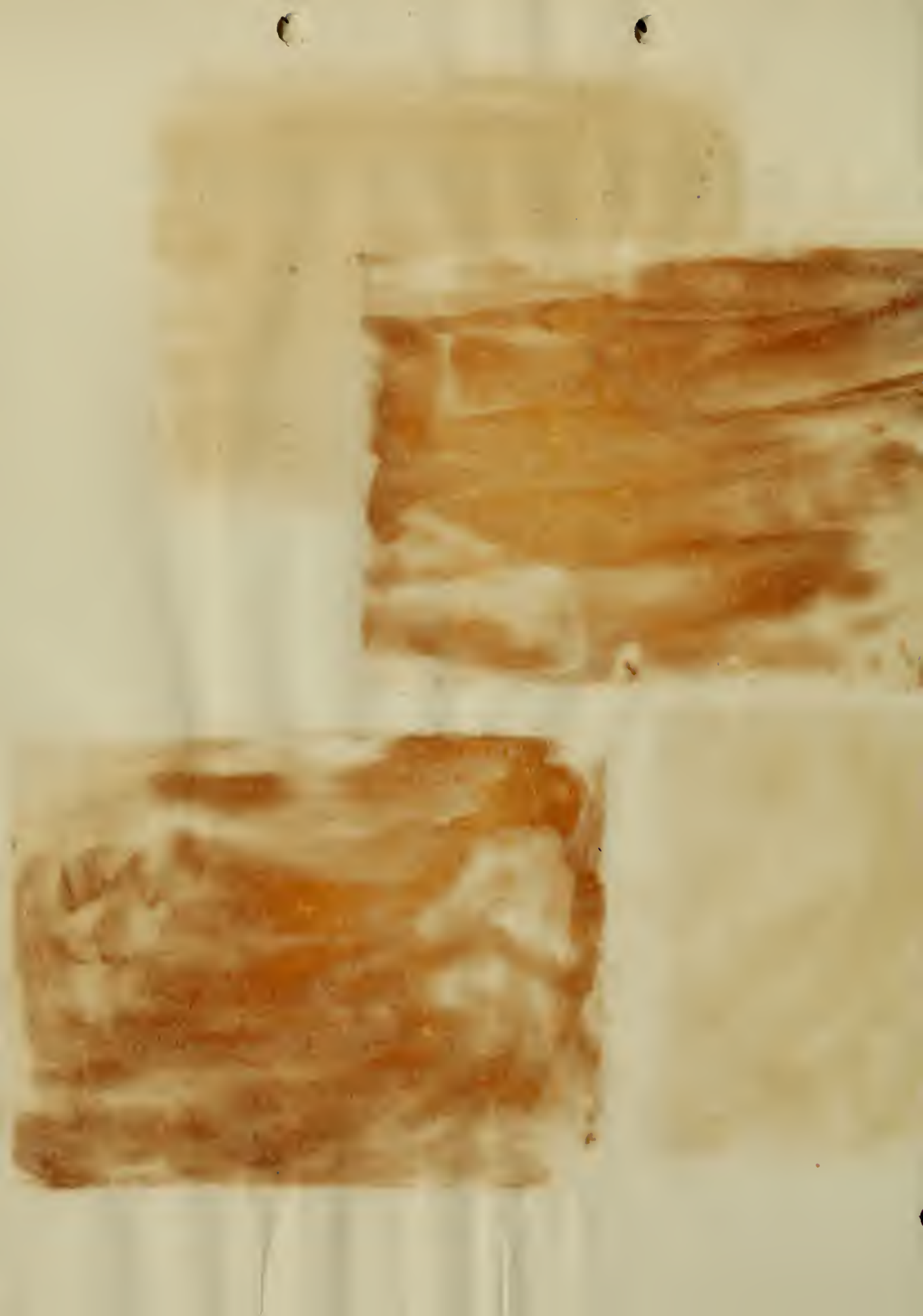
Government Land Appraisers, Surveyors, and Attorneys on inspection of Paradise Prairie lands in preparation for Federal Court trials. Glades buggy at right (airplane tires) Service-owned, others rented.

A sign of progress

Everglades staff - winter of 1951-52



Anhinga Trail with its wildlife continued to draw many people in April. The small parking turnout of ten overflowed.



Report 1ml

Summary of the May 1952 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Everglades National Park

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
May, 1952

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

It looked good for an early end to the fire season the last week of May, but experience has taught us not to be over optimistic. Typical rainy season storms drenched limited areas of the park. The cool, spring weather ended and summer heat began, as yet without serious insect annoyance.

Readings from Stations follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	92	87.7	54	63.8	3.13"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	91	86.7	55	66.4	3.31"
40-Mile Bend	-	-	-	-	7.64"

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

The Chief Ranger attended a luncheon of the Dade County Advisory Committee for Vocational Agriculture on which he is a member.

Superintendent Beard was elected president of the Tropical Audubon Society in Miami. This society now has about 500 members, conducts lecture-pictures for some 20,000 children sessions as well as adult groups, sponsors a nature course for teachers at the University of Miami, and is represented on the Dade County Conservation Council.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS:

Twelve miles of the eastern boundary were posted during May by protection personnel in a program to have the entire land boundary of the park marked by next hunting season. Except for some airboat work later, it should be finished in June.

COMPLAINTS:

Complaints at Royal Palm Ranger Station revolved around (1) not enough trails, (2) no developed camp grounds, and (3) insufficient space for group camping.

MAINTENANCE:

Work was begun under contract on repairs of structures purchased through the land acquisition program to be used as Flamingo Ranger Station and Tamiami Ranger Station. Both stations are expected to be ready in June.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

Corps of Engineers' surveyors ran level lines for three water guaging stations in the park during May. Coast and Geodetic Surveyors located old triangulation stations and established points for new stations south of 7-Mile Tower and near Gum Slough and near Lane River. Some station markers found dated back to 1852.

COOPERATING NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

Charles Brookfield, Tropical Representative of the National Audubon Society, spent about a week taking snags out of the canal between Bear Lake and Gator Lake preparatory to cabin cruiser tours there next December.

NATURALIST SERVICE:

Chief Ranger Fry showed national parks slides to the Brownie Troop of Homestead.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

Dr. Ginsberg, of the University of Miami, got mangrove peat samples at the Shark and Joe Rivers to test for carbon 14 content. This should determine what time the respective strata were deposited.

A pair of purple gallinules nested about five feet from the railing at Anhinga Trail, posed unconcerned for photographers and hatched two young.

Duck Rock became its annual spectacle (outside present park). Catfish and Dildo Keys in Florida Bay were functioning rookeries off Flamingo.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION(Continued):

Park Ranger Bogart reported a four foot crocodile twice at McCormick Creek.

Park Ranger Winte reported: "Older deer, last year's yearlings and this year's fauns, have become accustomed to traffic along the road (7-Mile Road) and are losing their fear of man. This is especially to be noted of yearlings. . .".

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

Travel began to fall off in May although the month's total was 12,370. Sightseeing busses held their business well though. If records this year are indicative, "the season" lasts into early May.

RANGER SERVICE:

Protection personnel, released from pressures of the public and accompanying maintenance work, logged more patrol mileage than any other month to date. They went 2,295 miles by boat, 220 miles by air-boat, 54 miles by glades buggy, and 6,828 miles by car.

FIRE CONTROL:

The lowboy trailer was rebuilt giving the park a much more useable piece of equipment.

Fire hazard was high most of the month, but was alleviated by local rains to a degree the last week. Land clearing operations along the east boundary kept towers busy or cross checking.

One small fire was extinguished near Concrete Bridge. Three lightning fires started, but all were put out by rains.

COMMERCIAL AND SPORTS FISHING:

Boat rentals at Flamingo were three times higher than last year. Fishing was good in the Florida Bay area with good catches of trout and redfish coming in. At Coot Bay, fishing was spotty. Skiff rentals fell off and charterboat use dropped.

Ranger Bogart reported, "Everything is going all right with the commercial fishing. The trout fishermen are doing fine." Crossland Fishing Company is reported pulling out of Tavernier with Pedro Braxton taking over. Another report indicates Combs Fish Company is also pulling out with Manual Arsua taking over. Combs and Crossland were the two largest companies operating in Florida Bay during the drag seine period before Service regulations outlawed the geer.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

Summary of the June 1952 Monthly Narrative Report For EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
June, 1952

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Generally throughout the Everglades rainfall was deficient. In Miami it was the driest June on record. Heat caused excessive evaporation. In the park, the annual parade of blue-gray giants (thunderheads) caused varying rainfall on an extremely local scale. Rainfall in the park at Royal Palm Station was less than last June (when bad fires occurred), at Coot Bay it was greater. It was a dry, hot, insect filled month with calm seas.

Readings from stations follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	96	91	60	63	2.75
Coot Bay Ranger Station	94	90	65	71.4	7.67
Tamiami Ranger Station	-	-	-	-	2.48

INSPECTIONS:

Assistant Director Allen and Assistant Regional Director Tobin met the full blast of mosquitoes at Flamingo - and survived. Mr. Allen was interested in plans for the coming year, especially in relation to Flamingo. He conferred with H.S. Sanborn, of National Park Concessions Inc., who was here, and Ben Cole, skiff concessioner. Mr. Allen emphasized that during this period of park development, concessioners will be asked to stick to their "lines": National Park Concessions, Inc. - food, gas, sundries; Fletcher - cruise boats (sightseeing); Cole - skiffs; and individuals with charter boats and bait.

It was Mr. Tobin's first visit to the park and his introduction on the ground to the various problems he will have to handle at the regional office.

Forester B.T. Campbell, of the Regional Office, spent several days in the park checking fire control operations and plans for next fiscal year.

MAINTENANCE:

All installations were completed at Tamiami Ranger Station, fill put in around quarters, gas pump and tank set, and the station is now an operating unit.

Five trees were planted in the Pine Island residential area: one large cocopalm and four Ficus. Muck and sand fill was used to top-dress lawns. Grass was sprigged in at the two "temporary" quarters' yards.

Shortage of funds and personnel ceilings prevented road maintenance. As a result, the park road from Paradise Key to West Lake deteriorated to its worst condition since the end of World War II.

The badly rotted cabin was removed from cruiser 11-200 and the craft moved to headquarters where it can be stored during hurricanes.

Work was started on enlarging a screen porch at Lostmans River Patrol Station.

Piling was sunk for holding a radio tower at Flamingo. The U.S. Navy is cooperating in erection of the tower.

CONCESSIONS:

Brown's Camp, at Flamingo, did land office business all month on skiffs, logging some of the best days ever, regardless of season.

Mr. Cooper, of National Park Concessions, Inc., at Coot Bay was authorized to sell sandwiches because of numerous complaints on lack of food service during the summer.

Charterboat business at Coot Bay fell off and several boatmen moved off to do commercial fishing for the summer months.

NATURALIST SERVICE:

A total of 1,935 interpretive contacts were made during June. No organized programs were conducted although an attempt was made by park rangers and the park naturalist to keep the information desk open at Royal Palm.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

Summer rookeries and roosts were in session. We are either getting better reports or protection is paying off in Florida Bay. Catfish Key, just off Flamingo, had about 2,000 birds, mostly white ibis. Dildo Key, farther to the south had around 35 eastern brown pelican nests, about 200 American egrets present, and perhaps 2,000 Florida cormorants. Rangers call it our "cormorant factory".

The roost at Whitewash Key (Oyster Bay) built up to almost 500 birds with white ibis and snowy egrets predominating.

White ibis began nesting at East River Rookery after that "winter rookery" had failed two years in a row.

Publication of a report on the toxic tree manchineel was of park interest as most of the field work was done in the park: (W.M. Lauter, et al, "Investigation of Toxic Principles of Hippomane mancinella, L."; Jour. Amer. Pharmaceutical Asso. Sci. edition Vol. XLI, No. 4). The author said that historical data appear to indicate (1) Eating of fruit may cause death, (2) Contact with sap of the tree or leaves appears to cause severe inflammation of the skin and temporary blindness.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

Travel counts were slightly ahead of last year with a 9,807 total. The total 1952 fiscal year count was 155,705, compared with 139,115 in 1951 f.y., 111,445 in 1950 f.y., and 70,836 for 1950 f.y.

It is noteworthy that travel by packaged bus trip passengers was very good. This type of travel is receiving unusual play during summer months.

VISITORS:

Edward B. Dodd, cartoonist, creator of "Mark Trail", Atlanta, Ga.
Lou Klewer, Outdoor Editor, Toledo Blade, Director of Toledo Zoo, Toledo, Ohio
John Hunter, Jr., Outdoor Photographer, Director of Phillips Fly and Tackle Co., Hollidaysburg, Pa.
Dr. Arthur Twomey, Director of Education, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Wayne Hanley, Outdoor Writer, Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.
Mr. John D. Pennekamp, Associate Editor, The Miami Herald, Miami, Fla.
Mr. W.M. Preston, Miami, Fla.
Mr. August Burghard, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
Archie F. Wilson, and group, from the Chicago Natural History Association, Chicago, Ill.
R.L. Anderson, Climatological Section Director, U.S. Weather Bureau, Jacksonville, Fla.
Mr. Ole Vinding, Point 4 man from Denmark - Journalist.

RANGER SERVICE:

With completion of maintenance work on stations, the park now has: Royal Palm District Ranger Station, Cape Sable District Ranger Station (Coot Bay), Flamingo Ranger Station, Tamiami District Ranger Station, and Lostmans River Patrol Station (occupied most of the time). This gives bases for protection personnel everywhere in the park except the Florida Bay District where a dock is rented. Adequate bases, although all but one are temporary, is a big step ahead for this area.

Protection Division patrol was 1760 miles by boat, 200 miles by airboat, and 5976 by car during June.

FORESTRY AND FIRE CONTROL:

Five statistical fires (4 lightning strikes and 1 to attract game) occurred during June burning a total of 3,038 acres in the park. This was not bad at all and, all things being equal, cannot ever be reduced much further. Last year in June, 53,954 acres burned, 42,428 of which were in the park.

It is impossible to compare June 1951 with June 1952, but both were unusually dry months with lightning fires. In 1951, more lightning strikes occurred. In 1952, more rains followed the strikes. Nevertheless, much credit goes to protection personnel for increased efficiency in detection, organization, and suppression work. We know now that whereas March used to be our worst month (man caused fires), June looms as a bad one since man caused fires have almost been eliminated.

A fiscal year fire critique was held on June 27, attended by all Protection Division personnel.

All seasonal fire control aids were terminated on June 28. Mobile fire equipment was moved to Pine Island for the summer where it will be worked over and painted.

ACCIDENTS:

Three accidents occurred during June. All could be directly or indirectly attributed to the condition of the road. Twenty-seven passengers in a sightseeing bus went off into the ditch near Anhinga Trail when bus apparently tried to avoid holes in road or met a car doing same. One passenger was injured. A car drove too close to the edge of the road and soft shoulders "pulled" it into the canal after hitting a bump. The driver of a car took his eyes momentarily from the road. The shoulder was so narrow that before he could pull the car back he was in a ditch.

PERSONNEL:

Norton M. Bean entered on duty June 22, by transfer and promotion from Shenandoah National Park. Mr. Bean was appointed to the new position of District Ranger, Florida Bay District.

THREATS OF ADVERSE USE:

The Commonwealth Oil Company continued its attempts to get the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund (Governor and Cabinet) to request permission to lease, in accordance with P.L. 340 (81st Congress) lands conveyed to the United States by the State. The company now has a lease on 960 acres along Tamiami Trail in the park. They wish to extend it by lease of additional lands. The State went so far as to advertize for bidders provided the United States gives permission. Commonwealth was the only bidder. Part of the advertizement was as follows: ". . . only in the event the State of Florida receives due legal authority from the United States of America to lease said lands, which property now constitutes a portion of the Everglades National Park and is not presently owned by the State of Florida".

Noteworthy, was a former State resolution that "no extension or modification of said leases will be granted nor additional leases issued on said lands. . .this resolution shall be considered a binding agreement on the part of said Trustees and shall not be altered, amended, or rescinded by said Trustees without the mutual consent of the parties referred to herein."

The State deferred action until they could hear from Director Wirth in person, at Tallahassee, probably during early August.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

Attachments

An Editorial From the St. Petersburg Times

STOP THE RAID ON EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK!

One of Florida's proudest possessions is its great, beautiful and mysterious Everglades. There is nothing else like it in the United States. There are few, if any, similar areas in this continent where Nature is completely undefiled by man.

Because Floridians realized what a priceless treasure they have in the Everglades - and equally because they realized that here is one of the potentially greatest tourist attractions in the nation - our Legislature gladly turned over its $2,000,000 investment and 800,000 acres of land to Federal ownership for the creation of the Everglades National Park.

Now - when the park is just five years old, and just beginning to live up to its potentialities - the Everglades are faced with a perilous threat to existence as a natural wonderland.

This is due to the greed of speculative oil interests who are seeking to have changed the basic agreement between the State and Federal governments in their own selfish interests.

Should they succeed, the park may be doomed.

* * * * *

When Congress passed the act creating the Everglades National Park, it permitted the holders of mineral rights on land within the park area which had formerly been privately owned to drill for oil until 1958.

The Commonwealth Oil Company holds rights to 960 such acres. On the specious grounds that before it starts to drill it should hold additional land, Commonwealth has asked the State Improvement Commission to rewrite its agreement with Congress so that the company can explore for oil on 33,600 acres more. The Commission last week deferred action on the request.

Although it is but a small fraction of the total Everglades area, 33,600 acres is an enormous territory - more than 50 square miles. But that would only be a starter. Once the door is opened there would inevitably be a rush of speculators demanding equal treatment and that would be the end of the park.

* * * * *

Since the park was created, June 20, 1947, more than 500,000 persons have visited the Everglades. The number is increasing by tens of thousands each year. And as additional facilities are created to accommodate visitors and the fame of the park spreads, it is likely that a half-a-million persons each year will be attracted to the 'Glades.

Because of the location of the park, every section of the state is benefitted. Visitors have to traverse the length of the peninsula going down and coming back.

When the new Lower Bay Crossing is finished, there is little doubt that most visitors to Florida will make a "circle tour" - going down one coast and back the other. That means that St. Petersburg and Pinellas County have a direct interest in every visitor to the Everglades.

It is inconceivable that this state, with its principal source of revenue in tourism, with $50 million invested in its own still-embryo state park system, should agree to the despoliation of its most unique natural possession.

If commercial interests can crack the shell of the Everglades National Park, which of our state or county parks could be considered safe? How long would it be before exploiters would seek to take over Mullet Key as a real estate development, or Phillippe Park for some sort of wax works museum?

Even if there should be rich oil deposits in the Everglades, and the State should get some royalty on them, as a source of revenue benefitting the whole population this could not compare to the riches which our parks offer as a huge permanent tourist attraction.

* * * * *

This high-handed piece of attempted robbery of the State's resources on behalf of oil speculators must be stopped right here in Florida. The State Improvement Commission must stop it.

Congress has shown that it possesses no strength to resist the blandishments of the oil lobbyists. If the Improvement Commission should be so utterly blind as to yield, the same pressure groups that put across the tidelands oil grab could be counted to complete the rape of the Everglades.

The Improvement Commission has shown itself to be far-sighted and visionary in the preservation and development of Florida's natural assets for the benefit of the whole state. We are confident that it will not be less wise in slamming the door firmly on those who would turn the Everglades into a reeking oil field.

OIL DEAL THREATENS EVERGLADES PARK

NATIONAL PARK OFFICIALS OPPOSE STATE'S PROPOSAL TO LEASE LAND TO OIL CO.

The Homestead
Leader-Enterprise
Founded in 1912

RIDAY, JUNE 20, 1952

A move that would spell doom for Everglades National Park took shape in Tallahassee this week. Park officials, however, were quick to point out that the state can't have its cake and eat it, too.

"Either we have a national park or we don't," said Park Superintendent Dan Beard, commenting on a meeting in Tallahassee Tuesday between Internal Improvement Fund trustees and officers of the Commonwealth Oil Co. The company is seeking a contract for lease of 34,000 acres of park lands for well-drilling purposes which would require approval of both state and federal authorities.

"Commonwealth now wants to lease lands which the state gave to the federal government for park use," Beard said.

The land was given with the usual reservation of royalty rights in the event income should ever accrue from the lands, but the state agreed at the time of transfer that no further leasing to private companies would be considered. Companies who already had leases in the park were allowed to continue according to existing agreements, but such agreements will expire in 1958.

Considerable pressure is being put upon state authorities to ask Congress for special legislation to reverse federal-state agreements and permit granting of a lease to Commonwealth, according to Beard. He added, "Half a million people have visited Everglades National Park since it was opened and many times that volume will be coming as we develop the park. I believe this is a better economic use of these lands than could be achieved by any commercial venture."

Conrad L. Wirth, National Park Service director, has told trustees of the Florida Internal Improvement Fund that he opposes the granting of any leases such as are proposed by Commonwealth. However, at Tuesday's meeting in Tallahassee, Atty. Gen. Richard Ervin was instructed to take the matter up with him further.

The Miami Herald

Thursday, June 19, 1952

Everglades Park s In Peril!

ON THE EVE of its fifth birthday, the verglades National Park stands in peril.

Speculative oil lease operators are try- g to upset, in their selfish interest, the sic agreement between the state and deral governments upon which the park as established.

As pap they are offering the state a lit- e money and glittering promises.

Should they succeed, the park may e doomed.

With it would go Florida's investment $2,000,000 cash and 800,000 acres of nd and water.

With it would go, too, the hopes of loridians for an ever-growing stream of sitors to the only subtropical wilder- ess in the national park system.

More than half a million persons have visited the park since it was creat- ed June 20, 1947. The number has been increasing by tens of thousands yearly.

The park's location at the tip of the eninsula means visitors traverse the hole length of the state twice—coming nd going—to see this natural wonder- and.

★ ★ ★

AN INNOCENT-SEEMING proposition s pending before the trustees of the In- ernal Improvement Fund in Tallahassee. hey wisely deferred action Tuesday.

Commonwealth Oil Company is seek- ng an oil lease on 33,600 acres of the ark. This tract surrounds 960 acres on hich the company holds drilling rights.

Commonwealth's right to drill on the 960 acres is undisputed. It derives from an act of Congress setting 1958 as the deadline for oil exploration by those hold- mineral rights on land which had been privately-held inside the park's boun- daries.

They contend, hollowly, we think, that before they drill they should have control of additional lands, and so ask the state to rewrite its agreement with the federal government so Commonwealth can come into possession of the mineral rights to 33,600 acres more.

Should it succeed in this effort, the door would be open for extending the process to the other acreage. As long as the mineral rights aren't quieted, as they will be by 1958, the existence of the park is in peril.

★ ★ ★

IN DONATING the 800,000 state-owned acres, the trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund pledged "that no extension or modification of said leases will be granted nor additional leases issued on said land."

This was while speculative oil lease interests bitterly attempted to prevent creation of the park in the courts and in Congress.

The oil lease speculators also are exerting pressure in Washington to win approval there for abrogation of the state-federal agreement. Any action in line with the speculators' thinking by the state would support that pressure.

The State of Florida and the federal government marched side by side to establish the Everglades National Park.

We don't think the people of Florida or the nation want to see the infant park struck down at the age of five years, just as it is beginning to attain its full stature.

The people's elected representatives in Tallahassee and Washington should guard the park from those who would destroy it.

file

Summary of the July 1952 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Report 1m1

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
July, 1952

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Temperatures were fairly stable and typical for the summer in the park. All afternoons without rain were celebrated by office temperatures rising above 96°F. Several times the mercury stayed above 102°F. all afternoon where engineer Shomaker was working at his drafting table and naturalist Dilley at his desk. This at head height on the wall and regardless of whether the fan with a 30-inch blade, directly beneath it is operating.

Rainfall held good this month and for the three park stations averaged only an inch less than the 35-year average for July for Homestead. This is great. District ranger Maxwell reports three inches, in one day.

Readings from weather stations:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Roayl Palm Ranger Sta.	94	90.3	68	70.4	7.32
Coot Bay Ranger Sta.	93	89.	69	72.1	10.45
Florida Bay	-	91	-	72	5.46

NEW CONSTRUCTION:

The new room on Lostmans River Patrol Cabin was completed this month. The radio tower at Flamingo was put up this month. Manila grass (Zoyzia matrella) is being sprigged in lawn areas about new Paradise Key parking lot.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS:

Engineer Shomaker prepared:
NP-EVE 2088 Rentable office space.
NP-EVE 2089 Coastal areas - sheet 3.
NP-EVE 3360 Reconstruction of Anhinga Trail.

RANGER SERVICE:

2,461 miles patrolled by car, 1,218 by boat, 42 by airboat. Ranger Dave Bogart transferred from Tavernier to Flamingo. Park rangers reached crashed U. S. Marine Corps Hellcat fighter plane by airboat to culminate extensive search. Cause of crash unknown.

RANGER SERVICE (Cont.)

Apparently nose-dived at great speed. Remains of pilot very small, Capt. Richard E. Otto. Park warden M. Barnie received a new 25-horse outboard motor for patrol.

COMMERCIAL FISHING:

Islamorada Fishing Club persuaded Outdoor Writers of America meeting in Miami to adopt resolution calling for more rangers and more enforcement of fishing regulations, in Everglades National Park. Season opened on spiny lobster or "crawfish" on July 21st. Trout fishing improved in recent months, black and silver mullet fishing considered poorer than last year. We do not have figures.

VISITOR USE:

9,887 persons visited the park. This is 2,000 more than July of last year. District ranger Bean estimates 1,200 persons visited portions of Florida Bay from points along the keys.

NATURALIST SERVICE:

1,835 persons viewed exhibit at Royal Palm Contact Station. One boy scout troop was conducted on an interpretive walk, and about 90 persons contacted on Anhinga Trail.

NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION:

First official meeting of board designated park naturalist W. E. Dilley Editor and authorized him to publish for the association a popular quarterly magazine to be entiled Everglades Natural History. The first number is expected to be published January, 1953.

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS:

A report on annual censuses of the tern colony at Fort Jefferson National Monument for the last three years, prepared by park biologist Moore and park naturalist Dilley, was sent up through channels for review and permission to publish.

The twelve-week census of birdlife at Anhinga Trail and Paradise Key made last winter by seasonal ranger C. Tyler Hotchkiss was sent to the Auk for publication.

Work on the manuscript of the observations of the short-tailed hawk in the park by biologist Moore, L. A. Stimson and W. B. Robertson received very little time.

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS (Cont.)

Censuses of the Catfish Key and Whitewash Key roosts were continued.

FIRE PREVENTION:

200 miles of patrols; no fires.

Joseph C. Moore
Acting Superintendent

Summary of the August 1952 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
August, 1952

CONFERENCE WITH GOVERNOR'S CABINET ON EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK AND COMMONWEALTH OIL COMPANY PROPOSAL

The Acting Superintendent met Director Wirth and C.R. Vinten at Tallahassee to attend the cabinet meeting held by Governor Warren on the twelfth. The Director had been invited to represent the views of the National Park Service in regard to a request before the cabinet. This request was that in the event that the federal government ever reverses its policy against leasing park lands for oil exploitation, the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund (same persons as cabinet) give to the Commonwealth Oil Company now a contract permitting only that company to lease lands adjacent to leases now held by that company in the Everglades National Park. Mr. Wirth stated the National Park Service view firmly. Some representatives of the oil people deposed. Mr. Wirth rebutted and departed. The remainder of the oil interest representatives spoke. Vinten and Moore rebutted. Governor Warren closed the hearing and promised a decision a week later.

The decision of the Trustees is alleged to be long and involved. According to the Governor's wire to the National Park Service, it rejected the request of Commonwealth Oil Company. According to newsmen, it refused them the contract but promised to give it to them if they drilled within nine months and struck oil. No copy of the decision nor the promised minutes of the hearing have been received.

One Trustee of the Internal Improvement Fund suggested later by letter to the Director that the northernmost block of park land, ten by twelve miles, be ceded back to the State for oil exploration. The Director refused to do this. The Acting Superintendent prepared two press releases designed to refute the statements by oil people that this block of park land had no scenic or wildlife values.

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

August was characterized by mostly hot, humid days and nights. Rainfall was normal for the month with a satisfactory water table. Mosquitoes remained a constant nuisance but showed some tendency toward abatement.

Temperature in the headquarters' office was between 94° and 102°F. every showerless afternoon from 1:00 P.M. until quitting time. During July and August 159 hours of sick leave were taken by headquarters' personnel. Compared with 41 hours of sick leave taken during last January and February, this gives some inkling of the effect of working under a naked metal roof through the long tropical summer.

Readings from stations follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	93	90.8	69	70.6	11.67
Coot Bay Ranger Station	97	92.3	70	73	7.78
Tamiami Ranger Station	-	-	-	-	6.30
Tavernier Ranger Station	96	-	76	-	1.42

INSPECTIONS:

Mr. H. Raymond Gregg, Assistant Chief Naturalist of the National Park Service, visited the park to see the Royal Palm Exhibit and review the proposed self-guided tour. Biologist Moore and Naturalist Dilley took him to East Cape Canal by airboat to see the roseate spoonbills.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS:

Reconnoitering for a boundary posting project by airboat was done late this month by District Ranger Bean and Park Ranger Winte.

GENERAL PUBLICITY:

Acting Superintendent Moore prepared two press releases during the month, which were featured in the Homestead Leader-Enterprise, and used in part in The Miami Herald, The Miami Daily News, and the Redland District News.

Naturalist Dilley began writing a weekly column on the park wildlife and interpretive activities in the Homestead Leader-Enterprise at the suggestion of the newspaper. The column is boxed and entitled "This Week in the Everglades National Park, by Park Naturalist W.E. Dilley".

NEW CONSTRUCTION:

The final surface treatment of the entrance road and parking area at Paradise Key was completed this month. The landscaping of the area is approximately 95% complete. Trees were planted during the month and sprigging of Zoysia grass was completed.

EQUIPMENT:

The new airboat built of aluminum for use in the freshwater glades of the park was completed and put into service this month.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE:

The Royal Palm Exhibit was manned 25 days of the month with an attendance of 1,594 persons.

A two hour hike was conducted for 26 Explorer Scouts of Miami Shores. Two other Scout groups camped for several days in the park, one troop from Ocean County, N.J., and a troop from Key West, Fla.

A botany class from the University of Miami made a study trip into the park.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

Numerous bird migrants are arriving. Kingfishers, blue-grey gnatcatchers, swallows and others are present. The more spectacular congregations of birdlife are, as is usual for this month, in areas of the park which are accessible only by boat.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

A total of 6,650 visitors entered the park during the month of August. This was 800 more visitors than the park had during the same period last year.

RANGER SERVICE:

Protection Division patrol mileage was as follows:

by car	-	2,486 miles
by boat	-	1,879 "
by airboat	-	274 "
	total	4,639 miles patrolled.

The chief ranger, two park rangers and fire control aid were on annual leave during the month.

POLICE PROTECTION:

On Friday, August 30, Acting Chief Ranger Barnes and Ranger Winte, accompanied by State Wildlife Officer Meeks, made a trip into the Chatham River area by airboat. The purpose of the trip was to investigate a report that houses recently acquired by the Everglades National Park in the "Patton Land Purchase" had been burned.

Upon arrival at the sites of the houses on Chatham River the following evidence and facts were observed:

The Watson House had not been burned. Apparently no one has been living in it. The roofing paper was off the south side causing interior of building to be seriously damaged by rain.

The Braddock house was burned to the ground leaving remains of beds, gas stove, butane gas containers, and other evidence indicating building had been recently used.

The Smith house was burned to the ground leaving remains of bed springs, mattress, ice box, Coleman stove, gas stove, bottle gas tanks, gasoline safety can. Grass around building had been cut recently. All evidence indicated this building had been occupied right up to the time of the burning.

This report has been turned over to the F.B.I. who have begun preliminary investigation of the destruction.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION:

High water levels eliminated fire danger throughout the park although four known lightning fires occurred, these all burned from one to three hours until ground water moisture or rains put them out before nightfall.

COMMERCIAL FISHING:

Mullet fishing continued poor during the month. A total of eleven crews pulled out from Tavernier and Islamorado, to go further north because of this factor during August while others have turned to trout fishing to augment their income. Various explanations are given by the fishermen for this some of them being:

1. More fresh water is pouring into the bays from the mangrove swamps driving the mullet to seek saltier water.

COMMERCIAL FISHING (Continued):

2. Channels blocked by houseboats setting in them off Flamingo thus hampering the movement of the mullet.

3. Warm, quiet weather a deterrent to the movement of mullet. More wind is needed.

4. They are not here now but will probably return in large numbers in the near future.

PERSONNEL:

On August 20, Engineer Frank A. Shomaker and Mrs. Shomaker were blessed with the birth of a son, Frank Ashley Shomaker, Jr., at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. Mother, son, and Father are doing fine. Father will soon have a thousand-mile checkup (floor-walking).

Clerk-Typist Charlotte S. Glenn, after 3½ years with the Everglades National Park is resigning because of her health. Clerk-Typist Dorothy F. Baxter is resigning because of moving away. Both have submitted written resignations effective next month.

Joseph C. Moore,
Acting Superintendent

Summary of the September 1952 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
September, 1952

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

September lived up to its reputation of being one of the rainiest months in south Florida. Fortunately, it did not live up to its reputation of being also the worst month of the year for hurricanes. Days were hot and humid. Nights were uncomfortably warm. Rainfall was not quite up to what it should be, though.

Readings from Stations follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	93	90.3	68	70.8	5.38
Coot Bay Ranger Station	95	90.6	70	72.8	3.13
Tamiami Ranger Station	-	-	-	-	7.45
Tavernier	92	89.7	73	78.3	2.54

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS:

Level lines and base lines are being run to the Pine Island Utility Area site for preliminary grading and staking.

CONSTRUCTION:

Clearance was received from the Director's Office for re-programming of funds in order to permit the development of facilities for a Self-Guided Tour along Ingraham Highway. Work began on this project during September and it is approximately 5% complete.

CONCESSIONERS:

James F. McGilvary re-opened for business at Manatee Creek during the early part of the month and is operating under the name of Monroe Fishing Camp with the assistance of P.R. Brooks and a Mr. Rossi of Miami. The equipment used by McGilvary was taken by the court in Monroe County on a judgement.

Contact was made with Mr. Ben Cole, small boat concessioner for the park, and plans were made to move McGilvary from the Manatee Creek Base as soon as possible.

Operation of the Coot Bay Snack Bar continued but business was poor.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE:

Park Naturalist Dilley spent most of the month manning the Royal Palm Ranger Station which was attended by a total of 1,087 people.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

The Whitewash Key roost at the mouth of the Shark River began to wane during September for all birds except the white ibis. At Catfish Key, in Florida Bay, the white ibis had diminished from 3,400 to 294 in 28 days. By the end of the month, Catfish Key was practically barren of bird life.

Park Ranger Winte reported a new roost of wading birds starting on one of the tree islands in the glades about one mile south of Tamiami Trail. It was interesting to note that the birds are feeding in the late afternoon in matted grass which has been laid down by airboats.

Roseate spoonbills were reported to have returned to Stake Key on September 22.

An American flamingo was reported as seen on two occasions in the Jimmy Channel area of Florida Bay.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

Travel into the park via Ingraham Highway for the month of September totalled 6,900.

District Ranger Bean of Florida Bay estimated a total of 1,300 persons entered the park from points along the Keys during the month. This figure was based on his personal observation and on skiff and charter boat rental figures obtained from 20 fishing camp operators open during September. The boat figure has not yet been used in the official travel counts for this park, but Mr. Bean is making studies which will enable us to include these figures at the beginning of the new type travel year on January 1, 1953.

VISITORS:

Dr. and Mrs. Victor Von Straelen of Brussels, Belgium. Dr. Von Straelen is President of the Institute of National Parks in the Belgian Congo.

Dr. and Mrs. Jean-Paul Harroy of Brussels, Belgium. Dr. Harroy is the former superintendent of Albert National Park in the Belgium Congo. He is now Secretary General of the Union Internationale pour la Protection de la Nature.

RANGER SERVICE:

With high water conditions throughout the glades, airboat traffic outside the park stepped up. This was especially noticeable in the Alligator Bay vicinity with an average of 16 airboats working the country on weekends fishing and commercial frog hunting. This activity near the park boundary necessitated stepping up airboat patrols from the Tamiami Ranger District. A total of 2,096 miles were patrolled by boat, 639 miles by airboat, and 3,586 miles by car. Making a total patrol mileage of 6,321 miles.

Park Rangers posted a total of 12 miles of boundary from U.S. Highway No. 1 westward to lower Taylor Slough by airboat. Most of the park land boundary has now been posted including all strategic areas where hunters might come in during the summer or in the fall of the year.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Colonel H. Watson, of Everglades City, son of the notorious Watson of Chatham Bend, had an argument with Mr. Lenear, of Riggs Fish Co., located at Lostmans River. The argument ended with Colonel Watson pulling a shotgun and threatening Mr. Lenear and his woman. Arrangements were made with the U.S. Commissioner to bring Mr. Watson in for trial in October.

Henry Thompson, commercial fisherman, reported that Elmer Felder had stolen $60.00 worth of shrimp from him. Park Ranger Bogart took Mr. Thompson to the U.S. Commissioner's office and, after talking with the Commissioner, Thompson dropped the case.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation started their investigation of the burning of the two buildings at Chatham River. District Ranger Maxwell, Ranger Winte, and Warden Parker took the agent to Chatham Bend to look over the burned buildings and interviewed several people there and at Chockoloskee Island.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION:

Park Ranger Vincent J. Mrazek and Fire Control Aid William J. Gray, Jr., attended a Fire Control Training School conducted by the U.S. Forest Service at Ocala National Forest, for three days during the month.

Two small fires occurred during the month - these fires were started to attract game into the burned areas. Both fires were outside of the park.

COMMERCIAL FISHING:

Silver and black mullet returned in large numbers to Florida Bay around the middle of the month after having been reported as scarce during July and August.

The commercial fish business in the park was almost at a standstill during September. This was attributed to several causes. After the mullet came in there was a glut of those fish on the market. A great deal of pushing and shoving occurred between the big fish companies and the small fish companies with recriminations both ways. The larger fish

COMMERCIAL FISHING (Continued):

companies were accused of trying to keep the small operators out and the small operators were accused of trying to undersell everyone. It appeared that the market for fish, especially mullet, was very bad throughout Georgia and the sections of Florida where these fish are normally sold. Some unusually large catches in other sections of the state perhaps had an effect also.

"Barrelhead" House, his daughter "Jimmy", and Mitchell "Mutt" House, were back at Lake Ingraham fishing for shrimp and other things. "Barrelhead" formerly headed the House Fish Company, of Flamingo, which was purchased by the park. He then moved to Goodland Point in Collier County, with funds received from the Government, to purchase a new establishment. He lost this money and is now back commercial fishing in the park waters.

Daniel B. Beard
Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

Summary of the October 1952 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
October, 1952

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

The Park received a remarkable amount of rainfall in October. On the eastern edge of the park, at Royal Palm Station, the 8.86 inches was just a little above the average for the month in Homestead (32 years). On the northern edge, at 40-Mile Bend, 8.80 inches was three times the average for that station (7 years). In the west central park, at Cape Sable Ranger Station (Coot Bay) 10.77 inches is almost three times the October average for the former weather station at Flamingo (7 years). At the southern end of the park, Tavernier, the rainfall of 14.86 inches was almost exactly twice the average for that station (12 years). It seems conservative to estimate, therefore, that most of the park got twice the usual rainfall for this month. Up until October there was a calendar year rainfall deficiency but it is not yet known whether the unusual precipitation during October has brought it back to average.

A tropical storm started in the western Caribbean, between Costa Rica and Jamaica, on October 22. It developed into a small, but very fierce hurricane moving northeast. On the 24th of the month, it struck the Cuban coast and crossed that island. The following day it moved through the Florida Straits, going across Andros Island, in the Bahamas, and on in a northeasterly direction until it disappeared at sea. The park went on green and then yellow alert as the storm approached the Florida peninsula. It was possible to see the storm from the Pine Key Fire Tower but no winds or rains reached the park area.

Readings from Stations follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	90	84.7	58	69.1	8.66
Coot Bay Ranger Station	93	86	53	69.6	10.77
Tavernier	90	84.8	63	73.8	14.86
Tamiami Ranger Station	-	-	-	-	8.80

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

The Superintendent spent several days in the Director's Office and at the Regional Office, during October, He was especially interested in plans and strategy for enlarging the park, several personnel matters, and planning for the winter season.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS:

A preliminary survey was made of the Pine Island Utility Area and sent to the Regional Office. It was returned with request for additional data which is tentatively scheduled to be obtained on November 5.

CONSTRUCTION:

Emphasis was given to completing the self-guided tour. Rough fill was placed in several of the station turn-outs and trails constructed at stations No. 3 and 5. The entrance chickee was built and flag pole ordered for same.

During the month, the old Royal Palm Lodge, Building No. 101, at Paradise Key, was removed from the park by the purchaser. The structure was moved out of the park in two sections.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES:

State Highway crews cooperated by cutting brush in the vicinity of Tamiami Ranger Station.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:

Public contact was restricted to manning the Royal Palm exhibit desk for eleven days, with a total visitation there of 1,152 people.

The Park Naturalist gave an illustrated talk to the Redland District Newcomers Club at the Spice Park, and showed the park movie to a Boy Scout group at the Homestead Episcopal Church. The Superintendent gave an illustrated talk to the Tropical Audubon Society in Miami on the subject "Threats to National Parks".

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

District Ranger Bean reported that roseate spoonbills continued to return to Florida Bay in fair numbers. The largest concentration appeared to be at Stake Key where 25 were observed. At Cotton Key, outside of the park, 41 were observed by a local fishing guide. Approximately 75 Eastern brown pelicans were seen on Buchanan Keys early in October.

A new bird roost formed at a willow head south of Tamiami Ranger Station and approximately one mile from the location of the proposed Commonwealth Oil Company's oil well. This roost contained 1,170 little blue herons, 147 white ibis, 79 American egrets, and 24 Louisiana herons. This was a conservative estimate because Park Ranger Winte and Biologist Moore, who investigated the area, could only see about 80% of the birds. At Whitewash Key, the roosting population of birds had dropped to 515. This is a summer roost and had just about reached its season's end. Dildo Key Rookery had also about completed its summer session which began in May (cormorants, American egrets, and brown pelicans). Only non-flying young birds were a few cormorants.

Two new birds were added to the park list during October. On October 23, the Park Naturalist had an excellent view of a white-winged dove at Snake Bight. This bird has been occasionally reported on the Florida Keys but not previously in the park area. On October 30, Ranger Winte picked up a live, but weakened European starling at the Tamiami Ranger Station. The bird died the following day. This is not only the first record for the park but probably a considerable extension of the species' range southward.

A manuscript, the master's thesis of James H. Opsahl, 1952, University of Illinois, on small mammal densities in representative plant communities in the Everglades National Park, was reviewed by the Biologist and returned to the author with comments.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

October, with its rain and warm weather, was not a good travel month. A total of 6,356 people entered the park through the Royal Palm Ranger Station. The Coot Bay traffic counter was broken. District Ranger Bean estimated a total of 750 persons entered the park from the various points along the Keys by water. This is a 42.3% decrease from the September estimate. The decrease was due to rough weather conditions.

VISITORS:

H.S. Sanborn, General Manager, National Park Concessions, Inc., Mammoth Cave, Kentucky.
Elmer K. Nelson, Consulting Engineer, for the Committee of Interior and Insular Affairs, U.S. Senate.
William R. Saylor, Engineer, General Radio Company, Cambridge, Mass.
Charles Lee Barron, Staff Photographer, New Bureau, Florida State Advertising Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.
Miss Annette Richards, from the Readers' Digest, the "Litterbug" Lady.

RANGER SERVICE:

Activities of protection personnel were toward getting ready for the forthcoming tourist season. However, 5,027 miles were covered on patrols; of which 2,949 were by car, 529 were by airboat, and 1,549 were by boat.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

On October 3, a trial was held by the U.S. Commissioner for Colonel Hardy Watson, of Everglades, accused of violating Section 1.11, General Rules and Regulations, and Section 113(a)U.S.C.A. He was found guilty and fined $20.00 with thirty days suspended jail sentence and costs on first count, and a suspended jail sentence and costs on second count.

FIRE CONTROL:

Fire hazard was very low during October. Emphasis of activity was on getting all equipment in condition for the forthcoming winter season. Improvements were made in the fire dispatching office at headquarters and new maps were ordered for the towers. Fire school programs were completed, fire control plans revised, and, as mentioned, equipment readied for the fire season.

COMMERCIAL FISHING:

The local fish houses reported that October had been the slowest month in several years. A combination of glutted mullet market during the early part of the month, followed by a period of rough, stormy weather apparently caused this. Stone crab season opened on the first of October with fair catches reported when weather permitted.

PERSONNEL:

Mrs. Irene W. Banka and Mrs. Ella J. Boeson entered on duty in October, as Clerk-Typists. Mrs. Banka formerly worked with the Disbursing Branch of the War Department in Newark, N.J. Mrs. Boeson previously worked with the Veterans Administration in Buffalo, New York.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

Nov. 1952

Weather Conditions

The "rainy season" ended and November was relatively dry, but the park was better supplied with water than it had been at the beginning of any dry season since 1948. Prospects for a good wildlife season were fine.

Records from stations were:

	Max temp	Mean Max	Min Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm	86	82.3	45	61.7	0.63
Flat Bay	87	82.3	48	60.7	0.69 ~~0.69~~
Everglades	85	80.6	55	70.1	0.52
Miami	—	—	—	—	0.35

Ranger Service

Hunting season in areas contiguous to the park made special patrol work necessary. Emphasis was on protecting the deer herd of the northwestern sections of the park. Entrance stations at Tugaloo Highway was manned to ~~clo~~ clear hunters going through to "hole in daylight" lands partly unmanned by the park. By month's end, it appeared that very much better boundary protection was in force than ever before in the park's history. Rangers patrolled 25 miles by glass buggy, 2,217 miles by car, 1,537 miles by boat, and 416 miles by airboat.

Fire Control

A conference for permanent and seasonal personnel was held for three days on the subject "Area Operation and Fire Control Training." Things learned were soon put into practice as two fires occurred in November, both started outside the park apparently by hunters. Of over 1000 one thousand acres burned, one hundred ten acres were inside the park.

Memorandum

To: Superintendent

From: Chief Ranger

Subject: Summary Ranger's Monthly Reports - November 1952

Ranger Service

Mileage patrolled	Car	6,217
	Boat	1,537
	Airboat	416
	Glades Buggy	25
	Total	- 8, 195

Deane Shilts E.O.D. Seasonal Ranger Nov. 18th.

Hunting season patrol and entrance station manned beginning of hunting season Nov. 20.

Forest Fire Protection

5 FCA's E.O.D. Nov. 3rd - 1 FCA E.O.D. Nov. 7th.

Administrative Area Operation and Fire Control Training - all permanent and seasonal employees - Nov. 3, 4 and 5.

Fire No. 17 Long Pine Key #1 Nov. 23

Fire No. 18 Ten Mile Corner Nov. 29

Staff Meeting

Nov. 28 th Attended by Chief and Dist. Rangers.

Visitor

Grady Norton and R. L. Anderson U.S. Weather Bureau called on Nov. 6th

VISITORS FOR NOVEMBER

Guests at Everglades Natural Historical Association Fish Fry:

Professor Oscar Owre, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla.
Mr. Frank Mulkern, of Washington, D.C. Representative of the Izaak Walton League of America
Mr. R.L. Anderson, Section Director, and Grady Norton, Meteorologist Charge, U.S. Weather Bureau.
Dr. Williams, Marine Laboratory, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla.
Jack Watson, Game Management Agent, and Refuge Manager Peter Van Henizen, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
Superintendent Lykes, Superintendent Shiloh National Military Park
M.C. Lund, National Park Concessions, Inc.
H.S. Sanborn, General Manager, National Park Concessions Inc., Mammoth Cave, Ky.

Lipscomb

Summary of the December 1952 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
December, 1952

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

December was dry and somewhat windy with generally normal temperatures. A cold spell occurred from the 12th to the 19th. Small craft warnings were ordered up for a total of four days.

Readings from stations were:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	83	77.6	35	50.6	.34"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	85	76.1	39	52.8	.06"
Tavernier	82	76.1	49	62.5	.64"
Tamiami Ranger Station	-	-	-	-	.05"

INSPECTIONS:

Regional Forester Arnold participated in fire school, checked fire plan and equipment, covered part of the east boundary by airboat, and made a preliminary reconnaissance of Gator Hook cypress strand proposed for inclusion in the park.

Ned Burns, Chief of Museum Branch, visited the park for the first time. His interest centered around museum displays, proposals for this work, and the general theme of the park.

COMPLAINTS:

All registered complaints during the month were about skiffs and allied, concession operations. Major difficulty was blowup of skiff operation at Coot Bay due to difficulties between concessioner and employees. Complaints came in on shortage of outboard motors, lack of live bait, and the operation of the base at Manatee Creek.

MAINTENANCE:

Additional seasonal laborers were employed on road maintenance. Grading of Ingraham Highway was carried on, but work was behind schedule. All road signs were brushed out, some repainted, and a number of new signs erected.

A Michigan C-16 dragline with back hoe attachment was received during December. It was given tests and taken to the rock pit on Long Pine Key until it will be operated.

CONSTRUCTION:

All stations on the Self-Guiding Tour except No. 7 were in place except for interpretive signs. This project was deadlined for December 5, but could not be activated by the end of the month. Emphasis was given to getting it complete, or at least in operation, by early January.

CONCESSION OPERATIONS:

National Park Concessions, Inc., served 780 meals at Coot Bay Snack Bar in December. As seems to be normal, business was not too good until the Christmas week.

Everglades Transway Service encountered difficulties with cruise boats because the "bird show" in Coot Bay was not up to snuff the early part of December. However, all passengers seemed well satisfied with the trip.

Audubon Tours continued to the 'Gator Lake area with full loads in two cabin cruisers every trip. The bird spectacle in this area began to wane in late December and plans for Cuthbert Lake Rookery trips were being made.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

The winter labor camp of the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Division of Pink Bollworm Control was reactivated at Flamingo in the middle of the month.

INTERPRETATION:

The park naturalist gave a talk to the Audubon Society of Palm Beach. The park superintendent officiated at several functions of the Tropical Audubon Society, of which he is president.

Regular guided walks were conducted daily from Royal Palm Ranger Station. The park naturalist tried a new guided walk to Bear Lake which seemed to meet public approval of those in attendance.

Anhinga Trail became a real problem in December with a continuous flow of traffic along it on busy days. Many people suggest it should be a one way, loop walk. Reconstruction of this walk, scheduled for later in the year, will not solve the congestion problem adequately.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

Some unusual bird records were made during December. From 200 to 250 Swainson's hawks were seen over Royal Palm Station. An immature American brant was noted upon several occasions at Snake Bight. At Bear Lake, several well qualified ornithologists saw an old squaw duck at various times. A long-billed curlew was seen and photographed by Seasonal Ranger Tyler Hotchkiss. At Lake Ingraham, a flamingo was feeding off and on all month.

Young roseate spoonbills were observed on nests at Stake Key on December 30. This is unusually early. "The largest show of spoonbills is on Porjoe Key" reported District Ranger Bean, "where upward to 100 are concentrated with man-o-war birds, white ibis, and American egrets. Nesting was observed to have started there on the 8th, although no eggs were present. . . .Other concentrations. . . . are found at Cowpens Cut, Cotton Key, Nest Key, and Blackwater Pass . . . . ."

Biologist Moore was elected Chairman of the Biological Sciences Section of the Florida Academy of Sciences at the annual meeting in Gainesville.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

December travel was up far above that of any previous year with a noticeable trend towards going deeper into the park instead of just touching Royal Palm area. A total of 21,040 people visited the park by car, of which 11,249 reached Coot Bay. (December 1951, 14,049 total, of which 5,740 got to Coot Bay).

Ninety-two members of the Everglades Natural History Association and their guests took a moonlight cruise in concessioner's crafts from Coot Bay.

VISITORS:

One ranger, who shall be nameless, checked the outline for his monthly report and wrote: "My outline says important or influential persons. All people are important and you can have your influential ones". Nevertheless, the following persons who visited Everglades this month seemed worth noting:

Dr. Frank C. Craighead, former Chief of Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, who "had sweat marks under the band of his hat and a home made hickory spinning rod".
Ass't Supt. Sollenberg of Gettysberg National Military Park.
Dr. John B. May, author of "Birds of Massachusetts".
Mr. Herbert Heger, Seasonal naturalist from Rocky Mountain National Park.
Dr. Arthur A. Allen and Dr. Paul Kellogg of Cornell University to record bird songs.
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Cruickshank, famous bird photographers.
Ludolph Mevius, German Secondary School teacher and guest of the Office of Education was sent down from Washington.
Dr. Herbert S. Zim, Educational Consultant, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

RANGER SERVICE:

Park rangers continued to pile up patrol mileage in their constant job of protecting the park. A total of 9,932 miles were covered by car, 1924 miles by boat, and 90 by airboat.

Vulnerable areas at this season are: 1. Along the east boundary south of Tamiami Trail in the main Shark River Valley. Froggers in airboats plied this country at night. 2. The roseate spoonbill nesting keys of Florida Bay, and 3. The river headwaters along the Gulf Coast.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

On December 15, J.W. "Pedro" Braxton, commercial fisherman, was found guilty of possession of firearms on his houseboat. He was fined $15 by the U.S. Commissioner.

L.R. Rucker farm and packing house worker, was found guilty of drunken driving in the park on December 16. He was fined $110, including costs by the U.S. Commissioner. Colonel Hardy Watson, who was with Rucker was deemed not guilty of breaking regulation Sec. 1.23.

FIRE CONTROL:

On December 1 - 4, a training conference was held for seasonal personnel. Fire Control Aids Altimari, Fisher, and Bucknall entered on duty.

Three fires, 19, "Green Fuel", 20 "Two Spot", and 21, "Buggy", occurred, all set by hunters near park boundaries. A total of 78.3 acres burned.

BUILDING FIRE PROTECTION:

The concessioner's power plant at Coot Bay caught fire on the last day of the month. It was damaged, but can be repaired. No damage was done to buildings.

PERSONNEL:

Engineer Frank Shomaker resigned effective at the end of the month. He has accepted employment with the DuPont Company at Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Allyn Hanks, Superintendent of Theodore Roosevelt National Historical Park was appointed to the new position of Assistant Superintendent at Everglades. He is expected to enter on duty in January.

(SGD) DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

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