Report 1ml

Summary of the January 1953 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Everglades National Park

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
January, 1953

THREATS TO PARK:

Governor Dan McCarty took office in January. Outgoing Governor Fuller Warren had deferred action on oil exploration in the park for McCarty's administration to handle.

For several months, Commonwealth Oil Company had been pressing the Warren administration to formally ask the United States to lease lands to them surrounding those upon which they have a valid lease in the park. It was claimed that excellent oil prospects existed, but Commonwealth did not want to explore same without assurance of protection of contiguous areas. They wanted to lease an extensive block.

The Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund (Governor, Commissioner of Agriculture, Attorney General, Comptroller, and Treasurer) had prepared for creation of the park in 1947 by resolving that when oil leases on State properties to be conveyed for the park became due, said leases would neither be renewed or any request be made to do so. Commonwealth's proposal was in direct violation of this resolution.

The Trustees were divided with the Governor's vote the deciding one. Director Wirth explained the Service's viewpoint, but the efforts continued. Newspapers throughout Florida editorialized in favor of the park. So, in the closing moments of the Warren administration, the Governor tabled the matter.

Governor McCarty, now holding the deciding vote, came out strongly for the park. There was no use for Commonwealth to try to get the desired action. They were permitted to explore for oil outside the park and have until August to begin. Meanwhile, Sinclair Oil Company is using a Commonwealth lease, according to newspaper reports, and has begun to drill a well on upper Key Largo (outside the park). It is presumed the equipment will be used later for drilling the other well referred to here.

As the matter stands now, Commonwealth Oil Company is not actively trying to get the Trustees to ask the United States to lease additional lands in the park. Instead they are involved in drilling a well on Key Largo and are expected to drill another northwest of the present park boundary.

Earlier in the Warren administration, the Trustees agreed to a plan for completion of Everglades National Park through adding certain lands to include some of the Big Cypress country, Ten Thousand Islands, Shark River Valley, and other tracts. They agreed to convey State lands in those areas, part of which are within the maximum park boundaries. State approval was desired before seeking Congressional concurrence. Certain lands were purchased in the completion area to take advantage of sales opportunities. Lands owned by Miles and Barron Collier in the Ten Thousand Islands country were deeded to the State to hold en escrow pending the action of completing the park.

Land owners, headed by Ivar Axelson, of the Everglades National Park Land Owners and Lease Holders Association, appeared before the Dade County Conservation Council in January with representatives of sportsmen's groups and Seminoles. A resolution was passed by the Council opposing completion of the park. Petitions were being circulated in Miami on the same subject. The Tropical Audubon Society promptly registered opposition to the Council and newspaper comment agreed.

Low flying military aircraft gave park personnel concern during January. When called to the attention of proper authorities, fine cooperation resulted. Orders were cut at the U.S. Marine Base in Opa Locka to keep fighter planes at 3,000 feet over the park. The Commanding Officer of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Airship Squadron One, responded that it "was with sincere regret that I learned of the disturbance caused to wildlife . . . . . .by airships (blimps) of this squadron. . . . .This area will be carefully avoided in the future".

It was suggested by the Navy that the C.A.A. be requested to make the park an "Airspace Reservation Area below 3,000 feet".

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Fresh water levels throughout the park actually rose in January. Under normal conditions they should have been receding due to the winter "dry season". Levels at Ingraham Canal (Concrete Bridge) which were indicative of the general situation were close to those of late November in the second half of January - well above those of most of December.

WEATHER CONDITIONS (Continued):

Temperatures were about normal, but unusual overcast weather prevailed with rain and some lightning. Seas were fairly gentle for this time of the year in spite of four days of small craft warnings.

Readings from stations follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Total Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	82	76.6	36	52.8	4.82"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	82	73	40	51.3	4.31"
Tavernier	81	75.2	48	63.0	4.05"
Tamiami Ranger Station	-	-	-	-	3.17"

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS:

Nat Shenker of the Land Acquisition Office spent part of the month making a survey of Flamingo from which he will develop a base map of the area.

PUBLICITY:

The syndicated comic strip "Mark Trail" by Edward B. Dodd began carrying a sequence on the park. It appeared that a man named Paul crashed in the park in a plane and, a victim of amnesia, turned 'gator poacher around Lostmans River. The park superintendent, casual about the whole affair, was bundled off to Washington (for his misdeeds?) near the end of January and Mark Trail himself took up the search for Paul.

"Project Everglades" was featured in the January 22 Christian Science Monitor. This project was developed by the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. The scheme was a plan for development at Flamingo.

CONSTRUCTION:

Five water gaging stations were erected in the park by the Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Geological Survey on a reimbursable basis (Hydrological Gaging Stations). The station locations were changed slightly after consultation to provide for better access for servicing. Units installed are temporary, to be replaced by permanent ones now on order.

The Self-Guiding Tour was completed except for erection of three signs, construction of West Lake Walk, and certain interpretive signs.

CONCESSIONS:

Meals served at Coot Bay Snack Bar totalled 2,688 in January which was an increase of almost 800 over the same month last year. Business has been definitely better in the snack bar this winter season although there has not been a corollary increase in Coot Bay visitation.

Charterboats operating on permit from Coot Bay and Flamingo did fairly well. No skiffs were available at Coot Bay, but rentals ran well from Flamingo.

Audubon Tours to Cuthbert Lake Rookery and in Florida Bay from Tavernier were going well, but not filled. Pickup trade helped at landings.

Everglades Transway Service (cruise boats from Coot Bay) had a bad month with only 64 trips carrying 404 passengers. Several conferences were held with Willard Fletcher to study out this situation. It is quite evident that cruise boat service from Coot Bay is not working out satisfactorily. Lack of things to see, type of craft, perhaps some loss of pickup trade, and other factors indicate a problem exists.

Commanders Lyman and Eastman of the U.S. Coast Guard inspected all charterboats and skiffs with the chief ranger. Very marked improvement in concessioners' craft was evident - both as to appearance and safety factors.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

Publications by staff members were shaping out with galley proof on Dr. Moore's "Crocodile in Everglades National Park" in and first typing of Collaborator William B. Robertson's report on vegetation in relation to fires being completed.

East River Rookery failed again. Mass desertion of nests followed heavy rains of January 8 and 9 (2.96 inches at Coot Bay). This condition was almost identical with the desertion circumstances in February, 1952. Dr. Moore reported: "Success of the wood ibis rookeries (East River and Cuthbert) appears to depend upon the progressive drying up of the vast sheet of fresh water that summer and fall rains put down upon the glades. As this great, thin sheet of water retreats from the glades, the year's production of fish crowds . . . . into depressions, ponds, and gator holes. . . . Progression of the dry season continued to reduce the water, while the birds reduce the fish, keeping the fish in constant supply. A heavy rain in the midst of the dry season raises water levels and temporarily allows the fish to disperse. This sudden thinning or scattering of the ordinarily rich food supply provides the most reasonable explanation for such mass abandonment of the great wood ibis rookeries.

"Since East River Rookery has formed each year and been abandoned without rearing any young for the last three years, one begins to wonder if it is not a marginal phenomenon which must be expected to fail three or even five times out of every ten years. . . . . ."

Cuthbert Lake Rookery stayed. Biologist Moore points out that the Ingraham Highway exerts some influence as a dam which, perhaps, has an effect of some type upon the feeding grounds for the birds of that area.

TRAVEL:

All travel indices in southern Florida showed that the season was getting away to a slow start and, although the promise remained good, the boom season with heavy spending would probably not materialize. Annual expansion of tourist facilities spread the visitors so that some older motels and attractions found themselves running behind last year. February would tell the score.

At the park, 27,416 people entered by car or boat. Of this number 10,909 reached Coot Bay which, somewhat surprising, was less than got there in December.

VISITORS:

Herrold Asmussen, Ranger-Naturalist at Yellowstone National Park, in Florida studying under the Ford Foundation Fellowship.

Hal Harrison, Photographer, Tarentum, Pennsylvania.

Charles LoBarron and Paul Severan, Florida News Bureau, Tallahassee, Florida

Mr. Harry Hommon, San Francisco, California, retired official from the U.S. Public Health Service.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

A.F. Udgreen, L.H. Sigimore, and T.L. Redish of Miami, R. Hobson, R.H. Simmons, and J.L. Simmons of Homestead were tried before the U.S. Commissioner on violation of Title 18, Sec. 1856. They were found guilty and fined $25.00 each.

Lewis Hicks of Homestead was found guilty of possession of firearms (Sec. 1.11) and fined $5.00 with $10.00 costs.

FIRE CONTROL:

Two fires occurred where it was necessary to dispatch crews to control them. They did not reach park lands. In cooperation with the Everglades Fire Control District, park rangers apprehended a man who let a fire get away and placed him on probation.

Training sessions for seasonal fire control aids continued on a weekly basis at Tamiami and Royal Palm Districts. This has resulted in developing the best organization in the park's history.

COMMERCIAL FISHING:

District Ranger Bean of Florida Bay reported: "A brief flurry of reports on the presence of dead fish in the southern and western portions of the Bay thought to be caused by the 'red tide' was received. The situation was reported to have been cleared up at month's end. The turbid water in the Big Lake - Arsnicker and Rabbit Key area which persisted during November and December and which caused bonefish guides some anxiety cleared up after heavy rains and gales December 9".

COMMERCIAL FISHING (Continued):

Ranger Bogart at Flamingo also heard reports of the "red tide" at Cape Sable and 10 miles off Sandy Key. From 50 to 100 dead catfish washed ashore at Flamingo Station on January 25.

Mullet season re-opened on the twentieth, but catches were light. Apparently, the fish caught were rather small and opening prices ran from 5¢ per pound (small) to 9¢ per pound for those over 1¼ pounds.

PERSONNEL:

Allyn Hanks, from Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, entered on duty in the new position of Assistant Superintendent.

Joseph C. Moore, Biologist, received his Ph.D degree from the University of Florida.

David O. Karraker, seasonal ranger-naturalist, received a degree of Master of Science at the University of Florida also during January.

RANGER SERVICE:

Protection Division personnel participated in "Operation Bird's Eye" as members of the Air Force Ground Observer Corps, an exercise of Miami Filter Center. Plane spotting was coordinated through the park's radio system.

Patrols for January covered 2,156 miles by boat, 312 miles by airboat, and 10,203 by car. Emphasis was placed on roseate spoonbill nesting keys in Florida Bay, east boundary where commercial froggers operate, and Lostmans River country.

(SGD) DANIEL B. BEARD

Summary of the February 1953 Monthly Narrative Report For EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
February, 1953

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Mild, pleasant weather with fairly rough sea conditions prevailed in February. Rainfall dropped, but was still slightly higher than normal. Small craft warnings were displayed for a total of eight days.

Readings from stations follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Tem.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	85	79.8	41	56.3	2.56"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	83	78.2	40	55.1	2.13"
Tamiami Ranger Station	85	79.7	48	62.3	2.00"
Tavernier	83	77.9	52	64.1	1.72"

INSPECTIONS:

Assistant Director Allen and Regional Director Cox were both in the park during February although their visits did not overlap.

COMPLAINTS:

Jimmy Tiger, a Seminole, complained that selected white froggers were being allowed in the park. He said that Indians operating legally outside the park were getting 15 to 25 pounds of frogs per night whereas white froggers, (reputedly going into park) averaged 40 to 60 pounds catch per night.

Additional boundary posting and stepped up night patrols by airboat helped to refute this allegation.

CONCESSIONS:

Manatee Creek Fishing Camp area was abandoned and cleaned up during the month. This troublesome spot had led a checkered career as a small boat livery spot. The superintendent finally ordered it closed and unauthorized persons were told to vacate the premises. It remains as a place where visitors may launch their own skiffs from trailers.

CONCESSIONS: (Continued)

Business at Coot Bay Snack Bar was less than the same month last year with a drop of 34 meals served and over $600 in gross revenue. Sightseeing boats continued to operate with low pay loads. Skiff rentals were off, due in part at least to lack of skiffs at Coot Bay (windy weather conditions on weekends had some influence, too). Audubon Wildlife Tours were average.

NATURALIST SERVICE:

Royal Palm Ranger Station exhibits were visited by 5,963 which is a record for that area.

The interpretive program was changed to meet new conditions. Naturalist talks were made at Anhinga Trail each evening as the birds came in to roost. During the day, naturalist service on Anhinga Trail accounted for over 2,000 contacts out of a total of 9,306 for the month.

Several talks were given during the month by the superintendent and park naturalist. The latter spoke to the Leisure City Garden Club and the Miami Beach Anglers Club. The superintendent had a "knock down drag out" meeting with the Airboat Association which is trying to defeat completion of the park. He also met with the Upper Keys Chamber of Commerce and the Civitan Club of Miami.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

Roseate spoonbills in Florida Bay had completed nesting and Service personnel in cooperation with Robert Allen of the Audubon Society had plans for an annual nest count. The best show was at Stake Key where about 50 pinks could be seen.

Cuthbert Lake Rookery, after a late start, was moving along in good order. Birds were collecting at East River Rookery with every indication that this great rookery might still form. Dildo Key Rookery in Florida Bay was all right. Thus the bird rookery situation which had caused consternation for several years because of failures, seemed to be shaping up a little better. There was even some reason to hope for the reactivation of the Shark River Rookery, although nothing definite by the end of February.

The "bird show" along the northern park boundary (Tamiami Trail) was late due to high water conditions, but they were coming in late in February. Waterfowl and Coots were rafting in places such as Monroe Lake and in ponds along Cape Sable flats.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

February is the peak month of the tourist season in southern Florida. A total of 28,696 people visited the park, of which 13,342 reached Coot Bay. Some comparative data indicates the situation:

February 1952,	25,009
February 1951,	19,177
Oct. 1, 1951 to February 29, 1952	76,053
Oct. 1, 1952 to February 28, 1953	93,397

Increase in travel for February this year reflects the general upward trend in visitation to this park. The general winter season in southern Florida is nothing exceptional this year even though a few more people seem to be coming into Everglades National Park.

VISITORS:

Robert Frost, poet.
Rush Gabrielson and party. Mr. Gabrielson is a brother of Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, former Chief of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.
Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Masland, Jr., of Carlisle, Pennsylvania
Dr. and Mrs. Frank C. Craighead, former Chief of Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.
Drs. Scholander and Enders, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Woods Hole, Massachusetts.
Mrs. Edward S. Neilson, Chairman of the National Parks Committee, of The Garden Clubs of America.
Mrs. Elizabeth Pearce, from Isle Royal National Park, Michigan.
Mr. Arthur F. Perkins, of the Region One Office, Richmond, Va.
Mr. Don Sarver, of Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky.
Mr. Jack Griffin, of the Chicago Sun.
Mr. Bill Matthews, of the Miami Beach Publicity Bureau.
Mr. John H. Baker, President of the National Audubon Society.
Mr. Chas. Lee Barron, Photographer for Florida Advertizing Commission.
Dr. R. Tomaselli, Professor of Phytoecology, University of Pavia, Italy.

RANGER SERVICE:

Chief Ranger Fry worked out a cooperative arrangement with the U. S. Coast Guard for use of helicopters in search and rescue missions in the park.

Patrols by protection personnel totalled 11,104 miles in February, 1861 of which were by boat, 589 by airboat, and 8,654 by car. The increase in airboat mileage was because commercial frogging along the east boundary was a mounting danger. This involved hazardous night patrols by airboat, but had a salutary effect. Night patrols were also made in the Florida Bay country because of reports of illegal commercial fishing.

RANGER SERVICE: (Continued)

Seasonal Ranger C. T. Hotchkiss resigned and Mr. A. A. Ayers was promoted from fire control aide to take his place.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

On the night of February 14, Mr. Thurman L. Shinholster was apprehended in the park in an airboat and with frogs in his possession. He was tried before the U. S. Commissioner. The defendent was represented by attorney and found not guilty.

Rangers checked cars coming out of the park with fish several evenings to determine whether commercial hauling in violation of regulations is going on. No evidence was found of such activity.

FIRE CONTROL ACTIVITIES:

No fires accurred in February although there was some pine woods burning not far from the park fire boundary.

A new, temporary fire cache was completed during the month and all equipment reorganized for faster get-aways. A new Bean Ranger Pumper was added to the equipment at the cache.

ACCIDENTS:

Three visitors from California were killed on February 14 when their car overturned in Ingraham Canal below Concrete Bridge. The dead were Mr. and Mrs. William Thackeray of San Francisco and their daughter Mrs. Beverly Starke of Torrance. Park Rangers recovered the bodies from the car. Two of the rangers were later affected by poisonwood, one of whom had to be hospitalized.

Four people in a car went off the road below Coot Bay, but none were injured. A third accident involved a government vehicle when a woman ran into it on a motorcycle. No injuries were sustained.

COMMERCIAL FISHING:

The price of fish was still low and a few commercial fishermen left the area to take up other employment, at least temporarily. This included Pedro Braxton who operated a group of the fishermen who used to live at Flamingo. Mullet fishing in Lake Ingraham was better with fish being sold to Crossland Fish Co. of Miami (which had opposed park fishing regulations). Tavernier crews working for Manual Arsua were in the Dump Keys area. Joe Kemp Key "headquarters" was quiet.

COMMERCIAL FISHING: (Continued)

Lake Ingraham and the Lostmans River country was being used also by crews from Riggs Fish Co. in Everglades and by some from Naples.

District Ranger Bean made a sample check of a crew's night catch in the Madeira Bay country. He found they had 951 pounds of fish of which 760 pounds was mullet.

Emphasis of commercial fishing activity at Lake Ingraham and entrance of a big fish company there indicates trouble ahead when that area is blocked off to such use as a part of the Soil and Moisture Conservation program of the park.

(SGD) DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

Summary of the March 1953 Monthly Narrative Report For EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Summary of the March 1953 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
(Continued)

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
March, 1953

OIL CONTROVERSY:

Activity continued by opponents of the park on two interrelated points: oil exploration in the park and proposed completion of the park by adding certain lands. "Letters to the Editor" columns in both Miami newspapers had several, critical letters.

Most important activity was a meeting of the Miami Junior Chamber of Commerce on "The Oil Industry in Florida" which turned out to be an attack upon the park. For exploration of oil were four speakers: J.L. McCord, Executive Vice President of the Commonwealth Oil Company, Charles Snyder of the Petty Geophysical Engineering Company, Julius Parker, Attorney and former attorney for State Internal Improvement Trustees, and Millard F. Caldwell, former Governor of Florida and recent Administrator of Civilian Defense for United States. For the park was the somewhat lonely superintendent.

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Hot, dry, windy weather prevailed most of the month broken by a cooler period of five days the last week. Small craft warnings were displayed for a total of three days. Rainfall was spotty in the form of local showers. Throughout the park, the dry season was progressing with flash fuels forming "tinder box" conditions. Shark River Valley remained open as an airboat route. "Seldom in past years has surface water remained during March in any portion of interior park lands" reported Ranger Winte of the Tamiami District.

Readings from Stations follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	88	84.2	40	57.9	.54"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	85	81.9	46	62.3	2.75"
Tamiami Ranger Station	-	-	-	-	2.60
Tavernier	89	82.6	57	70.4	.17"

INSPECTIONS:

Engineers Lipscomb and Westerfield, from the Region Office, were in the park to go over road maintenance plans, study roadside "hedgerow" cutting techniques, and to stake out the new maintenance area at Pine Island.

Administrative Officer Mulvany, also from the Regional Office, made his initial visit to the park. He visited many areas to get acquainted with field problems. Discussions with him revolved around the difficult budgeting of 1954 fiscal year's operation, office space plans, equipment amortization, and personnel requirements.

STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS:

A report was received that a group of eight Miami doctors, headed by Dr. E.C. Lunsford (former owner of Cape Sable beaches) have purchased Lignumvitae Key from the Hugh Matheson heirs. Their tentative plans call for construction of an airstrip on the key and a causeway over from the highway. Lignumvitae Key contains what is considered the best remaining example of mature hammock vegetation typical of the Florida Keys. It is within the maximum park boundaries and is a very unusual area. Investigations of it were once started by park personnel and several in the Service informally suggested that it be included in the park.

MAINTENANCE:

The old fishermen's dock at the Lostman River Patrol Station was completely rebuilt during the month making it safe and convenient for handling skiffs.

Steps were taken to reduce the cost of shop operation and increase returns to the supporting account as a means of offsetting accumulated deficits occasioned by abnormal expenses of a non-recurring nature. Studies are underway for permanent measures to increase the effectiveness of shop operation.

Brush clearing along the "hedgerow" from Concrete Bridge south on both sides of Ingraham Highway was progressing satisfactorily. The whole appearance of the country is changed already by this work.

A total of 19 picnic tables were fabricated or repaired for use in the park during March.

Fencing was completed to give less of a gasoline service station look to the Tamiami Ranger Station (which used to be just that).

CONSTRUCTION:

Work was started on the Pine Island Maintenance Area consisting of clearing, scarifying, and beginning to fill to grade for the court.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

The annual inspection of wild cotton eradication was made by Assistant Superintendent Hanks, Chief Ranger Fry, and District Ranger Maxwell. The same excellent cooperation was evident as in past years when this project has been in progress by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

A conference was held in the park office with General Agent George Lynch, and his associates of the State Conservation Commission (salt water fisheries) relative to cooperative action to prevent stop netting along the Gulf Coast areas contiguous to the park. This will be the first time that any enforcement of state laws has been attempted between the park's Lostmans River boundary and the vicinity of Chockoloskee Bay (near Everglades City).

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE:

"Night Nature Prowls" were started in the Royal Palm area and scheduled every Tuesday night. Armed with flashlights, visitors peeped at alligators (red eyes), raccoons, found frogs under the bark of trees, listened to the many identifiable night voices, and came away happy. It looks like this type of guided walk is here to stay because the Everglades wakes up at night and offers many opportunities for interpretive adventures.

Naturalist personnel concentrated their activities at Anhinga Trail and the Royal Palm Station all month. Five school groups and two scout groups were given special attention.

The superintendent gave a talk at the annual Garden Club of America meeting in New Orleans.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

East River, Cuthbert Lake, and Dildo Key rookeries all held good during March. No additional information is available on Shark River Rookeries. This is an encouraging situation after several years of poor nesting.

Roseate spoonbills had completed nesting and few were left in Florida Bay by the end of the month. Investigations of nesting keys showed early season desertion had taken place on Porjoe Key for reasons yet unknown. This was not a good year for the "pinks". The park biologist and R.P. Allen of the National Audubon Society collaborated on a post nesting season count which will be reported upon separately.

An account of "The Crocodile in Everglades National Park" by Biologist Moore appeared in the current issue of Copeia.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

A total of 25,071 persons visited the park in March. Travel for the winter season (Dec. 1 - March 31) was 25 per cent higher than last year. Coot Bay travel was 14,277 as compared to 12,383 for the same month last year. Increased study is being given to the wide differential between the number of persons who enter the park (Royal Palm area) and those who go on to Coot Bay with the idea of attracting more to go on down.

VISITORS:

William M. Carter, Chief Conservation Officer, Gaspe, Quebec.
Michael Frome, Department of Public Relations, American Automobile Association, Washington, D.C.
Gerald F. Baker, Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Dania, Florida.
Superintendent and Mrs. David Canfield, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado.
Superintendent and Mrs. C.R. Vinten, Castillo de San Marcos National Monument.
Mrs. Belva I. Brandon, Secretary, Director Wirth's Office.
Miss Kathryn Thomas, Secretary, Ronald F. Lee's Office, and party.
Franco Mai, Deputy Superintendent of Schools and Deputy Director, Department of Education, Free Territory of Trieste.
Ralph Humes, Everglades expert and sculptor.
Martin Bovey, in charge of the Outdoor Writers Motion Picture Program at the North American Wildlife Conference, Concord, Mass.

VISITORS:

Mr. Holleran, connected with a motion picture production and laboratory firm, Washington, D.C.
Karl V. Krombein, Department of Agriculture, Arlington, Va.

RANGER SERVICE:

Routine patrol work accounted for 11,581 miles by car, 2,678 miles by boat, and 86 miles by airboat. For the first time in the park's history, the Cape Sable country began to get adequate patrol. Activities of Flamingo Ranger Station sometime ago set the stage for this, but equipment difficulties and pressure of public contact work held patrol work back. Three hundred and twenty miles of boat patrol were logged in the waters around Flamingo, Sandy Key, Cape Sable, and Lake Ingraham. Night airboat patrols at Tamiami District began to decline as water levels dropped and the threat of trespass decreased.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Mr. Ben Cole, small boat concessioner, was found guilty of speeding and fined a total of $25.00.

Jack D. Boling, T/5 Marine, was found guilty on Section 1.53(b), not guilty on Section 1.58. He was fined $35.00.

FIRE CONTROL ACTIVITIES:

The chief ranger made contact with potential manpower sources for fire fighting in Miami (Embry-Riddle School of Aviation and University of Miami) "just in case".

Fire danger was building up rapidly in late March with ground water levels dropping as much as eighteen inches in the Royal Palm District. After a fairly good winter season, the fire hazard built up rapidly. All fire control activities were stepped up. Long Pine Key road was closed beyond the fire tower. Everything was readied for an emergency.

The dump at Plummer Drive caught fire just before the east boundary patrol Jeep (with Panama pump) arrived. A project fire was prevented and the operation of the Jeep as well as costs of pump were paid for thereby. This was outside the park, but in the fire boundary. A small fire was extinguished in the duff at Paradise Key picnic area.

ACCIDENTS:

Two highway accidents occurred in March without injuries. Mr. Otis Walker ran off the road south of Coot Bay, totally wrecking his car. On the same day, Mr. J. Boiling did the same thing three miles north of Coot Bay.

Fred Ellington, watchman for the Audubon boats fell and injured himself. He was rushed to the hospital by rangers where he was treated.

SEARCH AND RESCUE:

"Whitey" Hopfenspirger came to Everglades from Glacier to do maintenance work this winter. On March 19, he was at Lostmans River Patrol Station working on a dock when he came down with acute appendicitis.

Warden Barney Parker radioed headquarters about the situation and then started off down the Gulf in a skiff with Whitey. Although it was rough going with fairly heavy seas, the skiff was the only craft Barney had. It meant a rugged two or three hours by skiff and then at least one and a half more hours by car to get to a hospital.

Park headquarters contacted the Coast Guard and a helicopter was immediately dispatched to intercept Barney. They met near the mouth of Shark River where the "whirly-bird" hovered over the bouncing skiff. Whitey was lifted out of the skiff, but the skiff "geed" when it should have "hawed" in the waves giving Whitey a quick, cold ducking. But he was reeled aboard and in a half an hour, was in the hospital at Miami where he underwent an emergency appendectomy.

It was all very dramatic and efficient but when Whitey got out of the hospital, a few days later, he cranked up his car and headed for Glacier. It is said he wanted to get some distance between himself and salt water.

COMMERCIAL FISHING:

The big fish companies are accused of pushing mullet prices down to 7¢ a pound and thereby making Pedro Braxton and "Cootie" Roberts' crews quit. Lloyd "Barrelhead" House at Curry Key works for Croslin Fish Company, F.E. Weeks off Sandy Key handles work for East Coast Fisheries while Manual Arsua has crews at Dump Keys. Manual is apparently the only independent, small operator now continuing in Florida Bay at the moment. Trout fishing was building up a little.

PERSONNEL:

District Ranger Paul Barnes resigned to accept employment in Miami. Better financial opportunities for Mr. Barnes prompted his resignation after a total of 12 years with the Service. Ranger Vincent J. Mrazek was detailed to take over most of Barnes' duties.

(SGD) DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

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WEATHER CONDITIONS:

The weather for the month was characterized by near normal temperatures (gradually climbing), and quite a bit of wind. Small craft warnings were displayed for a total of eleven days. This seriously impeded marine travel. Several rains occurred bringing much needed albeit temporary relief to fire hazard conditions. The hot sun and hot wind soon dried things out again though.

Readings from stations follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rain
Royal Palm Ranger Station	91	85.3	46	60.3	3.16
Coot Bay Ranger Station	90	83.9	51	62.9	5.38*
Tamiami Ranger Station	90	83.7	59	71.1	4.74
Tavernier	-	-	-	-	4.05

*5.02 inches of rain in eight hours!

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

FEU 1167 of N.F.F.E. was organized April 7 with 11 Service employees and 15 Navy Pumping Station employees as charter members. Chief Ranger Fry was elected President, Assistant Superintendent Hanks, Guardian.

The Superintendent gave the principal talk at the annual meeting of the Florida Recreational Association at Key West on the subject: "National Parks and the Recreational Field". He also spoke at Florida Authors Night panel sponsored by the Miami Public Library.

INSPECTIONS:

Assistant Regional Director Zimmer, Architect Smith, and Landscape Architect Smith were in the area early in the month. They checked the site for the shops and office building (Pine Island) where utility court grading was nearing completion. Studies were made of the Flamingo situation with the objective in view of presenting a revised programming of construction there for the Director's consideration.

Assistant Chief Forester Dodd completed his "get acquainted trip" inspecting fire equipment and checking the fire problem of the park.

Administrative Officer Mulvaney has his initial look at the park and worked with the superintendent and chief clerk on matters relating to the 1954 fiscal year program and finances.

PLANS, MAPS AND SURVEYS:

The Marine Corps airmen from Opa Locka base have flown and aerial mapped strategic areas of the park. The work is done in jets as part of training activities of the base. As a result, the park is getting thousands of dollars worth of excellent aerial mosaics, especially areas where planning problems exist, for free. We cannot lose!

MAINTENANCE:

Brush clearing along Ingraham Highway in the test mile from Concrete Bridge southward was progressing. A much better appearance has already resulted as the hedge row along the road has been eliminated. Several unforeseen difficulties, such as buried rocks, have cropped up, making it necessary to refigure methods and techniques. Several pit latrines were fabricated for temporary, emergency use - that is, to be placed temporarily in places where a problem exists until more permanent facilities can be built.

CONSTRUCTION:

Base grading of the Utility Court at Pine Island was nearing completion by the end of the month. All that will be left to do is to contract for surfacing. Bid specifications were mimeographed and bids solicited for the Shops and Office Building at Pine Island.

CONCESSIONS:

Coot Bay Snack Bar closed its doors for the season on April 28. The gas station will remain open (gas, oil, marine gas, ice, and cold drinks). Fletcher cruise (sightseeing) boats were through and ready to go to Naples for storage at month's end.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

A glades tractor trip was made on April 14 to P-33 water gage station with the U.S.G.S. This was to familiarize Service personnel with the location and route. Future operations will be conducted by the Service.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE:

The "show" at Anhinga Trail fell off later in April. Evening night prowls on Tuesdays were attended by 438 visitors and continued to prove a successful experiment. Naturalist Dilley's attempt to attract school groups to the park brought 280 children in eight special groups.

By the last few days, the park was closing up for the summer. An information sign on summer activities was placed at the entrance, interpretive services were over (except self guiding) and the transition to summer schedule starting. The checking station closed the last day of April.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

Reports on the roseate spoonbill census noted in the March report were completed with the following number of nests:

	1951	1952	1953
Stake Key	12	26	34
Middle Tern Key	5	5	0
North Nest Key	5	5	2
Porjoe Key	11	14	(15)
East Butternut Key	?	?	4
Total for park	43	58	40
Outside Park			
Cotton Key	18	10	0
Cowpens Key	3	10	8
Total Outside Park	21	20	8
Grand Total Nests	64	78	48

Porjoe Key started well, but failed later from causes yet unknown.

Cuthbert Lake, East River, and Shark River Rookeries continued in April although little was known about the latter.

The Florida Naturalist for April published an account of the tern counts at Fort Jefferson National Monument by Biologist Moore and Naturalist Dilley. A tardy January issue of The American Midland Naturalist contained a 41 page paper by Dr. Moore entitled "Distribution of Marine Mammals in Florida Waters."

A blue grosbeak was added to the park's check list as a migrant. Least bitterns were seen with young at Taylor Slough.

TRAVEL:

"The Season" definitely ended during April. A total of 17,812 persons visited the park. So, as everybody in Florida does each year, let us see how "the season" went (December - April inclusive) in terms of park visitors:

1950-1951 - 89,586
1951-1952 - 99,190
1952-1953 - 128,724

VISITORS:

Dudley Poore, State Department, Exchange Student Councellor
Dr. Otto Kraus, Ministry of Interior, Bavaria
Dr. Harold S. Palmer, Professor of Geology, University of Hawaii
Dr. Gilbert Grosvenos, President of National Geographic Society

RANGER SERVICE:

A breakdown of the Bay airboat brought to a standstill some of the water patrol work out of Flamingo, but 220 miles were logged, nevertheless. Total patrol coverage in the park was 11,898 miles by car, 2,250 miles by boat, 235 miles by airboat, and 21 miles by glades buggy.

FIRE CONTROL:

Three fires occurred during April, two of which were outside but threatening the park. The third fire (#7) known as "Broad River" burned 50 acres inside the park. It was probably of incendiary origin. This is the time of the year for the attempts of gator and deer poachers.

PERSONNEL:

Ralph Maxwell was promoted from GS-6 to GS-7 district park ranger, Cape Sable District by reclassification of that position.

PERSONNEL:

David Bogart was promoted from GS-5 to GS-6 park ranger (Flamingo) by reclassification of the position.

Seasonal rangers Shiltz, Graf, and Foener were separated. All expect to return to western parks for the summer.

Park Ranger and Mrs. Erwin Winte were guests of the Lerner Institute in Bimini, B.S.I. April 8-17.

Mrs. Louis Harms was appointed Project Clerk, GS-4 (temporary).

James Parker was promoted to the new position of Garage Foreman and Robert Lewis to Parker's former position as Mechanic.

Chas. Smith, Labor Lead Man of Blue Ridge Parkway is accepting transfer and promotion to the vacant position of Equipment Operator.

COMMERCIAL FISHING (Family (?) troubles):

District Park Ranger Maxwell reported an incident which reminds us that the so-called rough and ready days are not all history:

"On the nineteenth of April....Mrs. E. stopped at the station. It seems that she was having trouble with Mr. C--. She had been living with him, more or less, for seventeen years. The night before ... he had beaten her and told her to get out. When she asked for her things, he would not give them to her. So, there was only one thing she could do - call the Rangers!"

"So with two rangers in skiff 11-205, Mrs. E--- forward and the rangers aft, out to the houseboat we went. Mr. C--- had put her belongings on Joe Kempe Key. After some colorful language, we went over and picked up her things, then took her to Uncle Jimmy W---'s houseboat."

"About an hour later, Uncle Jimmy W--- was at the ranger station saying Mrs. E--- had gone off with Uncle F---."

"Mrs. E--- had the same trouble last year (4 August) and, at that time her belongings were delivered to Uncle B--- near Manatee Creek."

Most commercial fishermen in western Florida Bay moved to Joe Kemp Key area. Cootie Roberts reentered the business and with Barrelhead House were selling to Crosland Fish Co. Trout fishing continued fair, especially around Dump Keys and Nine Mile Bend. Mullet fishing was slow.

File

Summary of the May, 1953 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
May, 1953

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

The month of May was dry, hot, and relatively windy. The whole park was a tinderbox. Termperatures reached at least 85 degrees every day at Coot Bay. Rainfall was deficient except for the last two days of the month. Ground water levels were the lowest in years. The water had receded along Anhinga Trail more than at any time in the area since 1945, exposing mud bars and some rather unhappy alligators.

Readings from stations follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	94	89.1	57	65.9	1.15"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	92	86.5	59	67.7	.75
Tamiami Ranger Station	94	89.1	57	65.9	1.15
Tavernier	92	86.5	68	76.1	1.11

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

Superintendent Beard spent three days at Washington. The major purposes of his trip were to go over all aspects of the proposal for redefined boundaries of the park with the Director and his staff and to come to conclusions with them upon the programming of development in the Flamingo-Coot Bay region.

The superintendent received a meritorius award by the Secretary which he feels gives recognition to the work of the Service, the park staff in particular, during the five and a half year's that Everglades National Park has been in existence. It has grown from nothing to a functioning national park, lacking only a bear and elk problem.

THREATS TO THE PARK:

Representative Burnie Papy of Monroe County introduced a bill into the Florida Legislature prohibiting the conveyance of any State lands in said County which would have the effect of enlarging or rounding out Everglades National Park. Opposition to the bill was

THREATS TO THE PARK (Continued):

immediate from such groups as the Audubon Societies, Federated Garden Clubs, and many private citizens. The Attorney General indicated that the bill, if passed, would be unconstitutional and that the State had already contracted with the United States for these lands. A well organized drive was being made in favor of the bill with biggest support coming from the sportsmen clubs. Treated as a "local" bill where legislative courtesy and tradition demanded passage, it became a troublesome matter.

Sinclair Oil Company was making preparations for seismographic surveys through Petty Geophysical Company in the Florida Bay area of the park and beyond. It is expected that nine month's work will complete that in the park area on existing, valid leases.

Commonwealth Oil Company's well on Key Largo (outside park) was down to over 8,000 feet by month's end. Apparently they had not yet struck the Sunniland stratum. They said that they are prepared to go to 15,000 feet if necessary.

The well site (Commonwealth) over the crest of a reported anticline was prepared for drill rig near the Tamiami Ranger Station less than one quarter of a mile north of the park boundary. Drilling is expected to begin this summer.

The Fitch Survey for March 14 reported: "Commonwealth Oil Co. (4 1/4 over-the-counter) is rich in promise. Company holds almost 1,000,000 net acres under lease in north Florida, southwestern Alabama, and southern Florida, contiguous to oil strikes and drilling activities of other companies. In addition, a 50-year oil and gas concession covering the entire Republic of Haiti is held. Currently development contracts are in force with Gulf, Sinclair, and Coastal Caribbean Oil, Inc., and discussions are proceeding with other producers for the purchase of exploratory drillings on land under lease. Shares are decidely speculative but worth while."

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS:

U. S. Marine Corps jets continued serial mapping of strategic areas of the park. Now mapped (prints and negatives in Service possession) are: Ingraham Highway from entrance to Flamingo, Flamingo area, Entrance-Royal Palm-Long Pine Key and beyond (new road location), Pine Island, Seven Mile Road and vicinity, Cape Sable from East Cape to Northwest Cape, connection between headwaters of Shark and Broad Rivers, area between Northwest Cape and Mud Bay, canal from Florida Bay to

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS (Continued):

Flamingo Bridge via Gator Lake and Bear Lake. On order are color aerials of Flamingo and Paradise Key vicinity, steriopairs of Flamingo and Paradise Key vicinity, steriopairs of Flamingo and Johnsons Mound near mouth of Lostmans River. Tentative plans are for all of Tract 1 of proposed park from Lostmans River to Ten Thousand Islands and east to present boundary including Loop Road. Shot, but not on hand, are aerials of new road location from Nine Mile Bend south to West Lake - Cuthbert Lake.

Drawing NP-EVE 2126, Maintenance Sketch, Anhinga Trail, was received. Work is expected to be completed by the end of June. Drawing NP-EVE 2085-C was also received from the Region for addition to temporary quarters (bunk house), Pine Island. Work will be done next fiscal year.

General Services Administration has approved the Heisterman lease and plans for moving the park office by July 1 are underway. This is the second floor of a structure in the business district of Homestead. The Redland District Chamber of Commerce has approved without formality present shop occupancy without cost, until September 1 when it is hoped the shop can move to Pine Island.

MAINTENANCE:

Tamiami Ranger Station was shaping up. The structures used for this station were purchased from Zadie. It was formerly a gas station and beer joint, located at Forty Mile Bend. Fill has been placed around the grounds for lawns and parking of equipment, a fence erected to prevent trespass, airboat turning basin cleared out, and partitions put in the old beer joint making it a seasonal ranger dwelling and base fire camp. During high water, protection personnel can take off from "the back yard" in airboats and travel all the way to Shark River or around to Ingraham Highway at the edge of the mangroves. This station is just beginning to function as a very effective base for protection work in the strategic Tamiami Ranger District.

A gate was erected temporarily near Barrelhead's old fish house at Flamingo to prevent visitors from attempting to drive down the marl road towards Cape Sable this summer. The road beyond becomes slippery in wet weather and ranger personnel have had to spend a great deal of time hauling much harassed and mosquito-bitten adventurers out in the past.

Brush clearing along Ingraham Highway continued. Approximately two miles or roadside from Concrete Bridge southward have now been cleared and little more can be accomplished this fiscal year. It will be reactivated in July after crews return from other work. The clear sweep of the Glades from this area of the road well justifies the effort

MAINTENANCE (Continued):

and adds considerably to the enjoyment of the country where, formerly, one rode between almost solid hedgerows. It must be admitted, however, that a swift and low cost techrique for this work has not been fully developed.

Informal bids were received on painting of temporary quarters at Pine Island and for painting ceiling (outside), columns, and walls at Royal Palm Contact-Comfort Station.

CONSTRUCTION:

The Jefferson Construction Company of Miami offered a low bid of $43,791 for the erection of the Shops and Office Building at Pine Island. Award is waiting clearance of the Secretary.

Charles Del Ask, former shrimper from Flamingo, was awarded the contract for drilling and casing a well for water supply at Pine Island for $208. He also drilled and cased a well on open marked quotation of $25 at Seven Mile Tower. He failed to get potable water at Tamiami Ranger Station (better than we have already).

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:

The annual Tropical Audubon Society picnic was held at Royal Palm. Protection Division and Naturalist personnel participated in a well received program on the work of the National Park Service in this park including demonstrations of fire equipment and methods.

Although 2,000 persons visited Royal Palm exhibits, summer schedule was in effect and there were days when the facility was closed.

The Superintendent gave a talk to the Pan American Airways Rod and Gun Club consisting of 375 people on their annual Ladies Night on the subject: "Threats to Everglades National Park". The park naturalist spoke at programs of three schools. Five special school groups and one cub scout pack visited the park for special programs.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

East River Rookery continued in session, but was behind previous years in the number of nesting wood ibis. However, the greater use of this rookery by the fickle white ibis makes it the largest in four years. American egrets, snowy egrets, and Louisiana herons all nesting.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

Although all indices in the Miami area indicated a better summer season than ever before, travel into the park naturally fell below winter season records. A total of 11,905 visitors were recorded for May.

The Chief Ranger's Office compiled statistics on the winter travel season of 1952-53 with results partly as follows: 53.5 percent of all travel was out of state visitors including all 48 states, Alaska, Canada, Canal Zone, Hawaii, and several foreign countries. Out of state travel was, in order of numbers: New York, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, etc. 46.5 percent of travel was by Floridians of which 86.6 percent were from local, Dade County, which includes Miami, Coral Gables, Miami Beach, Homestead, and other areas. There were 3.3 visitors per car checked. The most travelled day was December 28, 1952 with 711 cars and 2,609 people. The winter travel season is figured from December 1 to April 30. By number of visitors per month, it ran February, January, March, December, April.

It is noteworthy that most of the travel in winter is by people from out of the State. Statistics for within the State travel may be slightly misleading because it is apparent that local people have a habit of driving out of State house guests down to the park.

RANGER SERVICE:

Two search and rescue missions took place in May, both ending with parties found and safe. One was for a missing boy which developed into a following of leads outside the park and envolving police cooperation. The other was for lost fishermen who had been caught in a storm and beached their boat until found.

Rangers patrolled 9,403 miles by car, 2,293 by boat making a total of 11,696 miles. Airboats could not be used during May in the Glades country because of low water levels.

Flamingo Ranger Station had to be closed because of lack of personnel. District Ranger Maxwell commented on this as follows: "One of the biggest trouble areas of the park has again been left without adequate protection. The water from Garfield Bight to Northwest Cape and out to Sandy Key (including Lake Ingraham) has the greatest concentration of fishermen, both sport and commercial, in the Park. Also, great numbers of birds, sea turtles, and other animals are found in this section... The one day a week which I will try to spend in the area will be of little use in helping a bad situation." Unfortunately, it appears that before the summer is over even the "one day a week" will not be possible as Coot Bay Station will be temporarily closed also. Efforts will, however, be made to rectify the situation.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Two commercial fishermen were picked up by Ranger Parker for stop netting at Highlands Point area. They were brought before the U. S. Commissioner, but requested trial in Federal Court.

A man from Miami and his son were apprehended by Ranger Winte off Seven Mile Road. The man was tried by the U. S. Commissioner for possession of firearms and driving off the road around a barrier. Fine was $40.

A resident of Homestead was brought in for killing a sea turtle in Florida Bay and was placed under $100 bond until August 4.

FIRE CONTROL:

Fire hazard built up during May to reach a peak for the fiscal year. Two remote area fires broke out early in the month. Both were incendiary, both were located in glades surrounded by mangroves and streams of the Gulf Coast country. Efforts were made to determine fire cause and apprehend persons who set them by coordinated air and sea patrol with radio communications between (for first time), but without success. Both fires went out. One burned 300 acres; the other burned 1,600 inside the park and 4,160 outside.

On May 14 the Lewis fire broke out in the vicinity of Concrete Bridge. Excellent burning conditions spread this fire rapidly and it jumped both road and canal in a sheet of flame. The fire was fought well for several days. It did little harm to hammocks and strategic areas such as mahogany hammocks, Long Pine Key, and Dewhurst Hammock were saved. A total of 2,705 acres burned. U. S. Marine jet planes flew and aerial mapped the burned area. It was abundantly evident that at the height of the burning period in sawgrass after the fire had become a major conflagration, no known equipment or technique could stop it by direct attack. The fire was reported to have moved at over five miles per hour and swept in an arc above the highway and canal for at least fifty feet. Such fires must resemble the tremendous conflagrations which occurred in the tall grass prairies of the central states in the early days.

PERSONNEL:

District Ranger Ralph Maxwell and Miss Jane Baldwin of Coral Gables were married on May 6. After a honeymoon in the Bahamas, the couple settled at Homestead, with excursions to Coot Bay. Another marraige of the month was Seasonal Fire Control Aid Daniel Hausman and Miss Mabel Ruth Pope of Homestead on May 7.

Two Seasonal Fire Control Aids were separated during May: Howard Copas who returned to Mammoth Cave National Park and William Altimari who returned to Mount Rainier National Park.

(SGD) DANIEL B. BEARD
Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

Summary of the June, 1953 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

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

Weather Conditions: The rains came in June raising water level rapidly everywhere, but in Tamiami District. The situation was unusual, but most welcome. Temperatures were generally above average making it a very uncomfortable month. Insect annoyance was aggravated with much commotion in Miami, where mosquito abatement efforts were far from successful. A low area in the Gulf which threatened to become a hurricane brought overcast weather with torrential rainfall.

Readings from stations follows

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	94	88.1	64	69.2	14.56"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	92	86.7	68	70.08	11.95"
Tamiami Ranger Station	94	89.0	65	72.00	7.48"
Tavernier	92	86.9	72	75.5	9.58"

Special Activities: The Park headquarters office was moved to new rental space in the center of Homestead. The Land Acquisition Office moved from Coral Gables into the same space. Thus a deplorable office situation has at last been rectified. New offices are cleaner, cooler and much more presentable than the old. The roof does not even leak and the office staff is "luxuriating" with carpeted floors. Barroom furniture in the lobby has been replaced by comfortable, colorful, tropical types and we call it a "reception room". The staff is learning to speak in whispers instead of screaming over the noise of a dozen, futile electric fans and the jangle of a juke box in the youth center on the other side of a partition.

The Superintendent, Chief Ranger, and Assistant Director Tolson attended a Department of State reception honoring Senor Clovis C. Paiva, Brazilian newspaperman in Miami.

Superintendent Beard was the principal speaker at the annual meeting of the Florida Outdoor Writers Association in Melbourne.

Inspections: Assistant Director Hillory Tolson arrived late in June. He was interested especially in the new office setup, areas planned for inclusion in the park, and the general setup as it has changed since his last visit.

Plans, Maps and Surveys: Mr. Harvey F. Price of Maurice H. Connell and Associates, Consulting Engineers, began a study of electric and telephone service requirements for the park. His services were engaged by the Florida Power and Light Company.

The U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey sent two new charts to the park for correction prior to completion. These charts cover: Area from Gulf to headwaters in Lostman River to Whitewater Bay and the Whitewater Bay-Cape Sable-Flamingo area. New soundings and additional data will help planning and navigation in park waters. The charts will be out in September.

Six additional miles of boundary were posted on the east side of the park.

General Publicity: Dr. James Oliver, Curator of Reptiles, New York Zoological Society has developed an excellent color movie on the park relating to alligator life and egg laying by sea turtles on Cape Sable beaches .

Maintenance: The rebuilt section of Anhinga Trail looks good, but high water stopped construction at about 25 per cent of completion. Material is on hand to finish the job. "George" the alligator objected to the work around his favorite swimming hole. Workmen on the job were not happy about "George". An impasse with only one outcome occurred when workmen said: "Either that alligator gets out of these waters or we do". They did.

The bituminous road shoulders have been sealed and lightly rebuilt from the entrance station to the junction of Long Pine Key Road. Sections where deteriorated drainage structures were removed have been repaired.

Building 108, Temporary Quarters at Pine Island, has been repainted, inside and out, the floors refinished, bath tub and electric range installed.

Repainting of the Royal Palm Station was started.

New Construction: Jefferson Construction Company of Coral Gables, began work on the new shops and office building at Pine Island in late June. The site was staked out and a ditch digger began cutting the rock for foundations. Target date for completion of the structure is the middle of September.

Legislation: The troublesome "Papy Bill" passed the State Legislature. Treated as a local measure where legislative courtesy demanded passage, it: "Prohibited...the sale, conveyance, exchange, or other disposition of land (owned by State in Monroe County)...which would have the effect of, or tend to have the effect of enlarging the boundaries of Everglades National Park...".

Legislation (Contd): On June 15, Governor McCarty vetoed the bill on these bases.

1. As a local bill, it should have been advertised 30 days prior to introduction and must permit referendum. Neither provision was met.

2. State can sell lands to individuals, but certainly could not make perpetual restrictions against use of lands as park.

3. State has already agreed to convey these lands. "If this bill is not an attempt to avoid a contractual obligation, then it certainly is a breach of faith with the Federal Government."

Interpretive Services: The park naturalist had his problems (see Increase or Decrease in Travel). June is supposed to be "off season" when personnel can take annual leave or catch up upon such things as slide collections, museum displays, and so forth. But the demands for public information in the park curtailed these "off season" jobs forcing the naturalist to spend as much time as possible--more than had been planned--at Royal Palm Station answering questions and placating irate out-of-state tourists. Even then, it was not enough.

Research and Observation: Interior bird rookeries--East River, Shark River, and Cuthbert Lake--were completing their seasons. Duck Rock (northwest of present park in Gulf) built up to a large roost where great flocks of white ibis and a few other birds came in each evening.

Two singing male Cuban golden warblers were again found on Porjoe Key.

Increase and Decrease in Travel: Visitation became a problem in June. As everyone knows, the South Florida summer season is becoming more and more important. An aggressive promotion campaign, low prices, and a summer climate, certainly better than many other places, brings the tourists in. A total of 12,950 visited the park.

All this sounds very fine, but the park staff found itself in difficulty. Insect annoyance caused many complaints and could not be adequately abated. Wildlife was in places where people could not visit. Park personnel could not be present for visitor contact work at all times because seasonal men had left, vacations were being taken by some. Although a sign was erected at the park entrance outlining the situation, it apparently did not help much. This caused Ranger Mrazek to lament:

> "It has been my observation during the past two months that the summer visitors to the park are being badly neglected...These visitors are eager for information, even if it is only explained to them why certain facilities and services are not available, why the wildlife is apparently scarce during the summer, and that they will

Increase and Decrease in Travel (Contd):

probably be greeted by mosquitoes at most of the guided tour stations along the way. Most of the visitors are out of state and do not know these things. It is likely that they return to their home states with these false impressions."

The problem, of course, will be solved, but it seems worth reporting here.

Visitors: Herman Gunter, Director of State Geological Survey
John H. Davis, Botany Professor, University of Florida
Dr. Price, Geologist, Texas A. & M.

Ranger Service: On June 14, District Ranger Winte, headed a party to rescue people from a crashed plane. Using a glades tractor, Mr. Winte, Florida Highway Patrolman Stafford, and C.A.P. members found the people four miles north of Tamiami Trail. They were Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Smith of Hialeah. The crashed plane was hauled back to the road later. The Smiths were unharmed except by mosquitoes.

All permanent rangers completed the F.B.I. traffic enforcement school.

Patrol mileage for the month totaled 5,246 by car, 1,935 by boat, and 70 by glades buggy. Airboatway remained closed in spite of rising water levels.

Law Enforcement: F. H. Rutzke of Homestead area was cited before the U. S. Commissioner in Miami on June 1 for killing a sea turtle in Florida Bay. He posted $100 bond.

Pedro Braxton was apprehended with nets at Lake Monroe by District Ranger Bean. He, too, posted $100 bond.

Fire Control: An end-of-year fire critique was held at headquarters June 3. It was noted that every recommendation made at a critique the previous year has now been accomplished.

One lightning strike fire burned only 110 acres. It was rained out.

Fire equipment was steam cleaned and repainted. All mobile glades equipment was stored for the summer. Two pumpers and glades tractors were kept as standby. The jeep with panama pumper remains ready, especially for building fire protection. Fire towers were deactivated. All remaining seasonal fire control aides were terminated.

Personnel: Park Ranger David Bogart and his family left for Shadow Mountain National Recreational Area Colorado. Mr. Bogart's transfer to that area was approved for late June.

Lyle H. McDowell entered on duty as District Ranger, GS-7, Royal Palm District, by transfer and promotion from Blue Ridge Parkway.

Albert Manly, Project Manager for the Land Acquisition Office, left on June 13 for temporary assignment at Grand Teton National Park.

Park Biologist Joseph C. Moore is on assignment with the New York-New England Interagency Survey at Boston.

Oil Exploration: District Ranger Bean reported: "Seismographic exploration for oil was started in Florida Bay on the 10th by the Petty Geophysical Company for the Sinclair Oil Company under the valid Scranton lease. Charges of 16-1/3 pounds to 150 pounds of nitrimone are being used in this work--the charge varying with the distance from the recording boat. Shot points are 2,100 feet apart along lines running parallel to the shore of Key Largo. More than one charge has been set off at each shot point in many instances. By the end of the month one line 22 miles in length had been completed from Shell Key to Blackwater Sound. Six boats are being used--two radar plotting boats, two dynamiting boats, one recording boat, and one general utility boat.

"The State Conservation Commission has a representative, William Mifford, aboard one of the dynamiting boats who is keeping a record of the number of fish killed or stunned, species, water salinity, temperature, weather, etc. Since entering the park he has checked 121 shots (approximately 50 per cent of the total set off) and has found a total of 59 dead fish, most of which have been catfish or smaller species. The only game fish killed to date were seven trout on one shot. However, much of the area in which operations have been carried on to date is not that in which extensive sport fishing is done.

"The oil well on north Key Largo being drilled for the Sinclair Oil Company was at a depth of 9,750 feet on the 30th. The present drilling contract calls for a total depth of 10,500 feet. Reports that traces of oil have been found appeared in the local newspaper but the driller on the scene (an unofficial source) states that all they have so far is a hole in the ground and all that has come out has been rock. Oil is not being produced as yet!"

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

File

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
July, 1953

Weather Conditions: Characteristically hot and humid with the usual torrential downpours of short duration. Thunderstorms of marked intensity were common. Ground water levels are rising, and the stage is above normal in most sections.

Station readings follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger	95	90	68	71	4.93
Coot Bay Ranger	91	89	68	69	7.+
Tamiami Ranger	95	90	70	73.3	9.37
Tavernier	91	88	72	78	10.57

Special Activities: The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Assistant Director Tolson called on Barron Collier in Everglades City and accompanied an Audubon group by boat to Duck Rock. The roost is at its best for recent years, and the sunset flight of a probable 50,000 birds, mostly white ibis, is an experience in nature of the highest order.

At the close of the July 2 staff meeting, Mr. Tolson presented the Superintendent with the Certificate of Honor for Meritorious Service.

A searching study of concession operations was completed, and the information folder has been revised.

Inspections: Regional Architect Smith was in the park for two days lending assistance to park matters in his field of activity.

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: A work outline with plans and estimates has been prepared for the purpose of reprogramming residue construction funds to priority projects such as the extension of Anhinga Trail; Bunk House, Equipment Storage Sheds, Fire Cache, Well House, Utility Court and Road paving Pine Island; Guided Tour Improvements; Interpretive Devices; Mangrove Trail at West Lake, and the rehabilitation of facilities at Coot Bay.

The report of Maurice H. Connell and Associates, Inc., Engineering Consultants commissioned by the Florida Power and Light Company to survey electric and telephone service requirements in the Cape Sable area, was made available. On-site generators and radio-telephone were recommended to meet the needs of the next 10 year period.

General Publicity: The park has been getting credit for the apparent abnormally bothersome South Florida mosquito situation, and there are those who believe that controls applied to the vast wilderness areas is a comparatively simple solution to the annual recurring problem.

Maintenance: Ingraham Highway road surface conditions are better than they have been for some time, and an experimental roadside brush section has been treated with a woody plant killer known as Amate. The results are not too promising, but intensified continued treatment is justified for a longer test period.

The Royal Palm Ranger Station has been repainted, and a new electric range, two hot water heaters, and two refrigerators have been installed in quarters 105 and 108 at Pine Island. A replaced gas range and refrigerator have improved living conditions at the Lostmans River Ranger Station. Action has been taken to correct hazardous conditions, and preliminary hurricane preparations have been completed.

The work of providing lookout living quarters at the Seven Mile Fire Tower is underway, and fill material has been delivered to the Tamiami Ranger Station.

New Construction: The Shop and Office Building is reported 21% complete. The work has progressed in a generally satisfactory manner with the masonry and steel standing at 90% complete. Most of the rough plumbing is in, but there has been undue delay and difficulties with the septic tank installation. The presently established delivery date of August 27 for the steel roof decking will serve to slow work on other phases of the project, and an effort will be made to speed receipt of this material.

Interpretive Services: The Royal Palm Ranger Station was manned for parts of nine days with a recorded attendance of 1220 persons.

Text material was prepared for information signs along Gumbo Limbo and Anhinga Trails.

Research and Observation: The report on exotic trees of the park was prepared by the Park Naturalist and will be forwarded as soon as the typing schedule permits.

Dr. Aaron J. Sharp, Department of Botany, University of Tennessee, visited the area with several graduate students to study bryophyte and to collect pollen of some tropical plants.

Mr. Roy Woodbury of the University of Miami visited the park with one of his botany classes.

The Park Naturalist and Mr. Woodbury made a trip into the mangrove along the east edge of Mud Lake to photograph a rare epephytic cactus, *Rhipsalis cassytha*, which Mr. Woodbury had discovered in December, 1952.

Increase and Decrease in Travel: There were 16,297 visitors to be compared with 9,469 people entering the park during the same period last year. A surprising upward trend in summer visitation continues.

Visitors: Captain W. D. Walburn, USAF, Commanding Officer, Miami Filter Center, and T/Sgt. Richard McHarg visited the office concerning GOC activities.

Ranger Service: A twenty-four hour alert was announced by the Miami Filter Center. Coot Bay, Tamiami, and Royal Palm Ranger Stations participated through the headquarter office.

The Building Fire Hazards Inspection Report was completed.

Three water gauging stations were serviced during the month, and patrol mileage was logged as follows: boat - 1470; glades buggy - 13; car - 3809; for a total of 5,297 miles.

Indications of poaching activities called for the stepping up of regular and special patrols. Air scouting was utilized to the extent of six hours.

Fire Protection: Five non-statistical, off season, fires have occurred. Three were lightning caused, and two were possibly of incendiary origin.

Personnel: Deane M. Shilts reported for duty as a permanent Fire Control Aid.

Vincent J. Mrazek was promoted to the grade of Supervisory Park Ranger, GS-6, and William J. Gray was promoted from the position of Fire Control Aid, GS-4, to Park Ranger, GS-5.

Other: Four meetings were held during the month: two staff, one management improvement, and one concerning the improvement of the interpretive program.

(Sgd) Allyn F. Hanks

Summary of the August, 1953 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
August, 1953

Weather Conditions: The month of August was hot, humid, and wet. Temperatures in the park were considered about average, however, with normal humidity. Reports of the U.S.G.S. indicated heavy rainfall along east costal areas of southern Florida and average in the northern Glades. The central and southern Everglades were reported to be slightly deficient in rainfall and ground water levels. Except at Royal Palm Station, the park records showed more rainfall than last August; but it is generally accepted that conditions were everywhere below average in precipitation.

Readings from stations in the park follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	95	90.5	69	71.5	7.53"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	94	92.4	70	72.8	8.87"
Tamiami Ranger Station	95	91.3	72	75.2	7.66"
Tavernier	91	89.5	66	78.2	6.54"

Seas were calm. There was little wind all month and no small craft warnings.

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: The Florida Light and Power Company agreed to take over the aerial power distribution system at Pine Island. In addition, they are willing to extend power by aerial lines to Royal Palm Ranger Station (Bldg. #109). Work can be completed by about six weeks if agreement can be reached on the physical characteristics of the project.

Southern Bell Telephone Company completed the field survey for telephone installation at the Shops and Office Building (Bldg. #115). Also planned is a telephone extension to the rangers' quarters (Bldg. #105).

A survey of potable water potentials in the vicinity of Flamingo was furthered by additional site studies and tests. Soil samples for establishing engineering data in the area were sent to the Region.

A drawing was submitted for a revised standard of propane gas installation to meet safety hazards peculiar to the local situation.

Maintenance: Anhinga Trail has been rehabilitated as far as the terminal platform. This gives a much safer and attractive looking structure for this very popular activity.

Royal Palm Ranger Station (Bldg. #109) was repainted on the exterior. Reoccurrence of the conditions that tend to bleach out color pigment on the underside of the roof or canopy (concrete slab) occurred.

Some work was done to give Seven Mile Road a better surface. The road had become badly rutted and was difficult to drive. In this same area, fill material was hauled to Tamiami Ranger Station to provide more yard area.

A test well 20 feet deep at Lostmans River Patrol Station failed to produce potable water.

Construction: The Shop and Office Building (Bldg. #115) at Pine Island stood 30 percent complete. Upon receipt of steel roof decking, expected early in September, the job should move rather rapidly towards completion.

A beginning was made on the ranger quarter's bunkhouse (Bldg. #105) at Pine Island. This will be an addition to the structure.

Research and Observation: District Ranger Bean checked a crocodile's nest at the mouth of Trout Creek. He found broken shells indicating nine young crocs had hatched. Several other eggs which failed to hatch were noted.

Travel: Visitation to the park continued high with 16,106 as a total against a mere 6,650 during the same month last year. Of this total, 14,929 people came by car, 1,177 by boat. Mosquito annoyance decreased. Travel for the year ending August 31 was more than 26 percent above the previous year.

Ranger Service: A new, 21' Correct Craft, Utility Runabout was received. This boat was assigned to Florida Bay Ranger District to fill a very pressing need. Up until then, the district, which consists of 370,000 acres (75 percent water), was patrolled by a skiff only.

Water levels permitting airboat travel brought commercial froggers out south of Tamiami Trail and necessitated night patrols in the Tamiami District.

Park Rangers patrolled 5,132 miles in August, 2,040 of which were by boat.

Records for outboard motor use illustrate how valuable those "work horses" are to the Service. In one year, a 25 h.p. motor covered 12,032 miles in 1,191 hours of travel.

Law Enforcement: Three cases were heard and disposed of by U.S. Commissioner Hodson, all with $25 fines: killing a turtle in the park, fishing in closed waters, and speeding.

Oil - Duster on Key Largo: Distract Ranger Bean spent a day on the recording boat with the seismographic crew working in Florida Bay. This work is being conducted by the Petty Geophysical Engineering Company for Sinclair Oil Company on valid lease. It has been reported previously. Smaller dynamite charges and lighter recording equipment are now being used because of shoal areas.

The oil well on northern Key Largo that was being drilled by Sinclair as a Commonwealth Oil Company lease was abandoned as a "duster." The well reached a depth of 11,962 feet. A final drill stem test at 9,955 feet resulted in a salt water geyser which the Miami Daily News gleefully headlined: "Gusher on Key Largo - but it's Salt Water." The well was plugged and the rig removed.

Drilling began at the new site about 1/4 mile from Tamiami Ranger Station between the Tamiami Trail and Loop Road. At month's end it was down to almost 5,000 feet. It is expected to go to around 10,000 feet.

(SGD) DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
September, 1953

Weather Conditions: Generally throughout southern Florida, ground-water levels were above normal with the greatest rises near the end of the month as the rainy season settled down in earnest. Rainfall for the month in the park area was considered approximately normal. The mean measured southerly flow through Tamiami Trail outlets (from Miami to west end of Loop Road) increased from 712 cfs in August to 2,460 cfs in September, according to U.S.G.S. Rainfall at Coot Bay was noticeably greater than last year. In the flood year of 1947, it was 2,390 cfs in August and 3,355 cfs in September.

Hurricane "Dolly" posed a threat for a time causing the park to go on green alert; but "she" turned north and headed towards the middle of the Atlantic.

Readings from stations in the park follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	93	89.0	69	70.5	5.74
Coot Bay Ranger Station	93	89.4	68	76.6	10.83
Tamiami Ranger Station	94	90.5	70	75.0	13.94
Tavernier	91	88.4	70	76.5	11.84

Small craft warnings were displayed on six days only. Waterspouts were noted in and near the park. Areas of inundation spread so that all glades country was under water before the end of September.

Complaints: Jimmy Tiger complained that white men were being permitted into the park in airboats. After consultation with District Ranger Minto, he went away assured that he had been misinformed.

Maintenance: Pine Island's water system was tied in with the new well site and housing completed at that location for the pump.

Work had to be suspended on the terminal platform for Anhinga Trail because of water conditions. A type of concrete pier was developed as wheel bumper guard in the improvement of parking turnouts along the guided tour.

New Construction: The Shop and Office Building (#115) was 67 percent of completion. Some difficulties developed on sub-contractor work, but were being cleared up. Seasonal rains slowed the job.

Bunkhouse addition to Quarters #105 was progressing with satisfaction.

Increase or Decrease in Travel: Travel in the park continued to be higher than anticipated. A total of 12,144 was recorded in September compared to 6,900 in 1952, 4,652 in 1951, and 2,317 in 1950. This buildup in summer travel gives the park staff concern because there are days when it is impossible to have public contact work of any type in the area.

Ranger Services: Park rangers patrolled 1,541 miles by boat, 223 by airboat, and 4,638 by car which totalled 6,402 miles. Airboat routes were open from Tamiami Station to most sections of the glades country.

Chief Ranger Fry was appointed Assistant Area Director, Disaster Preparedness and Relief Committee of the Dade County Chapter, American Red Cross.

Law Enforcement: Two violations occurred. One was for reckless driving, which was disposed of by the U.S. Commissioner in Indianapolis, Indiana ($20 fine). A second, for speeding and reckless driving was handled by the local U.S. Commissioner ($25 fine).

Oil Exploration: The Petty Geophysical Engineering Company concluded seismographic operations in Florida Bay on September 15. They moved to Tamiami Trail where the well is being drilled near Tamiami Ranger Station just north of the park boundary.

(SGD) DANIEL B. BEARD
Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

file

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
OCTOBER, 1953

Weather Conditions: The hurricane season apparently blew itself out with the passing of storm "Hazel" the eighth to threaten but pass us by during the last few months.

High water levels are slowly receding and observations at the several park stations are as follows:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	90	83.4	53	66.7	7.30
Coot Bay Ranger Station	88	83.5	50	66.1	4.27
Tamiami Ranger Station	90	84	56	70	4.62
Tavernier Ranger Station	87	82.5	60	71	9.82

Storm warnings were displayed for two days and small craft warnings for six days.

Investigation of New Park Areas and Boundary Changes: An analysis has been made of the fiscal and organizational demands to meet the outlook for expansion of park area and activities.

Status of Private Lands: The first tangible step toward the establishment of a base for park operations, both for protection and public visitation, on Key Largo for the Florida Bay area, was taken this month when an offer-to-sell the "Salisbury Tract", situated between Rock Harbor and Tavernier, was obtained. This contains approximately 5½ acres, with frontage on U.S. Highway No. 1 and Florida Bay, and is improved with a good dwelling and an excellent dock. Negotiations are in progress for one or the other of the adjoining properties to round out the site.

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: Drawings NP-EVE 2100-C, 2129-B, 2131, 2133 and 2135 relative to the proposed development of extensive facilities at Coot Bay and Flamingo have been reviewed and comments prepared.

A preliminary survey was made of the proposed waterway connection between the headwaters of the Shark and Broad Rivers.

General Publicity: Press evidence of interest in the prospect of activating plans for park improvements have been general and favorably reflected.

Maintenance: A slowly receding water table permitted a stepping up of general road improvement work. The rock pit remains inaccessible and the Anhinga Trail sub-structure is still under water. The Florida Power and Light Company has completed a survey of the power extension at Pine Island and Royal Palm and are prepared to take over this distribution system in the near future.

New Construction: Work on the Shop and Office Building has reached 96% of completion and has taken on a pleasing form and color. It is anticipated that maintenance and warehousing activities will be based here within the next month. New fuel tanks have been installed and three new pumps are on hand with electrical and plumbing fixtures in place at the service island.

The bunkhouse addition to Building No. 105 at Pine Island is ready for occupancy. The exterior appearance is good and the interior rearrangement in the older part of the house has worked out satisfactorily.

Interpretive Service: The third issue of Everglades Natural History is in galley proof and a silk screen processed poster design for the naturalist program was received from the Museum Division. Dade County schools are responding to an invitation for group participation in the naturalist guide service.

As chairman for this year of the Biological Section of the Florida Academy of Sciences, the biologist attended a meeting early in the month of the Council which called for working out the details of the annual meeting of the Academy early in December.

Increase or Decrease in Travel: 8,732 visitors in 2,726 cars entered the park. This figure may be compared with 7,556 visitors for October last year and 12,144 for September this year. The travel year to date has bought 177,129 visitors and the total for January through December last year was 168,621.

Ranger Service: 4,692 patrol miles have been logged by automobile; 2,261 miles by boat and 626 miles by airboat. Alligator poaching activities have required a stepping up of night patrols.

District Ranger McDowell was designated to represent the Superintendent on the National Safety Council for the greater Miami Area.

Accidents: A motor vehicle accident, causing slight damage and no personal injury, occurred when a car plunged into the canal where it crosses the "hole in the doughnut." Excessive speed was the prime contributing factor.

Claude Adside, Laborer, was burned on his right leg while attempting to burn out a wasp's nest with a roll of paper.

Other: A limited quantity of low grade oil has been recovered from the well adjacent to the park boundary and near the Tamiami Ranger Station. Oil promoters are making the most of what appears to be a mediocre showing but scientific data on the operation has been closely retained. Active interest has developed in nearby leases within the park.

One staff and one management improvement meeting has been held during the month.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

file

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
NOVEMBER, 1953

Special Activities: The superintendent attended the annual meeting of the National Audubon Society in New York on annual leave by courtesy of the Tropical Audubon Society of Miami.

Weather Conditions: Ground-water levels in southeastern Florida, at the end of the month, ranged from 0.2 of a foot to 2.0 feet lower than at the end of October, according to U.S.G.S. In the park, surface water was considered better than normal with indications of recharge under Tamiami Trail being affected favorably by flood control works. Average daily flow was about 3,800 cfs.

Temperatures were lower. Weather was very pleasant with a snap of "fall" around Thanksgiving.

Reading from stations follows:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	86	80.3	42	60.3	1.98
Coot Bay Ranger Station	86	80.9	43	62.4	.67
Tavernier Ranger Station	84	79.7	53	69.4	1.53
Tamiami Ranger Station	90	83.0	51	65.0	.67

Inspections: Wilbur Savage, Forester from Region One. Edward Zimmer, Assistant Regional Director and Mr. Dean Stout, Landscape Architect, from Region One. George Thompson, Engineer, Bureau of Public Roads.

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: A new navigation chart of park waters was issued by U.S.C.&G.S. This badly needed chart has the Cape Sable-Whitewater Bay country on one side and the Shark River-Lostmans River area on reverse.

Airboat survey was made of proposed park road location in the vicinity of Mahogany Hammocks and western Long Pine Key.

Maintenance: Breaks in the bituminous sections of the Ingraham Highway have been repaired and the entire surface has reached a standard consistent with the character of the road. Brush clearing and shoulder improvements have also been done.

Work on the Coot Bay Concessions buildings (Bldgs. #205 and 208) was completed to the extent of present plans: ice house insulation, three new doors, screening repairs, replacement of deteriorated flooring, rehabilitation of rest room floors, and minor items.

Brush was cleared from the canal between Flamingo Bridge and Bear Lake to permit trips by Everglades Transway to the "bird show" in December.

Construction: The new shop and office building at Pine Island (Bldg. #115) has been accepted. Work was by the Jefferson Construction Company of Miami. The building is the first unit of the permanent maintenance area. It will be used as a garage shop, sign shop, warehouse (temporary) and road tool shop (temporary). We consider this one of the finest shop buildings in the Service.

The Florida Power and Light Company has taken over the power distribution system at Pine Island. Service retains only emergency power for water and radio communications during hurricanes. Plans were perfected for commercial power to Royal Palm Station.

Concessions: National Park Concessions, Inc. prepared to begin operation of the Coot Bay Snack Bar on December 1. Audubon Tours had one trip the last of the month.

Willard Fletcher of Everglades Transway Service brought in a new, fiberglass boat for taking visitors down Bear Lake Canal and, later, to Cuthbert Rookery. It is powered by two 25 h.p. outboards and is shallow draft.

Cooperating Government Agencies: Mr. Stanley Leach of the U.S.G.S. accompanied park rangers on airboat trips to the four water gauging stations to show procedure in handling records.

Cooperative Non-Government Agencies: The park entered into an agreement with the Bureau of Business and Economic Research of the University of Miami for supplying visitor data in return for monthly publications on seasonal travel, domestic traffic flows, etc.

Naturalist Services: Talks outside the park were given by the superintendent, chief ranger, and park naturalist during November.

December schedules of activities were mimeographed and distributed on silk screen posters to strategic places in the neighborhood of the park.

Research and Observation: Wading bird concentrations in the Bear Lake-Gator Lake area began on schedule with large snowy egrets there in abundance. Other birds in quantity were: white pelicans, wood ibis, white ibis, roseate spoonbills (2-300 immature), American egrets, blue-winged teal, and a scattering of other species. This concentration should last until late December.

Roseate spoonbills were well underway on nesting activity in Florida Bay. The largest concentrations seemed to be at Cowpens, Stake Key, and West Key.

Five manatees, two adults and three young, were reported in the Jewfish Creek-Lake Surprise area. Young were estimated to weigh forty to fifty pounds each.

Travel: A total of 11,288 visitors came to the park in November, constituting an increase of 16.8 percent of the same month last year. Forty-two states and seven foreign countries were represented. A total of 19,796 more people entered the park to date this year than all of 1952.

Visitors: Among the influential visitors to the park in November was one, Lon Garrison, Superintendent of Big Bend National Park who said: "This is the wettest part of Texas I have ever been in."

Ranger Service: Employees attended an 18 hour course in First Aid conducted by the American Red Cross at the park office.

Hunting season patrols and checking station activities were better planned and coordinated than ever before in the park's history. This resulted in better respect for boundaries by hunters and a much improved relationship between local people and the rangers. Night airboat patrol in the Tamiami District had a salutory effect.

Rangers patrolled 9,392 miles by car, 801 by airboat, 2,136 by boat and 4 miles by glades buggy.

Law Enforcement: Eight persons were cited before the U.S. Commissioner, six for firearms and two on traffic cases. All except one were found guilty and given fines. There was insufficient evidence on a reckless driving case.

Fire Control: All seasonal fire personnel were on duty during the month. On the job training as well as a fire school took place. One Class D fire occurred within the fire boundary, but outside the park.

Commercial Fishing: District Ranger N. M. Bean reported: "Approximately 800 stone crab traps belonging to seven different operators are in use in the district at present divided between Blackwater Sound and several locations in the southern part of the district as reported last month. The catch is reported as good but the price weak. One lot recently sold for 25¢ per pound as compared with 60¢ last year during the tourist season. Prices are expected to pick up after the first of the year. A similar situation exists with pompano as regards price, 55¢ per pound now as compared with 80¢ last winter. However, they are not as numerous and are not being fished for as heavily. Several large runs of mackerel in outside waters during the middle of the month drew most of the local black mullet fishermen from the park area."

Oil: The oil well at Forty Mile Bend was completed as far as drilling was concerned. Attempts were being made to get seepage oil out and indications were that this would require expensive pumping. Meanwhile oil exploration was done in the park on valid leases, but it appeared that the next well would be in section 18 just north of Tamiami Trail (outside park) near Jimmie Tiger's village.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
A2615-SER(OLV)
APGG

July 23, 1968

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Southeast Region

From: Acting Chief, Division of Property Management and General Services

Subject: Copies of Everglades Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Reports

We are enclosing machine copies of Everglades Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Reports per your request of July 5, 1968.

The Everglades Superintendent's Monthly Report for December 1953 can not be located in our files at the Federal Records Center and we assume it was never received. However, a tedious search has been made for a possible misfile in all of the possible file codes but it was not located.

J. I. Carpenter

J. I. Carpenter

Enclosures

A 3423

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
JANUARY 1954

Weather Conditions: January was mild with very little rainfall. The water level in the glades began to fall rapidly towards the end of the month, however, innundation of Shark River Basin remained unusually widespread for this time of the year. The last airboat patrol was made from Tamiami Ranger Station at Forty Mile Bend on January 26. Thereafter, airboats were based at Seven Mile Tower.

Readings from stations follows:

	Max. Temp	Mean Max	Min. Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	85	79.1	44	57.2	1.68
Coot Bay Ranger Station	83	77.1	45	58.9	.55
Tavernier Ranger Station	82	77.2	50	66.0	.99
Tamiami Ranger Station	85	79.4	45	60.3	.23

Special Activities - Secretary's Visit: Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay visited Florida and Everglades National Park for the first time.

The official party consisted of:

Secretary and Mrs. Douglas McKay
Assistant Secretary and Mrs. Orme Lewis
Chief of Information and Mrs. Larry Smyth
Executive Assistant to the Secretary Alene Phillips
Director Conrad L. Wirth
Regional Director Elbert Cox

Hosts consisted of:

John D. Pennekamp, Associate Editor of Miami Herald, Chairman, State Park Board, and former Everglades National Park Commission
The Board of County Commissioners, Dade County, Florida
McGregor Smith, President, Florida Power and Light Co.
National Parks Concessions, Inc.
John H. Baker, President of National Audubon Society
Miles Collier and Barron Collier with Board of County Commissioners, Collier County.

The Secretary's visit touched off unusual activity among those who wished to extend oil exploration in the Park and to prevent any change in park boundaries.

Concessions: Everglades Transway Service ran 85 guided boat trips in January carrying 782 visitors. A Park Ranger-naturalist or a Park Ranger accompanied each trip as interpreter.

National Parks Concessions, Inc., had a good month at Coot Bay Snack Bar and the service station. Mr. Blakey is manager this year.

National Audubon Society began two-day tours in January: the first day to Cuthbert Rookery, the second in Florida Bay from Tavernier.

Interpretation: Night Prowls continued each Saturday evening at Royal Palm with total attendance at 108. In addition, four talks were given (attendance 179). Speakers were Naturalist Dilley, Ranger-naturalist Karraker, Chief Ranger Fry, and Dr. Shuttleworth of the University of Miami.

The evening bird roost off the end of Anhinga Trail developed into an excellent attraction and interpretive opportunity. Normally, the parking turnout was full for this flight as "word got around." Maximum roost occupancy was about 2,000 birds, mainly white ibis.

Talks were given as follows:

By Park Naturalist:
Fort Lauderdale Audubon Society
Rotary Club of Homestead

By Superintendent:
Fort Lauderdale Garden Club

By District Ranger and Superintendent:
TV Program, WTVJ "Fishing Shack"

Conducted boat trips to Cuthbert Lake Rookery and Bear Lake were attended by 791 visitors.

Research and Conservation: A pair of anhingas built a nest over the pond at, appropriately, the end of Anhinga Trail.

Dr. Frank Craighead located three tree species not previously known in the Park: Ash, Fraxinus pauciflora; silver buttonwood, Conocarpus erectus, var. sericea; and wild sapodilla, Mimusops emarginata. Ranger Mrazek added another, Thespesia populnea.

The current edition of the Auk carried a paper entitled, "Observations of the short-tailed hawk in Florida" by the park biologist. Another one by him entitled, "Want to see a Florida manatee" was in the Animal Kingdom.

Cuthbert Lake Rookery and East River Rookery were in session all month and doing very well, with Cuthbert more advanced.

Young roseate spoonbills off the nest were first observed early in January at State Key. Several weeks later, young behan to appear at Coopens Cut and Nest Key.

Six flamingoes were reported at the western end of Madiera Bay and two (one immature) at Lake Ingraham.

Travel: University of Miami's Bureau of Business and Economic Research reported "The winter tourist season in southeastern Florida is turning from a seller's market into a buyer's market. The number of tourists entering the Gold Coast area, as indicated by traffic figures, was about equal to the comparative period of the (last year's) season. However, the tourists dispersed themselves over a broader area because of the more than 6 per cent addition to existing accommodations. Bargain hunters seemed to have become familiar sight, with hotels tending to offer more fringe benefits and adopting a more flexible rate structure."

Everglades National Park had 29,690 visitors, more than ever before in one month. This was an 8.3 percent increase over 1953.

Ranger Service: Park rangers assisted the Florida Highway Patrol in several minor accidents along Tamiami Trail and in locating a plane crash northeast of Homestead. Patrol mileage for the month was: 7,373 by car, 2,152 by boat, and 762 by airboat. This makes a total of 10,287 miles.

District Ranger Winte pioneered a new airboat route into Rogers River. This will help a great deal in future protection work in the whole river headwaters country from Lostmans to Broad.

Personal: District Ranger and Mrs. Norton Bean became the parents of son, David Fredrick, on January 12.

District Ranger and Mrs. Lyle McDowell became the parents of a daughter, Pamela Ann, on January 18.

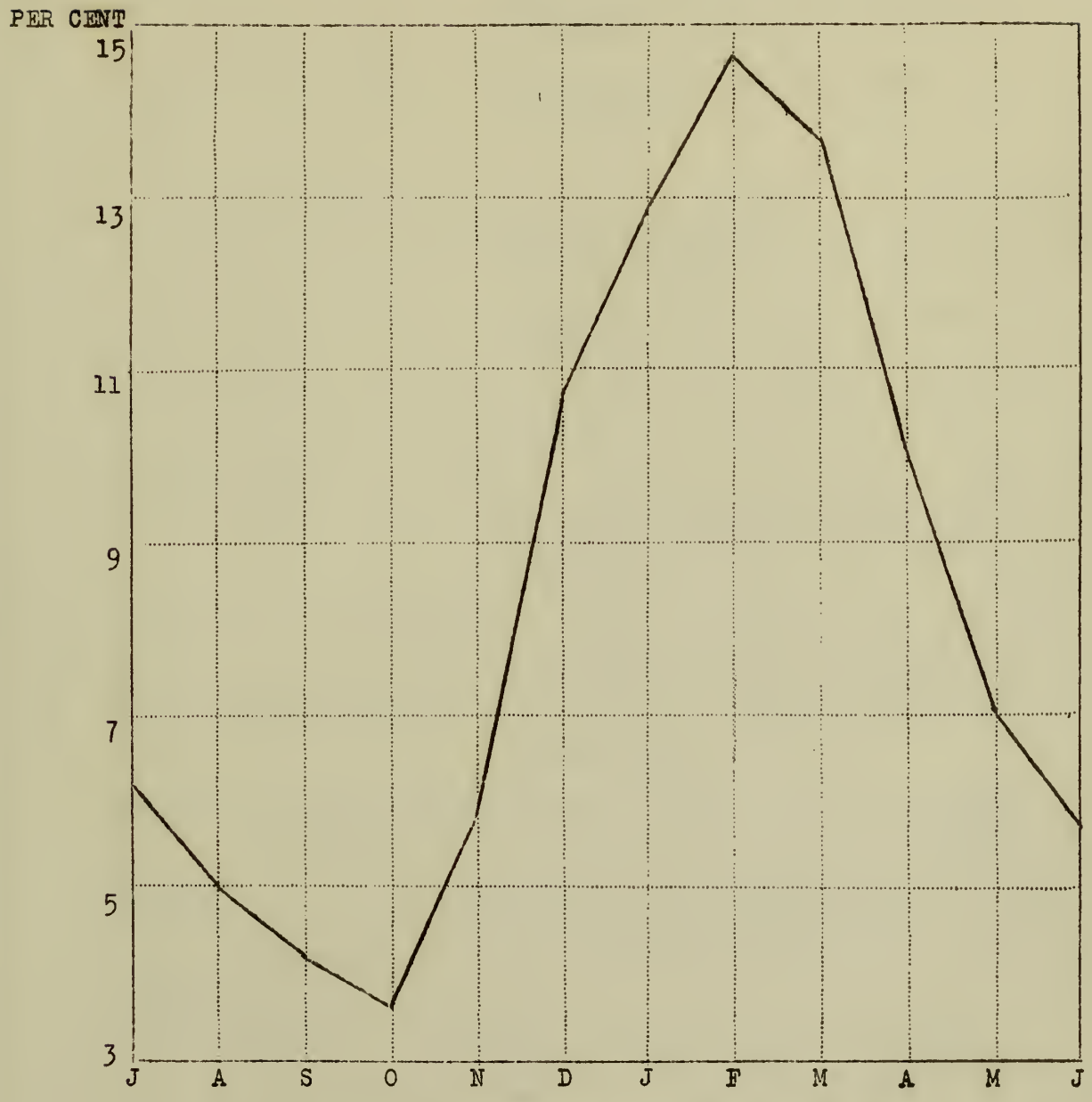
(Other district rangers survived the month without any unusual events.)

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

CHARACTERISTICS OF VISITOR TRAVEL - EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

5 Year Average



MONTHS OF THE FISCAL YEAR - July through June

File

A2823

Summary of the February 1954 Monthly Narrative Report
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

PERSONNEL:	Hanks left for Hatteras. "Snooky" Singhaas died. Another oldtimer passed away.	6
ACCIDENTS:	Minor ones only.	7
COMMERCIAL FISHING:	"Barrolhead" House back in the news. Fishing poor.	7

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK FEBRUARY 1954

General: Everglades National Park had its busiest, scrapiest, and probably most successful month since the park was started in June 1947. More people visited the area than ever before. There were more things for them to see and do. Water conditions were unusually good for wildlife and fire hazard held surprisingly low. The weather was pleasant for February. Throughout the state, Everglades became an issue with much editorial roaring, political tub thumping, and machinations of various kinds concerning oil wells and the park. It had been a bit noisy ever since the Secretary of the Interior visited the area in January.

The Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund of the State (Governor and most of his cabinet) rescinded a 1951 resolution wherein the State had agreed to a redefined maximum park boundary and to conveyance to the United States of all State lands between the present and new or redefined boundary.

Many resolutions were prepared by public and civic bodies both ways: "for" and "agin". When Acting Governor (and candidate) Charley Johns said a big public hearing would be held in March, that he was making the park "a potential issue in the coming campaign," his two opponents, Brailey Odham and LeRay Collins came out for the enlargement of the park. There were petitions, post card campaigns, newspaper cartoons, editorials, and radio commentators' comments.

The cause of all the hassle was a new oil well along Tamiami Trail north of the park boundary which seemed to indicate a better seepage than the previous well. It touched off such headlines as: "Firm Offers Dream--in Glades Swamp," then the newspaper sotry went on to mention that $120 an acre is being paid "by residents of small town in the south" for property with 40% oil rights until recently listed at $12.50 per acre. Since the land is deep in the Everglades sawgrass, the advertisements seemed a little incongruous, yet reminiscent of the old land boom days of Florida, when they said, " * * * rest and fun and relaxation in the Florida sun with plenty of bathing and fishing." On paper, at least, one oil company's stock seemed to have made an increase from 1¢ per share in 1951 to $5 per share on the current market.

Rumor of a "West Coast entrance" and loss of hunting territory set off an anti-park battle in Homestead, Florida, the park headquarters town; but the campaign did not build up as well

as proponents had expected, and, in fact, backfired in some aspects by giving the city bad state-wide publicity. The Superintendent found himself unable to meet all requests to appear at gatherings but, nevertheless, kept him scurrying from meeting to meeting such as: South Dade Garden Club, Homestead City Council, Miami Breakfast Club, Miami Beach Kiwanis Club, Miami Chamber of Commerce, Directors of Miami Junior Chamber of Comerce, TV show "What's the Story" (on a panel with J. L. McCord of Commonwealth Oil Co.), University of Miami's Beaumont Theater symposium on Florida's resources, and quite a few other places.

It was, indeed, a busy month.

Meanwhile, the oil well at 40 mile bend (Wischart #1) pumped nightily, but with diminishing success, to get an estimated 50 barrels of low grade oil per day. At Jimmie Tiger Well a few miles east, drilling had stopped at over 11,000 feet. Casing was being put in and pumping equipment installed. A more porous seepage area with, perhaps, an assist from some natural gas gave this well a more promising future, or so it was very loudly said.

Weather Conditions: Dry, windy, occasionally cool, conditions characterized the weather during Feburary. However, there was more rain than we are used to in winter, even some hail. Water levels in sloughs, low areas, and along Shark River Valley responded quickly to each rain.

Readings from stations follows:

	Max. Temp	Mean Max	Min. Temp	Mean Min	Rainfal
Royal Palm Ranger Station	84	77.8	37	50.9	2.26"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	85	76.03	45	52.96	3.51"
Tamiami Ranger Station	88	79.6	46	46.0	1.48"
Tavernier Ranger Station	81	76.6	53	63.2	4.01"

Inspection: Assistant Director Thomas J. Allen was in the park for several days. He examined the oil well at Tamiami Trail, discussed park operational matters, and conferred with park supporters on the oil hassle.

Ross Sweeny, engineer from the Regional Office, was down on assignment for survey and conferences relative to Flamingo development.

Dean Stout, landscape architect from the region checked P-lines on the work being done by Bureau of Public Road crews.

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: Bureau of Public Road work is noted under "Cooperating Government Agencies."

Engineer Ross Sweeny and Topographic Engineer George W. Martin from the Regional Office worked on plans and mapping of the Flamingo development. Topographic mapping was started, a channel line to Joe Kemp Channel was staked out, and preparations began for surveys of water depths. Tests were started on Flamingo marl and underlying rock to determine consistency of fill material and feasibility of procuring top dressing (rock) from the site.

Maintenance: An old fisherman's shanty at Trout Creek was removed and the site cleaned up. Decking on the highway bridge east of Anhinga Trail underwent repair. Parking "stalls" were painted on pavement at Anhinga and Royal Palm parking areas. A dual power plant was put in to replace the gasoline plant at Coot Bay. Cruiser 11-200 was put back in service for the Lostmans River run. Logs and trees were removed from the creek between Coot Bay and Mud Lake. The traffic island at Coot Bay was changed so 12 more cars could park in this overcrowded area.

Highway maintenance continued, but there was little hope of even keeping the Ingraham Highway in January level shape because of heavy traffic, dust, and pounding in chuck holes. It was the best it had ever been, though. Brush cleaning to prevent scratching of cars when passing from West Lake to Coot Bay was carried on.

Construction: The paving of the maintenance area court at Pine Island was completed as far as the contractor was concerned. Mr. Westerfield from the Regional Office was detailed to the park to see it through.

Concessions: Everglades Wildlife Tours by the National Audubon Society continued to operate with success all month. There were two-day trips, the first day to Cuthbert Rookery, the second in Florida Bay.

Everglades Transway Service had its most successful month. Ninety guided boat trips were made to Cuthbert Lake carrying 970 passengers. Six trips had to be cancelled because of motor trouble, though. Bad rains prevented trips one day and loads were reduced because of high seas on three days. Mr. Fletcher was given permission to run an additional daily trip at 4:30 p.m. to meet public demands. He was also allowed to put a boat in at Coot Bay at reduced rates (same as last Year's trips) with full explanation to people it was a scenic, not a wildlife trip. This was in answer to demands for a boat trip by those who could not be accommodated on the Cuthbert run. It will start in March.

National Parks Concessions, Inc., did very well in February at the gas station and snack bar. On weekends, all tables and benches were often filled and a "waiting line" for food service formed astride the building.

Cooperating Government Agencies: District Engineer G. B. Thompson reported on road surveys. His crew has so far flagged 9.20 miles of road, run preliminary line on 8.44 miles, set bench marks for 6.96 miles, and worked up cross sections for 6.87 miles. Muck samples were taken near Taylor Slough for tests. Preliminary line has so far been plotted for 4.39 miles with topography plotting for 2.95 miles.

On inspection was made of the areas of the park in which the United States Department of Agriculture Pink Bollworm Control Crews were working. The work was found to be satisfactory as usual.

Interpretive Services: Activities at Royal Palm Station settled around night prowls every Saturday (139 people) and Sunday evening talks (142 people).

Special efforts to serve Dade County school groups continued with total attendance of 305 from 8 schools and 290 from a girl scout group. Trouble was encountered trying to keep Royal Palm Station manned every day because of personnel shortages, but 4,541 persons were checked through while someone was there.

The seasonal ranger-naturalist and park rangers interpreted boat trips (Everglades Transway Service) to 963 passengers.

Talks by staff members included:

By Chief Ranger, South Dade Garden Club
By Park Naturalist, Brownie Troop of Homestead.

Anhinga Trail continued to "pack'em in" as the best interpretive spot in the park.

The Park Biologist attended a meeting of the Council of the Florida Academy of Sciences at the University of Tampa.

Research and Observation: East River Rookery and Cuthbert Lake Rookery continued to thrive with young wood ibis about half grown in nests. Roseate spoonbills were out of nests in Florida Bay. As near as could be determined by visual count, about 150 young "pinks" were raised in the Florida area this season.

Unusual records for February:

White-crowned pigeon at Tavernier Creek, February 13.
Short-tailed hawk, dark phase, at Royal Palm, February 25.
Pair of limpkins and 3 young, Anhinga Trail, February 27.

District Ranger Bean reported ten to 12,000 coots and bout 1,000 lesser scaup ducks in rafts at Monroe, Middle, and Seven Palms Lakes area.

Collaborator F. C. Craighead reported on his herbarium work. He added about 225 determined species to the 150 that were there before. An additional 20 were prepared but have not been identified. Dr. Craighead recommended following the University of Miami's system rather than that of Service "type" proposed by Dale S. King because some 50% of genera are not included. He also suggested that the park collection should form "a working base for comparison and addition of many more species," with the University of Miami.

Travel: The 1954 winter season reached its peak in southern Florida during the third week of February. "Although there were at least as many tourists in southeastern Florida as last year," reported the University of Miami in its Tourist Trade Index, "the addition of new accommodations has eased the pressure of demand. It was this pressure, which, in past seasons, maintained a firm price structure."

It is noted that traffic flow for February into greater Miami and surrounding areas was 36,550 by rail, 103,836 by air, and an estimated 217,899 by car with net inflow of 56,034 persons (358,285 came, 302,251 left). The park had 31,265 visitors.

Visitors:

Acting Governor Charley Johns of Florida
Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt Haddock of C.I.O. in Washington, D. C.
E. P. Buchan, Ford Foundation, Pasedena, California
William Anderson, Walt Disney Studios photographer
Maxwell Dale, Chief Ranger of Blue Ridge Parkway
Steven T. Briggs, President of Briggs Stratton and Outboard Marine Corporation
Norman E. Shearer, Bureau of Land Management
Robert Sisson, Staff Photographer, National Geographic
Allan Cruickshank, author and wildlife photographer
Elliot Porter, noted bird photographer of Santa Fe.
John McKinney, well-known wildlife photographer
Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, President of National Geographic Society

Ranger Service: Patrol mileage during the month remained about average for this time of the year with a total of about 10,016 miles of which 6,875 miles were by car, 2,479 miles by boat, and 662 miles by airboat.

With parking areas all full or overflowing at times during the month, and traffic at all time high, park ranger time had to be diverted from patrol activities to public contact, parking cars, investigating accidents, showing special persons around, and allied work more than ever before.

Airboat travel from 7-Mile Tower to Shark River and the east park boundary was still practical at month's end.

Two men in a skiff were reported lost. With the help of a Coast Guard search plane, they were located in Harney River where park rangers contacted them and brought them in.

Fire Control: No fires occurred during February. Fire danger increased to the danger point, but an all day downpour on the last day of the month temporarily reversed the trend. A "dry run" was held to see if all fire fighting units were still on their toes.

District Ranger McDowell worked upon a fire plan for the Pine Island Residential Area.

Law Enforcement: Two cases of speeding were heard before the United States Commissioner. One defendant was fined $15 and the other remained an open case until the defendant could produce his driver's license.

Mr. Rudolph Zangwill drove his car over the water well at Coot Bay, tore the pipe, left the scene of the accident, and headed for town. Apprehended at daybreak next day at Miami Beach, the much surprised defendant was brought before the Commissioner and fined $60.

Personnel: Allyn Hanks, Assistant Superintendent, with Mrs. Hanks and their son, Bill, left for Cape Hatteras National Seashore where Mr. Hanks will become superintendent. Everglades was fortunate in having such a skillful and experienced man as its first assistant superintendent.

Chief Ranger George W. Fry became Acting Assistant Superintendent. District Ranger Ralph Maxwell was detailed as Acting Chief Ranger.

Seasonal Fire Control Aide Leo W. Lorenzo resigned as of the 19th to accept a permanent position with the Post Office Department.

Claude "Snooky" Singhaas, former chef for Field Marshal Von Hindenburg and later for Barron Collier of Everglades City died at a Miami Beach Hospital. Well known to many officials of the Service and to others, including President Eisenhower and to Ex-President Truman, "Snooky" acted as chef and manager of the Rod and Gun Club at Everglades for many years. His techniques of applying Old World recipes to native foods of southern Florida made his dishes famous. Ardent conservationist and firm friend of Everglades National Park, one of "Snooky's last "official" acts was to supervise preparation of a dinner for Secretary McKay and his party.

Another Everglades oldtimer passed away when Loren Roberts died of a heart attack while fighting a fire at his home. Roberts was the son of "Uncle" Steve Roberts of Flamingo. He came to the

Cape Sable country from Orlando in 1901 and raised a large family at Flamingo. When Audubon warden Guy Bradley was killed, Loren was sent in search of the body which he and others found near what is now Bradley Key.

Commercial Fishing: Lloyd "Barrelhead" House and Luther "Buddy" Roberts, formerly of Flamingo were reported to be negotiating for purchase of the Tavernier Fish Company.

Five mullet and trout crews worked in Florida Bay, but fishing was slow and windy weather made it difficult.

Accidents: There were a few minor traffic accidents in the park during the month. One slight personal injury occurred when a lady stepped into a hole in the bridge planking.

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

Files

A-2

Summary of the March 1954 Monthly Narrative Report for

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

		Page
OIL EXPLORATION:	42 barrels daily produced at 40-Mile Bend	7

In reply refer to:
A2623

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
MARCH 1954

Weather Conditions: Early in the month, the weather was bad cool with winds that made marine conditions unfavorable. Late February and early March weather also had serious effects upon wildlife (see research and observation.) A taste of summer occurred late in the month with rising temperatures and high relative humidity.

Readings from stations follow:

	Max Temp	Mean Max	Min Temp	Mean Min	Rainfal
Royal Palm Ranger Station	86	78.9	33	58.6	3.36"
Coot Bay Ranger	85	78.4	46	88.2	3.70"
Taniami Ranger Station	90	79.4	47	56.0	2.78"
Tavernier Ranger Station	84	78.3	55	66.0	2.89"

Special Activities - Oil Hearing: On March 22, Acting Governor Charley Johns called a hearing at Tallahassee relative to the action by the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund rescinding a 1951 resolution on (1) redefined park boundaries, and (2) conveyance of State land in said boundaries. The hearing was before the Trustees at the Senate Chamber. It lasted all day.

National Park Service representatives were: Director Wirth, Superintendent Beard, Superintendent Vinten (Castillo de San Marcos), and Project Manager Manly of the Land Acquisition Office who attended at his expense. Senator Spessard Holland and Senator George Smathers flew down from Washington to assist.

Director Wirth reviewed the orderly history of legislation. (both Federal and State) on the park, the resolutions, agreements and correspondence on this subject. He stressed the importance of the park to Florida and to the Nation, and he emphasized the sprit of friendly cooperation that has always existed.

Acting Governor Johns had turned the hearing chairmanship over to Secretary of State Gray because Johns had been accused of purchasing oil stock ($396.00 worth) by newspapers. He claimed to have ordered it sold.

Senator Holland spoke strongly in favor of the park, of the recent extension, and urged that the State live up to agreements. He noted that Florida, not the Federal Government, had been the "aggressor" in the establishment of the park. Senator Smathers echoed these thoughts and indicated that oil exploration had so far proven little.

Other speakers for the park included Senator Franklin from Collier and Monroe Counties, Representative Jones of Collier County, City Manager Scott of Everglades City. Several did not speak: John Baker, President of the National Audubon Society; representatives of the Chamber of Commerce at Naples and Ft. Myers; and the Collier interests.

Opposing the park were various people: Dr. E. C. Lensford, former landowner; Ivar Axelson and wife, landowners; Ira Haycock, attorney and landowner; Pat Rutherford, who claimed $75,000 to $100,000 spent in research for using mangrove products; Frank Pepper, interested in oil and lands; Dr. Vellantiniec from South Carolina, who claimed 50 to 60 million dollars a year could be made on mangrove products; general manager of Miami Chamber of Commerce; E. O. Dixon, commercial frog hunter; Carl Hawkins of Model Land Co.; J. P. Simmons, a director of Commonwealth Oil Co.; Rivers Buford, former Chief Justice of Supreme Court who is interested in oil; and several others.

No action was taken at the close of the hearing.

Park Extension: Secretary of the Interior Douglass McKay signed an order on March 12 adding approximately 271,000 acres to Everglades National Park. The action was taken after the Secretary had visited the park and in accordance with the agreements with the State in 1951 (which the State rescinded because no action had been taken.)

The new area includes: famous Duck Rock which is the largest summer roost for birds known in Florida; an interconnecting waterway from Turner River to Lostmans River; samples of the Big Cypress Swamp habitat; some of the Ten Thousand Islands; and other features. In the area are 30,000 acres of Federal lands, 16,000 acres of State land, and about 12,000 acres of lands conveyed to the State by Miles and Barron Collier for national park purposes. The rest, except water areas, is private property.

Inspections: Ross Sweeny, Engineer, was in from the Regional Office for Flamingo planning.

Regional Director Cox spent several days in the park relative to Flamingo plan, personnel matters, administrative plans, and related subjects.

Chief of Development Vint, and Regional Chief of Development Zimmer were in to check BPR and Flamingo plans. It was decided to definitely plan park headquarters on the west side of Parachute Key.

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: Bureau of Public Roads crews continued to work all month on surveys for the park road. They flagged 4.82 miles, ran preliminary lines on 3.48 miles, bench-marked 3.48 miles and made cross sections for 4.80 miles. Work for the season was drawing to a close and BPR personnel planned to leave early in April.

George Martin, Engineer, continued topographic survey work in the Flamingo area as plans matured for initial dredge and fill work there.

Maintenance: Royal Palm District: 40 tons of plant mix were used to patch Ingraham Highway, bridges were repaired, shoulders moved. Paint room partition was installed at shop. A radio tower was erected at Pine Island. A portable outdoor screen was fabricated for evening talks. Standby fire protection pump was installed at Pine Island.

Cape Sable District: Brush clearing continued from Whiskey Creek to West Lake and from Flamingo Bridge to Browns Camp. Road blading, in attempting to keep the gravel in shape, was done on Ingraham Highway. The old radio tower at Little Banana Patch was taken down for use elsewhere. Observation tower at Station 4 was repainted. A boat launching ramp was changed at Coot Bay to permit the use of Shark River by outboard cruisers. (It was enthusiastically accepted by many.)

Tamiami District: A water system was installed at 7-Mile Tower quarters area. Airboat patrol markers were reworked in Shark Rivers area with some breaking out for better access. Rangers worked on building maintenance in the district. Electric plant 11-374 was reinstalled at Tamiami Station after shop repairs. Brush was cut along 7-Mile Road.

Florida Bay District: Fifty-seven channel markers were fabricated and installed or used to replace old ones.

Shop Operation: Shop Foreman Parker reported, "With the end of the season in sight * * * it has been the best winter we have had on mechanical repairs. To date, no major repairs have been necessary because of misuse of equipment." Routine maintenance and repair work occupied the activities of the month.

Construction: Bulldozers started on the Flamingo marina (pronounced mar eo na) the last week of the month. Berm was being pushed into place to hold dredged fill and as a place for temporary by-pass road. Bids for dredging were expected to be ready in late April.

Concession Operations: Everglades Transway Service handled 1,360 people on sightseeing craft in March. Of this number, 1,028 went to Cuthbert Lake and 343 on Coot Bay "overflow" trips. Audubon Tours continued all month.

National Parks Concessions, Inc., did better than a year ago this month at Coot Bay Snack Bar and Service station. The "number of meals" count this March was 4,656. It was 2,683 last March, gross revenue increased 31 %.

Cooperating Government Agencies: The wild cotton crews moved out of Flamingo for the season. U.S.D.A. men scouted all keys in eastern Florida Bay looking for signs of pink bollworm. This was done because of increased infestation this year on the mainland.

Interpretive Services: Several talks outside the park were given:

Acting Assistant Superintendent Fry talked to Scouts and Scouters of South Dade District and then to the North Dade District on "Conservation, the National Good Turn of the Boy Scouts of America."

Ranger-Naturalist Karraker talked at a meeting of the Miami Springs Garden Club.

Superintendent Beard gave talks at the University of Miami, Miami Beach Lions Club, and at the Pan American Airways Rod and Gun Club.

Within the park, interpretive service was given at Royal Palm Station and on the Everglades Transway boat trips. Five school groups received special attention. Attendance at Saturday night prowls totaled 108, at Sunday talks, 211 persons.

Research and Observation: General Conditions - Rains and cold winds which normally spell disaster to bird rookeries had less effect in late February although there was much concern when the weather went bad. There was some loss of young birds with a cleanup squad of thirty vultures working over Cuthbert Rookery on March 4. During the next few days the number of adult wood ibis and American egrets decreased to about one-third. Vultures continued to be common until March 24, when only three were noted.

During the latter part of March many wood ibis and American egrets appeared to be re-nesting and the number of these birds increased until about one-half the original population had returned. East River Rookery was in good shape with white ibis coming in. Swallow-tailed kites were back for the summer.

District Ranger Bean conducted a count of roseate spoonbill nests finding 30 on Stake Key, 23 on North West Key, and 28 at Cowpens Key.

Birds tended to move towards Tamiami Trail and into Shark River basin as glade lands began to dry out.

Cyrtapodium orchids began to bloom in March and mahogany trees turned "mahogany-colored" as they dropped their seeds and began to loose their leaves for a brief spell. Yucca was just beginning to bloom in late March making a showy picture on the Flamingo flats.

Special observations:

Three green-winged teal at Coot Bay.
A great white heron was seen eating a green water snake.
Gannets were reported at Lake Surprise.
One six-foot crocodile was seen in north Buttonwood Sound area.
Deer were noted regularly near Tamiami Trail.

Travel: The winter travel season held up according to predictions during March. Total travel for March was 28,705 which was 2,560 less than February, 3,634 above the visitation for March 1953. Visitors to the park came from all of the 48 states and six foreign countries.

The tourist season was very good in March throughout south Florida although the late Easter season this year (which held people on in 1953) was a deterrent. Business started to decline everywhere the last few days of the month. University of Miami studies showed a net estimate outflow of 85,000 people by rail, air, and cars from Greater Miami in March. It continues of interest to note that 24,531 arrived by rail and 98,405 by air with the proportion coming by plane being higher each year. The airplane appears to be here to stay!

Visitors:

Wallace Kirkland, Life photographer
Dr. Harold Anthony, N.P.S. Advisory Board
Eleven officers and directors of the Miami Jaycees.

Ranger Activities: Patrol mileage: 9,634 miles by car, 2,600 by boat, 736 by airboat, total 12,970 miles.

Royal Palm District: Rangers attended as delegates at the Greater Miami Safety Council. The district ranger also attended a meeting of the Federal Safety Council in Miami. Water gauging stations P-37 and P-38 were checked and serviced. To solve the visitor contact problem, the district ranger, highway patrol ranger, and a second seasonal ranger filled in at Royal Palm Station when naturalist was not there. Traffic control at Anhinga Trail was a problem all month. One glades buggy track was found to have crossed into park lands from the "hole-in-the-doughnut."

Cape Sable District: A routine search was made for an overdue skiff which was finally found trying to find the canal into Coot Bay Pond. Trips were made twice to East River Rookery with photographers.

Tamiami District: Airboat patrol along the marked trail from 7-Mile Tower to Shark River was possible all month. This made night airboat patrol work necessary to keep commercial froggers out of the park.

Florida Bay District: Special roseate spoonbill patrol work was terminated March 13 as birds were past nesting season. Routine boat patrol included night work to check on commercial fishing. Beach and hammock areas were checked for signs of crocodile poaching.

Law Enforcement: Four traffic cases were taken before the U. S. Commissioner and found guilty.

Fabian Santini and Manual Arsuna were found taking live porpoises in Florida Bay. They were advised of the regulations and ordered to release the mammals.

Two men were cited into the Chief Ranger's Office for carrying firearms. They were warned and released.

Fire Control Activities: No reportable fires occurred. Water in the glades remained quite high and fire hazard was lower than normal. Pine lands were well dried out, though, and there was a rash of pine land fires near park boundaries.

Accidents: Three automobile accidents occurred in the park during March: One car went in the canal south of Coot Bay; 6 U.S.D.A. workers were in a car that went into the canal near Nine Mile Bend (only the radio areal was above water); and a car dented its pan on a rock in the road. There were no injuries. However, one man was killed when the car he was in skidded and overturned on loose gravel in the private strip of lands south and west of Royal Palm called the "hole-in-the-doughnut."

Personnel: Fire Control Aid (seasonal) Caslick resigned to accept permanent employment with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Manager Blackey of N.P.C., Inc., left for Mammoth Cave prior to assignment at Big Bend National Park.

Fire Control Aid and Mrs. William P. Fisher became the parents of a son, William P. Fisher, Jr., on March 9.

Chief Ranger George Fry became Acting Assistant Superintendent, District Ranger Ralph Maxwell was designated as Acting Chief Ranger, and Ranger Vince Mrazek took over Cape Sable District on an acting basis.

Oil Exploration: District Ranger Winte reported: "The well at 40-Mile Bend produced an average of 42 barrels daily in March. The oil derrick used at Wisehart # 1 was moved to the vicinity of La Belle, Florida." The second oil well (across from J. Tiger Camp) was standing by waiting for pumping equipment.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

Files

A28x3

Summary of the April 1954 Monthly Narrative Report
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

In reply refer to:
A2823

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
APRIL 1954

Weather Conditions: District Ranger Bean reported: "Florida style springtime (summer weather elsewhere) was in effect nearly all month." Temperatures were rising with but one rather blunted cold spell which sent the thermometer at Royal Palm plummeting down to forty-nine degrees. There was quite a bit of rainfall for this time of year with water levels up better than at any time (in spring) since 1948. Small craft warnings were displayed only four days all month.

Readings from stations follow:

	Max Temp	Mean Max	Min Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	90	84.8	49	66.7	6.84"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	87	84.2	61	66.4	4.36"
Tamiami Ranger Station	92	86	58	65	3.84"
Tavernier Ranger Station	86	82.8	67	73.5	3.76"

Inspections: Assistant Director Thomas J. Allen was in the park with the Fred Harvey party for three days.

Verne E. Rowley, Chief of Communications, Washington Office, was in the park one day.

Ross Sweeny, Engineer from Region One spent five days in connection with the Flamingo development.

Status of Private Lands: The U. S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit rendered decision on the case of Paradise Prairie Land Co. and Dorothy Dewhurst Parker, Appellants, v. United States of America, Appellee, on appeal from the U. S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Judges Strum, Rives, and Dawkins presiding.

The Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the lower court and held with the former landowners in the park. The direct, apparent result of the reversal is to increase the acreage to be paid by the Government by approximately 5,600 acres and to necessitate a new jury trial, fixing the compensation for the total area. The indirect result, perhaps with more serious consequences, is that the decision tends to discredit the base map of the park.

Transactions were completed and possession taken of Florida Bay District Ranger Station on Key Largo. The tract of land lying between US-1 (The Overseas Highway) and Florida Bay contains 18.3 acres. It includes quarters, a work shop, and a substantial pier with covered boat space. Mature keys hammock growth several acres in extent is also on this stratogic property.

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: A conference was held with Southern Bell Telephone officials regarding a continuation of this survey of radio and telephone communications service in the park.

Dale Doty, architect from Region Four, completed drawings for Flamingo structures and was working on some elevations of the buildings at the end of the month. Meanwhile George Martin of Region One was finishing topographic surveys of the Flamingo site.

Maintenance:

Royal Palm District

Ingraham Highway bladed from black-top south. Old fire cache on Paradise Key had roof repaired. Wiring revised and additional outlets installed at new shop (#115).

Cape Sable District

Ingraham Highway bladed to Flamingo development site. Coot Bay dock repaired and water tank replaced. Fill material added to Coot Bay and West Lake parking areas. Base stone added to road at 9-Mile Bend. Flagpole erected Flamingo Station. New propane gas installations started at Coot Bay.

Tamiami District

Fill material hauled and spread at Station.

Florida Bay District

Cleanup drive at Manatee Creek commercial fishermen's landing.

Shop Operation

Major overhaul work was on three power plants which are a source of continued trouble in the park.

Construction: The temporary by-pass road around Flamingo development site was practically completed. Rock was being hauled for the road and some recovered from the old road. Berms for the development in connection with the road were in place.

Bids for Flamingo dredging were opened April 27. Low bidder was Alonzo Cothron at 27¢ per cubic yard with total of $71,828. Notice of award was held for several reasons.

Concession Service: Everglades Transway Service completed its most successful winter season in April. A total of 4,148 persons were taken on guided boat trips to Bear Lake (in December) or Cuthbert Lake Rookery. Of this number, 514 went out in April. Overflow trips were made for a few weeks in Coot Bay.

Audubon Wildlife Tours also completed their season with about 940 passengers on guided station wagon and boat tours. Plans have been made to have early summer tours to Duck Rock, in the new addition to the park.

National Park Concessions, Inc., went into limited summer operation at Coot Bay Snack Bar and service station at the end of April.

Interpretive Service: Talks outside the park were as follows:

By Superintendent:

Redlands Lions Club. Attendance 83.
Southeast Conference, National Audubon Society. Attendance 250.
Miami Beach Rod and Reel Club. Attendance 330.
Miami Beach Rotary Club. Attendance 400.
Tropical Audubon Society. Attendance 75.

By Assistant Superintendent:

Cub Pack 11, Coral Gables. Attendance 92.

By Park Naturalist:

Homestead Brownies and Scout Troops. Attendance 125.

By Park Biologist:

Florida Association of Science Teachers. Attendance 100.

Sunday evening talks were attended by 186 people in April; night prowls by 128. Eleven school groups totalling 515 children were given special service. Several other special groups came in. Five hundred fifteen people on guided boat trips were given interpretive service.

Natural History: Wood ibis in Cuthbert and East River rookeries had young at flying stage towards the end of April. Biologist Moore commented: "It was a most heartening sight after the failures of 1950, 1951, and 1952 and the only partial success of last year."

District Ranger Bean came up with some interesting manatee records in Florida Bay area: One in Little Buttonwood Sound; one two miles north of Tavernier; and five on the ocean side of Tavernier. These are the first good sea cow records in this area for several years.

The wildlife spectacle in the Royal Palm area (including Anhinga Trail) fell off rapidly as the season progressed. There was not much for the general public to see except some coots, anhingas, gallinules (Florida and purple), alligators, and the lonely great white heron. Spring migration had taken some north, other species were distributed elsewhere. Duck Rock summer roost and rookery had begun to form when the superintendent flew over it in mid April.

Wading birds, normally seen in concentrated feeding areas of Shark River drainageway in the Glades at this time of the year, were scattered. This was because water stood at uniform depths of from four to eight inches which meant that food supplies were distributed more than is normal. District Ranger Winte predicted: " * * * (the) water table this year will not fall below the point where fish, reptiles, and other aquatic life die off, as it has in past years. (Thus) a large surplus of * * * food may be saved to spread over the entire park glade lands when water rises."

From 15 to 20 roseate spoonbills were still to be seen at scattered locations centering on Cowpens Cut at the end of the month. A northern phalarope was added to the park check list.

Travel: Travel in the park for April totalled 26,981 people. This was 4,179 above the same month last year. Of this number (April 1954) 18,764 entered by private cars, 1,159 by busses, 164 on a special Audubon bus (see accidents), 1,740 into Florida Bay by boat, and 151 into the Lostmans River area by boat. Of the total by car, 24% were from Dade County, Florida, and 11% were from other parts of the State. All forty-eight states were represented as well as twelve foreign countries. The total number of tourists in the nearby Miami area was about equal to April 1953 although average room occupancy was down about 6% and drastic reduction of room rates (some 18 percent below last April) indicated the trend. About 95,000 more people left Miami than came in.

A rehash of the winter season (December 1 - April 30) shows that December was off and Christmas vacation period did not come up to expectations. All other months were better than before

with February the usual peak. The total visitation for the season was 129,997 which was 9,962 above the 1952-53 season. Throughout the winter resorts of southern Florida, business was considered just fair. Fewer people came to Miami (as far as known) in December than the year before. Other months showed slight increases over 1953 in the same period, but comparative data were lacking for conclusions on this. Room prices for various types of hotels and motels moved up a little over last year, until April, except for the deluxe spots which remained about the same. Room occupancy in terms of percentages fell, due in part at least to more accommodations.

The park did quite well considering how the season was elsewhere since there is undoubtedly a direct relationship between park travel and the success or failure of the winter tourist season in Miami and environs. However, places like Bimini in the Bahamas had a drop in tourists whereas that of the park built up. It would seem that the park has not become sufficiently stabilized yet for this "direct relationship" to be fully active and measurable.

More than half the visitors this winter who came by car went on to Coot Bay. As usual, Sundays were the best days with high peak travel. Tuesdays and Fridays were low, but Mondays were at the bottom. Most out-of-State visitors came from the northeast (New England, N.Y., N.J., and Pa.). Visitors from the Great Lakes States ran a close second on out-of-Staters (Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota). Other sections of the country were represented by much fewer than those just cited. On a typical week day (Thursday, February 18), 81.58 percent of arrivals by car were out-of-State visitors; 16.78 percent were from Dade County; and 1.64% were from elsewhere in Florida. Total visitation on that day was 608. On a typical Sunday, January 31, with a total of 2,115 visitors by car, 55.37% were from Dade County, 37.87% out-of-State, and 6.76% from elsewhere in Florida.

Visitors:

Daggett Harvey, Miller Adams and others of the Fred Harvey Company
Alfred Eisenstaedt, Life Photographer
Colonel and Mrs. H. M. Schully, Jr., District Engineer, Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville
General and Mrs. W. Scott, Retired Commanding Officer of Ft. Belvoir, Virginia
Herbert Heger, Seasonal ranger-naturalist from Rocky Mountain National Park
Tom Hadley, Audubon Screen Tour photographer
Dr. Arthur Twomey, Carnegie Museum Ornithologist

Ranger Activities: Rangers patrolled 10,466 miles in April, 7,856 miles of which were by car, 2,214 miles by boats, 342 miles by airboat, and 54 miles by glades buggy.

Royal Palm District

Shifting of seasonal personnel around towards the end of the month occurred as rangers left or were transferred to fire control activities. The entrance station was closed Mondays and Tuesdays after April 19, and then for the summer at month's end.

Cape Sable District

The acting district ranger filled in on lieu days for the seasonal ranger-naturalist interpretation of boat trips. These trips stopped on April 25. Five trips were made to East River with special photographic parties.

Florida Bay District

Forty channel markers were installed during routine patrol activity. Warning signs for roseate spoonbill rookery keys were removed for the season. Several days were spent on equipment maintenance.

Tamiami District

Special parties were taken on airboat patrol or in glades buggies. With water conditions holding good, airboat patrols at night were often necessary to prevent ingress of commercial froggers. Nineteen members of C.A.P. airboat auxilliary were conducted in ten airboats on field exercises to Shark River. The district ranger gave emergency first aid treatment to victims of a serious highway accident on Tamiami Trail.

Law Enforcement: District Ranger Winte apprehended a commercial frogger in an airboat within the park on the night of April 28. The man was fined $15 by the U. S. Commissioner. Three speeding cases and one disorderly conduct were handled.

Accidents: A Greyhound bus, chartered by the National Audubon Society, attempted to pass a car near West Lake. The soft shoulder gave way and the bus ended up at a 45 degree angle. Nobody was injured. John H. Baker, President of the Society was one of the passengers.

A second "soft shoulder" accident occurred when a U.S.D.A. semi-trailer truck got off the road south of Coot Bay. A tire blow-out forced a private car part way into the canal south of Paradise Key.

Fire Control: Two reportable fires occurred during April. A lightning strike burned 620 acres, of which 105 acres were in the park. Another fire of 780 acres was outside the area, but threatened the park.

Although evaporation rate was increasing, fire hazard was lower all month than what we have come to consider "normal."

Personnel: Three personnel actions were effected during April.

Ralph Maxwell, from District Ranger for Cape Sable District to Assistant Chief Ranger.
George W. Fry, from Chief Ranger to Assistant Superintendent.
Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent, grade promotion.

Miles Collier, 40-yeardold son of southwest Florida's developer, Barron Collier, died suddenly on April 4, possibly from bulbar polio. He was well known to many of the officials of the Service because of his interest in Everglades National Park and through his membership on the State Park Board.

With his brother, Barron Collier, Jr., he gave about 30,000 acres of land and water of the Ten Thousand Islands region to the State, to be held in escrow until it could be added to this national park. His strong interest in the park became evident first when he was the very active host for park dedication ceremonies at Everglades City.

Collier's last act in behalf of the park was when he headed a supporting group at the hearing in March before the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund at Tallahassee.

Commercial Fishing: Trout fishing was reported to be good all month. Both commercial and sports fishermen took them with hook and line in the Florida Bay area. Five mullet fishermen's crews worked north central areas of the Bay and Lloyd "Barrelhead" House moved a run boat into Lake Ingraham.

Stone crab and crawfish seasons closed April 15. Rangers removed a trap line from Buttonwood Sound after the owner had failed to pick it up at the end of the season. An open meeting was held at Tavernier by the Supervisor of Conservation. The purpose was to clear up with commercial fishermen the confusion on stone crab and crawfish laws. A very easy solution was reached. Gear was declared legal regardless of existing regulations. It was quickly noted, though, that park regulations remained and could not be abrogated by administrative decision by state officials.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

File

Summary of the May 1954 Monthly Narrative Report
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK - SUMMARY SHEET

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
MAY 1954

Weather Conditions: Rainfall all winter was above average. This has continued on into the spring months to such an extent that Lamar Johnson, Chief Engineer for the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District, predicted that normal summer rains would cause flood conditions. He felt that continued above average rainfall would result in really serious inundations. Rainfall was spotty, coming in the form of thunder showers. The Everglades Basin looked like it does during the late summer rainy season although not up to the October peak. Evaporation rate was high; temperatures crept up; and relative humidity was increasing. May was a typical summer month except that the big mosquito hatch or flights had not started (which does not mean there were none at all.)

Readings from stations follow:

	Max Temp	Mean Max	Min Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	93	87.2	57	65.8	12.70"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	89	86.2	60	69	4.27"
Tamiami Ranger Station	95	87.8	61	68.3	6.67"
Tavernier Ranger Station	91	85.7	69	74.2	5.52"

Special Notes: The gubernatorial primary in Florida was run off in May with Senator LeRoy Collins defeating Acting Governor Charley Johns for the Democratic nomination. J. Ton Watson, former Attorney General under the Caldwell administration, will oppose Collins as Republican candidate.

Acting Governor Johns was against the extension of Everglades National Park and advocated a more liberal policy of oil exploration in the area, especially upon such lands as were conveyed by the State. He made this a major issue in his campaign. Senator Collins favored the Park extension. He was a strong and active leader in support of legislation that created this national park. J. Ton Watson opposed donation of funds for the Park and the conveyance of State lands. He took his objections through to the supreme court, but failed to win the case several years ago.

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: Engineer Martin from the Regional Office began surveys for a channel from Flamingo to Coot Bay. Seriously hampered by insects, he nevertheless was well along with the project by the end of May and should finish by the third week in June.

Maintenance: Royal Palm District - An underground power line was laid at Pine Island for the emergency pump to supply water (hurricanes). Louvres at Royal Palm Ranger Station (Bldg. # 109) were repainted. A new sign was made for Anhinga Trail and a "Reduced Operations" notice was placed on the Florida City sign.

Cape Sable District - Propane gas installations were completed at Coot Bay on approved design. Work continued at repatching and grading Ingraham Highway in preparation for the rainy season. Some of the pine post (untreated) channel markers that lasted three years were replaced in Whitewater Bay by creosoted ones.

Shop Operation - Repair of power plants took up a considerable amount of shop time. Major overhauls were performed on the Assistant Superintendent's vehicle and one of the Park airboats.

Construction: Park crews completed most of the filling and seeding of road shoulders and planting areas at the Pine Island Maintenance Area. They also completed work on a bypass road around the Flamingo Marina development.

Work on the marina by contractor Alonzo Cothron received all the necessary clearances and was expected to start early in June.

Interpretive Services: Talks outside the Park were as follows:

By Superintendent:

West Palm Beach Rod and Reel Club
Miami Springs Rotary Club

By Biologist:

University of Miami Geographical Society

By Park Naturalist:

New Comers Club of Homestead
Youth of Miami Beach Community Church
Little River Boy Scouts

The Everglades Natural History Association held a fish fry at Paradise Key. It was attended by over 100 members. A picnic at

the same place was held by the Tropical Audubon Society and the Key West Audubon Society.

Special guided walks for school groups were given for eight Dade County schools. Other special groups were from the Kiwanis convention in Miami and Ponce de Leon Junior High School.

Regular interpretive programs and activities were over for the summer season although Royal Palm Ranger Station information booth continued to be manned as much as possible on weekends.

Natural History: The subtle seasonal changes from the dry winter to the lush summer growing period were evident in May. Many trees and shrubs had dropped their seeds and, like the mahogany, fig, and wild tamarind, shucked their leaves as they quickly added new ones. The whitish inflorescence of Jamaica dogwoods was beginning at Flamingo as the Tetrazegia bloomed in the piney woods. Orchids were starting to send out long flower spikes with clusters of pale blossoms. White-crowned pigeons had arrived in numbers along the Keys to join gray kingbirds and swallow-tailed kites that had come earlier. Many land birds were nesting such as Eastern kingbirds, migrant shrikes, boat-tailed grackle, red-bellied woodpeckers, Carolina wrens, and bobwhites.

White pelicans were being seen later than usual in the Park and environs. East River Rookery had some white ibis still nesting. The rookery site was deserted at Cuthbert Lake (See also Gulf Coast Area.)

Travel: A total of 16,535 people visited the Park in May (11,905 last May). Although the winter season was definitely over and the summer tourist season had not begun, Park visitors came from every State except Delaware, Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

Tourist travel in the Greater Miami area was a little better than last year, but the seasonal decline from the February peak continued and business was off about 20% from April, according to University of Miami surveys. It was estimated that about 20% of all available rooms on Miami Beach and 5% in Miami have been closed. Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce tourist inquiries record dropped 30% as compared with last year. This would indicate a slower summer season, or so it is presumed, because there has always been a close correlation between tourist inquiries and expected tourist business.

Summer activity in the Park was working better than in the past. Facilities and services enjoyed during the winter season are extensively curtailed in summer, but adequate signs and information are now "clicking" for self-orientation of those who do come.

Ranger Activities: Patrol mileage totalled 8.541 (6,048 miles by car, 2,359 by boat, and 134 by airboat.

Royal Palm District - Checking station was closed for the summer and all seasonal ranger activity concluded. The system of self-orientation for the summer offered to visitors was again activated with certain improvements.

Cape Sable District - Loggerhead turtles were laying at Cape Sable and elsewhere, so night patrols were made to protect them. Night inspections were made also of shrimping operations at Joe Kemp Key. The water gauging station at the head of Shark River was serviced.

Taniami District - District personnel assisted Florida Highway Patrolmen at a night auto accident on Taniami Trail. Assistance was given, too, when two Marine fliers bailed out after their planes crashed north of the Trail. Night airboat patrols continued at irregular intervals to protect the Park from frog hunters.

Florida Bay District - Most of the month was occupied with routine activities relating to commercial fishing, assistance to people in difficulty, and getting things done around the new ranger station at Smugglers Cove, Key Largo for early occupancy.

Fire Control: Four fires during May burned 1,668 acres. Three of these fires were incendiary. One was started by lightning. Nevertheless, hazard remained low for this time of the year and the danger of a major conflagration was relatively less than normal except in pinelands.

A review and critique of the fire season was scheduled for early in June. Building fire hazard inspections were completed for Taniami and Florida Bay Ranger Districts.

Law Enforcement: Five traffic cases were heard by the U. S. Commissioner and fines totalling $70 were imposed. One man appealed his case, posted bond, and will appear in Federal court. U. S. Commissioner Hodson made an airboat inspection of the east boundary in preparation for cases that may be brought before him during the frogging season where trespass is made in that area.

Public Health: Water samples from all wells and cisterns in the Park were tested and found safe by chemists of the U. S. Navy Pumping Station at Florida City.

B. D. Baker of Public Health Service spent four days in the Park making his initial inspection of the area.

Personnel: Action during the month were:

Maintenance and Construction Supervisor Liles, grade promotion.
Seasonal F.C.A. Shupe to Yellowstone

Seasonal F.C.A. Ayers to Grand Canyon
Seasonal F.C.A. Copas to Mammoth Cave
Seasonal Ranger Miele to F.C.A. dispatcher
Seasonal Laborer Jackson to F.C.A. fire cache.

Webster T. Ammerman, Landscape Architect from Regional Office, arrived at Everglades for transfer as of June 1.

The Gulf Coast Area: (Added to Park by Secretarial Order of March 12, 1954.) Reports were received that white ibis were being shot on flyways to Duck Rock Roost in May. At least 20 of the birds were killed, probably for food. This shooting took place on the Houston River.

Duck Rock was beginning to become populated with white ibis and other species. It was estimated that about 15,000 white ibis had come in by the end of the month. This is only about 25% of what can be expected later. Some roseate spoonbills as well as other birds had arrived. Audubon Warden Hank Bennett started his lonely vigil in the boat "Audubon" moore off Duck Rock for the summer. The National Park Service has been unable to take this activity over yet.

Information came in from reliable sources that stop netting of west coast rivers north of Lostmans was being carried on at an accelerated rate. There was a temporary slowdown of this activity by commercial fishermen a few months ago when State Conservation Agents were working in the area.

Inquiry was made on the probable attitude of the Service if a clam dredge is put in this region. Several years ago, a dredge worked out of Marco all along the west coast. It was reported by Service personnel studying the Park in 1937 at Pavilion Key. Since then, clam beds have been either exhausted or reduced. They are now in better shape and dredge operators would like to go in again. They were not given encouragement.

Representatives from Forestry Aids contacted the Service concerning the 17,000 acres of land owned by Adiv Holding Company which they have leased for lumbering. Forestry Aids offered cooperation if the Service can reimburse them for expenses. Timber is yet uncut.

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

Files

Summary of the June 1954 Monthly Narrative Report
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Files

Summary of the June 1954 Monthly Narrative Report
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER:	Heavy rainfall continued, but water levels not much above longtime average.	1
INSPECTIONS:		1
MAINTENANCE:	Rehabilitation Florida Bay Station emphasized. Road work difficult because of rains.	1
CONSTRUCTION:	Dredging continued at Flamingo. Bids opened on wells, water gage erected.	2
INTERPRETATION:	Slow season, naturalist on leave.	2
NATURAL HISTORY:	One bear and one flamingo introduced. Alligator problem has developed.	2
TRAVEL:	Less travel than last year due to better visitor orientation in off season. Trend toward motels noted in Miami area.	3
VISITORS:		3
RANGER SERVICE:	Summer poaching season began.	4
LAW ENFORCEMENT:	One case of speeding.	4
FIRE PROTECTION:	Largest fire of year burned 2,502 acres.	4
ACCIDENTS:	Three Marine flyers killed, one rescued in air crash. Efficient work noted. Two of staff injured in fire.	5
Personnel:	Several promotions noted.	5
Public Health:	Water samples taken.	6

In reply refer to:
A2823

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
JUNE 1954

Weather Conditions: Rangers spoke of the "summer monsoon" because it rained so much. There was an average precipitation of 8.28 inches throughout the Park with as much as 3.60 inches in one day (at Coot Bay). Water flowed over the Ingraham Highway in many places, principally between Nine Mile Bend and West Lake. Nevertheless, ground water conditions in the lower Everglades region were not much above longterm averages. Far north of the Park, it was a different story with some of the highest June levels on record. All salt barriers from Lake Okeechobee to the sea were left wide open.

Readings from stations follows:

Station	Max. Temp	Mean Max	Min. Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
yal Palm Ranger Station	92	88.7	58	71.3	8.73
ot Bay Ranger Station	91	87.4	68	70.6	9.39
miami Ranger Station	95	89.2	69	77.3	8.74
vernier Ranger Station	90	87.4	72	75.5	6.28
Average	92	88.2	66.7	73.7	8.28

Inspections:

Ross Sweeny, Engineering Aid from Eastern Design and Construction Office, relative to Flamingo dredging.

Charles Richey, Chief of Lands, Washington, relative to land acquisition and litigation.

Assistant Regional Director Lisles and Assistant Solicitor Jackson E. Price were in Park in reference to land matters.

Maintenance: Royal Palm District. Forty tons of plant mix were placed on Ingraham Highway for patching and

In reply refer to:
N62-3

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
JUNE 1934

Weather Conditions: Rangers spoke of the "summer monsoon" because it rained so much. There was an average precipitation of 6.25 inches throughout the Park with as much as 3.50 inches in one day (at Cape Sable). Water flowed over the Ingraham Highway in many places, principally between Nine Mile Road and West Lake. Nevertheless, ground water conditions in the Lower Everglades region were not much above longterm averages. Far north of the Park, it was a different story with some of the highest June levels on record. All salt barriers from Lake Okeechobee to the sea were left wide open.

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Maintenance: Royal Palm District. Forty tons of plant mix were placed on Ingraham Highway for patching and

road shoulders were mowed. An emergency standby power plant was installed at Pine Island.

Cape Sable District. Base stone was used to patch water damage on Ingraham Highway between Whiskey Creek and Coot Bay.

Florida Bay District. The new station at Smugglers Cove, Key Largo, was repainted, plumbing installed, radio tower erected, and considerable other work completed to put it into condition for early occupancy by the district ranger.

Shop Operation. The two airboats from Tamiami and Chrysler Hale pumper from Coot Bay were brought in for general overhaul.

Construction: Dredging and Filling Contract 14-10-111-31, Account 333.03, Contractor Alonzo Cothron. Dragline operation was started on June 8 and dredging started on June 14. The channel was completed on June 30 and the contractor is channeling through Basin No. 3 to reach the canal where he will proceed to work to its limits before working on any of the basins. Pumping of dredged material on shoreline was started on June 29. The estimated amount of dredging done by the contractor in the month of June is 53,643 cubic yards.

Drilling of exploratory wells. Bids were opened on June 22 for drilling exploratory wells. Vickers Drilling Co. was low bidder with $795 for 3 wells. Purchase Order No. 11-332 was mailed to Vickers that same day. This is Account No. 332.10.

Staff water gage. Staff water gage was erected on June 29 in Taylor Slough just off the road between Royal Palm Ranger Station and Anhinga Trail. Starting July 1 daily readings will be taken by the ranger force.

Interpretation: The Park Naturalist was on leave most of the month.

Talks were given by:
Assistant Superintendent to Presbyterian Men's Brotherhood at Homestead.
Park Naturalist to University of Miami Library Club

Natural History: As fresh water filled Coot Bay Pond, the summer population of five alligators returned to feed on the

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refuse from the fishing boats. These 'gators have caused some anxious moments around the small boat launching ramp. This situation is apparently aggravated by feeding and the rangers are endeavoring to stop the practice.

One male Florida black bear was released in the Cape Sable area and it is planned to make subsequent introductions in the same area when other animals are made available by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

One flamingo was released experimentally on Bottle Key by Robert P. Allen, Research Associate of the National Audubon Society, late in the month.

A flock of forty-two white pelicans spent approximately two weeks in the moat and pond at Seven Mile Tower.

Travel: Visitation for June dropped from 12,950 in 1953 to 9,688 this year. This was anticipated and sought. Last year people came to the Park in summer expecting everything to be in operation, not realizing it was the off season. Complaints were numerous, so informational signs were erected this year. Those who decide to come to the Park are now better oriented and, to date, not a complaint has been registered with the rangers. This is considered a big public service improvement even though Park travel is thereby reduced. The "volume of business" has gone down, but the "customers" are better satisfied.

During June, visitors came from all but six western and three small New England states. Some arrived from Hawaii, Cuba, Canada, Ireland, Mexico, and Okinawa.

A definite trend in tourist activity around Miami has been measured by University of Miami surveys. This is the growing motel business. Whereas indices of tourist activity indicated a 3 percent increase above last June, motels at Sunny Isles area (north of Miami Beach) with 40 percent more space had a 37 percent increase in business. Greater Miami hotels had 3 percent less business, other hotels showed only a small percentage increase in the over-all business. Expansion of tourist facilities spread the increase thin, but the comfortable, informal, beach front motels (usually with added swimming pools) got the lion's share.

Visitors: Chief Ranger Cliff Harriman of Natchez Trace Parkway.

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Visitors: Chief Ranger Cliff Harriman of Natches Trace Parkway.

H. R. Edmondston, United States Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Vinten, Superintendent of Castillo de San Marcos National Monument.

Mr. and Mrs. John DeWeese, Superintendent of Fort Jefferson National Monument.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Scott, County Clerk of Collier County.

Ranger Service: Patrol mileage for the month was 5,741 by automobile and 2,301 by boat.

Routine patrols and "catch-up" activities consumed most of the rangers' time during the month. Although visitation is down, a constant guard must be maintained against illegal activities which come with high water in the Park. The usual summer "tips" have already started coming in and each of these must be checked out.

District Ranger Bean has vacated the rented dock facilities at Tavernier and moved his boats and equipment to the new Florida Bay District Headquarters at Smuggler's Cove.

Law Enforcement: The lock on Seven Mile Tower Road was broken and a vehicle entered the Park, presumably for illegal purposes.

Three juveniles were apprehended along Seven Mile Tower Road attempting to spear frogs. A courtesy ticket and warning was issued and the juveniles released.

A citation was issued to B. E. Cole, concessioner, for violation of Section 20.45(2) Speed. The case has not been scheduled for hearing due to the absence of the U. S. Commissioner. This is the second citation for Mr. Cole and only the second repeat case before U. S. Commissioner Hodson.

Fire Protection: The largest fire of the season was caused by lightning and burned 2,502 acres of pineland on Long Pine Key between June 11 and 18. Personnel from all districts assisted in the suppression.

H. R. Edmondston, United States Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Vinten, Superintendent of Castillo de San Marcos National Monument.

Mr. and Mrs. John DeMecce, Superintendent of Fort Jefferson National Monument.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Scott, County Clerk of Collier County.

Ranger Service: Patrol mileage for the month was 5,741 by automobile and 2,301 by boat.

Routine patrols and "catch-up" activities consumed most of the rangers' time during the month. Although visitation is down, a constant guard must be maintained against illegal activities which come with high water in the Park. The usual summer "tips" have already started coming in and each of these must be checked out.

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At the end of the month most of the fire equipment had been placed in summer storage and all equipment damaged on the above fire had been repaired.

The annual fire critique was held at Headquarters June 1 with all field personnel participating.

All building fire hazard inspections were completed throughout the Park and a summary report made to the Region.

Accidents: Alertness and initiative by Park personnel probably saved the life of an airman during June. Smoke seen by several members of the staff caused the Acting Chief Ranger to dispatch a plane (equipped with radio) to the headwaters of Shark River. It was found that an air accident had occurred and radio word was sent to the Coast Guard. The planes (2) were from the Marine Air Base at Opa-Locka and were involved in midair crash. Helicopters soon brought one badly injured crewman out. The helicopters found a Park ranger on airboat patrol and directed him to the scene of the crash. He found that three other Marine flyers had been killed and later brought one body out to Seven Mile Tower that was not reached by helicopter. Garage Foreman Parker, Acting Chief Ranger Maxwell, and District Ranger Winte were the men most active in the matter.

Supervisory Fire Control Aid Shilts and Seasonal Fire Control Aid Jackson received second degree burns in the face when a wind change caught them in Double Lightning Fire. A seasonal fire control aid was badly bruised on the elbow in the same fire.

Personnel: Fire Control Aid William P. Fisher was furloughed June 28. Herbert H. Wysong and Ralph C. Johnston were furloughed June 30 and Linwood E. Jackson was terminated June 30. Johnston and Jackson were given W.A.E. appointments as laborers as of July 1.

District Ranger Norton M. Bean was promoted in position effective June 24.

Authority was received for the promotions of Vincent J. Mrazek from Supervisory Park Ranger to District Park Ranger (Cape

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Supervisory Fire Control Aid Smith and Seasonal Fire Control Aid Jackson received second degree burns in the face when a wind change caught them in Double Lightning Fire. A seasonal fire control aid was badly bruised on the elbow in the same fire.

Personnel: Fire Control Aid William P. Fisher was furloughed June 20. Herbert H. Wysong and Ralph C. Johnston were furloughed June 30 and Linwood E. Jackson was terminated June 30. Johnston and Jackson were given W.A.E. appointments as laborers as of July 1.

District Ranger Norton M. Bean was promoted in position effective June 24.

Authority was received for the promotions of Vincent J. Mazzek from Supervisory Park Ranger to District Park Ranger (Cape

Sable District), and William J. Gray, Park Ranger, to Supervisory Park Ranger, (Flamingo).

Public Health: All sources of drinking water in the Park were tested for harmful bacteria and all samples were found to be safe for drinking.

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

Sable District), and William J. Gray, Park Ranger, to Supervisory Park Ranger, (Flamingo).

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Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

File

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
JULY 1954

Weather Conditions: It was a little warm for July, which means that there was only one place more uncomfortable. Rainfall held about the same as June and water levels had not changed much. Small craft warnings were displayed on one day only. Insect annoyance was much less than usual.

Readings from stations follow:

	Max Temp	Mean Max	Min Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	93	89.7	68	71.7	8.23
Coot Bay Ranger Station	94	89.6	71	73.6	10.02
Tamiami Ranger Station	94	91.0	72	75.1	7.25
Tavernier Ranger Station	93	88.9	72	77.1	2.58

Construction: Exploratory wells were started under contract on July 21. The purpose is to locate potable water for a well field to supply Flamingo with fresh water. The idea is to find the northerly limits of the salt barrier. Three wells are being drilled in cooperation with the U.S.G.S. Well #1 (the most likely spot) showed a maximum of 21 ppm of chloride and 14 ppm after pumping at 20 feet. Work continues into August. Pumping records will have to be kept for some time before well field determination is made.

An automatic weekly tide recorder was placed in operation at Coot Bay in connection with studies relating to the proposed Coot Bay-Flamingo Canal. There is already a recorder at Flamingo.

A total of 127,057 cubic yards has been moved on dredging contract No. 14-10-111-31. The dredge had roughed in the channel to Flamingo and was working in boat basins at the end of the month. Roughly estimated, the job should be complete by mid September.

Approaches to Park Area: Two agricultural groups were in the process of preparing land for crops near the park entrance on either side of State Route 27. Pines have been cut, ground scarified and rock plowing started. The areas are extensive, giving a whole new look to the park approach. It will tend to increase traffic problems on the approach road.

Natural History: The roost and rookery at Duck Rock in the new addition to the park lived up to all expectations. It has had a very good year with between 65,000 to 75,000 white ibis, according to National Audubon Society reports, and many other birds.

Three Florida black bears have now been released in the park, two males and one female, in the Cape Sable area. They had been trapped at a ranch near Jacksonville and made available to the park by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Park Ranger M. Barnie Parker saw a panther on Highlands Beach raiding a loggerhead turtle's nest. It has been an unusually good year for turtles, and apparently helpful to panthers. Parker also reported new rookeries on two keys in Rodgers River Bay.

Travel: A total of 14,765 persons visited the park. This is higher than June (9,688) but lower than July 1953(16,297). As has become normal, the summer travel season in southern Florida was active. Indicative was National Airlines' report of 105 percent increase due to packaged tours on a pay later basis.

Ranger Service: Annual leave was taken part of the month by four members of the Protection Division causing the usual summer stretch to cover the park. Fresh alligator carcasses were found by District Ranger Bean at Long Sound and night patrols continued most of the month without finding anything.

Patrol mileage totaled 7,300 of which 4,997 was by car, 2,188 by boat, and 115 miles by airboat.

New Law Enforcement Problem:

"What am I going to do, Judge, if I can't get my client to wear shoes when he appears in court?"

The question was posed by an attorney from Naples, Florida, in chambers of Federal Judge John W. Holland at Miami. The attorney represented Arthur L. Darwin, squatter on park lands at Chatham Bend.

The Judge allowed that if someone appeared for jury duty sans shoes, it would not be right: "In this case" the Judge said, "I don't believe I could require him to wear shoes * * * Let him appear barefooted."

The client, aged 60, has not yet been tried. One would certainly not suspect that this matter of shoes would in any way influence the case or a jury.

Pedro Braxton and Roy Lucas were picked up with nets in closed waters. They posted $100 bond.

Paul N. Heaton
Acting Superintendent

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

File

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
AUGUST 1954

Weather Conditions: August weather was hot and humid with a maximum temperature of 97° being recorded at Tamiami and Royal Palm Ranger Stations. Rainfall was light during the first three weeks but increased the fourth week to make the monthly average about normal.

Readings from stations follow:

	Max Temp	Mean Max	Min Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	97°	91.5°	72.6	72.6°	6.06"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	94°	90.9°	72	74.3°	5.64"
Tamiami Ranger Station	97°	92.0°	72	76.0°	5.21"
Tavernier Ranger Station	---	---	Station not	manned	---

Construction: Three wells were completed on August 11, and each well is cased to 20 feet and capped. A report on the wells was sent to the Design Office and Region which included a copy of drawing NP-EVE-2095. This drawing furnished all the information obtained together with a location map. Monthly tests on each well will be made starting around September 10 and a weekly recorder will be installed on one well to obtain the changes in the ground water elevation. Levels will be run to each well using the level datum at concrete bridge which is tied in with the U.S.G.S. levels at MSL.

175,866 cu. yds. has been done as of August 31 in the dredging and filling contract, No. 14-10-111-31, with Cothron. What remains is about 20% of basin 2 and most of Basin 3. Change order to the contract increasing the area in basin 3 is in the process and awaiting authority.

A weekly recorder was borrowed from the U.S.G.S. and was installed August 31 in Whitewater Bay. With the recorder in Coot Bay we should receive information as to the tide actions and their relationship in Florida Bay, Coot Bay, and Whitewater Bay.

A simple "snow fence" type slat house plan was completed. This will be a temporary structure to give shade ideal for propagating some of the plant material to be used at Flamingo which is either unobtainable at nurseries or too costly to procure in quantity.

Travel: A total of 12,873 visitors entered the Park by automobiles, sightseeing busses, and boats. This is less than August 1953 when 16,106 visitors were recorded entering. Total visitation for July 1954 was 14,765.

All states were represented except Montana, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, and New Hampshire. Ontario, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, England, Switzerland, Netherland, Germany, Antilles, and Japan were also represented.

Ranger Service: Patrol mileage for August was as follows:

Car		3,555 miles
Boat		1,762 miles
Airboat		719 miles
	Total	6,036

Several night patrols were made by District Ranger Winte along the Trail and Seven Mile Road by truck to watch for illegal activities but none were observed. During airboat patrols, however, it was noted that some trespassing had been made by airboats. This seems to be of a hit-and-run nature on a small scale by commercial froggers at night. Every effort will be made to stop this violation.

District Ranger McDowell has prepared rough drafts of job descriptions for the East Boundary and Long Pine Key Patrolmen, the Long Pine Key Lookout, and the Entrance Station Ranger. These descriptions are awaiting comments and approval of the Chief Ranger and Superintendent before being written in final form.

Law Enforcement: Two speeding cases were heard before U. S. Commissioner Hodson in Homestead. Mr. B. E. Cole, skiff concessioner and second time loser, was found guilty and fined $50 and $10 costs. Mr. Clayton R. Konas of Fort Lauderdale was also found guilty of speeding and fined $15.

The case of Pedro Braxton and Roy Lucas was heard before the Commissioner on the 9th of the month. Braxton and Lucas were apprehended in their boat by District Ranger Bean on the morning of July 13, coming out of Mud Creek, which is a closed area. They had both nets and fish in their possession. Because Commissioner Hodson was on vacation, the case was not held until this month. Both Braxton and Lucas admitted they had passed the "No Nets or Seines" sign at the mouth of the Creek. However, they said that they had not been fishing in Mud Creek or the bays on through the creek, but had gone up to the old "Iron Workers" cabin the night before to sleep. Braxton testified that the fish in his boat had been caught before going into the closed area; therefore, they had not been guilty of fishing in closed waters.

District Ranger Bean and Assistant Chief Maxwell charged the defendants with violation of Section 1.4(j). (The possession of fishing tackle or fish upon or along any waters closed to fishing shall be prima facie evidence that the person or persons having such fishing tackle or fish are guilty of unlawful fishing in such closed waters.) It was also pointed out that both men had been convicted of this same charge before: Lucas on March 30, 1952, and Braxton on June 9, 1953. Braxton also had been convicted of possession of firearms in the Park on December 15, 1952.

Commissioner Hodson dismissed the case, disregarding the fact that both men admitted being in the area that was closed. He said that there was no proof the men had been fishing in Mud Creek or the bays and the fact that there was a cabin on the Creek would indicate their story of spending the night there could be, and probably was, true. The previous convictions on the same charge had no bearing on the case. The prima facie evidence wording of the regulation was too vague and should not be used.

Oil Exploration: District Ranger Winte reports that drilling operation of Well No. 2 in Section 19 is moving along rapidly. By the end of the month, the drilling had reached the 5,005-foot mark.

Seismographic surveys on the line along the Seven Mile Road and south of the fire tower were near completion by the end of the month. Three more lines are to be run at an angle across the road during the next two months.

Prominent Park Supporter Passed Away: At the age of 85, Dr. David G. Fairchild died at "The Kampong", his home in Coconut Grove. As the first president of the Everglades National Park Association, he was influential in gaining the support of many scientists and lay conservationists in the project. He was one of the hosts who accompanied early inspection groups in the proposed park including such men as Horace Albright, Arno B. Cammerer, Frederick Low Omstead, T. Gilbert Pierson, and William Wharton.

Author of numerous books on horticulture, Dr. Fairchild was famous for his contributions in the field of plant exploration and introduction. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Geographic Society and a brother-in-law to its President, Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, both of whom married daughters of Alexander Graham Bell. Fairchild's Tropical Garden, developed in part by the Service under the C.C.C. program, was named in his honor.

He lived long enough to see one of his early predictions come true, that south Florida would be populated "solidly with Yankees seeking a comfortable place to live."

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

File

In reply refer to:
A2823

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
SEPTEMBER 1954

Weather Conditions: September weather was about normal, still hot during the day with cooler nights. Florida Bay Ranger Station reported a low of 69°. Rainfall remained good during the entire month with Tamiami Ranger Station reporting 10.16 inches. The heaviest rain for a 24-hour period was also recorded at Tamiami, 3.05 inches on the 24th.

	Max Temp	Mean Max	Min Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	92	85.1	70	71.7	8.64"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	93	88.8	71	73.4	7.74"
Tamiami Ranger Station	96	89	75	74	10.16"
Tavernier Ranger Station	90	87.6	69	75.8	6.29"

Interpretation: A conducted field trip was made in the park, composed mostly of members of the Ecological Society of America. They had assembled in connection with the American Institute of Biological Sciences meeting at Gainesville. Park Biologist Moore participated in the meetings and, with the Naturalist and others, conducted the field trip.

Research and Observation: The Biologist made satisfactory progress collating accumulated data on water bird aggregations and completed several graphs.

Everglades Natural History went into the mail (September issue) with over 1,000 copies going out this time. Six of eighteen items in the magazine were by park personnel (19 out of 64 pages).

The first roseate spoonbills of the season were observed over Jimmie Channel September 19. It was still too soon for the nesting population to fully occupy sites on Florida Bay keys.

Birds began moving in at Anhinga Trail area and a good "show" of snowy egrets was already apparent at Ingraham Highway canal between West Lake and Coot Bay.

Travel: September was the lowest travel month so far this year with only 9,447 visitors entering the Park. This is less than September 1953 when 12,144 visitors were recorded entering. June, July, August, and September have all been lower than the corresponding months last year.

All states were represented except Colorado, Louisiana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Wyoming. Hawaii, Japan, Australia, England, France, Belgium, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and five Canadian provinces were represented.

Ranger Service: Patrol mileage for September was as follows:

Cars	4,227 miles
Boats	1,983 miles
Airboats	234 miles
Total	6,444 miles

Routine patrols and local contact work accounted for the bulk of rangers' time. No serious violations of Park Rules or Regulations were noted.

Both District Rangers Bean and Winte spent considerable time checking the work of seismographic crews working in their areas.

Supervisory Ranger Gray is now staying at Coot Bay. Flamingo Station was boarded up for hurricanes during his vacation the last of August and has not yet been reopened.

Oil Exploration: Oil exploration was being carried out in opposite ends of the Park this month.

The Petty Geophysical Engineering Co. seismographic crews which have been working the Gulf and western Florida Bay were scheduled to complete their work on the 26th of September. However, they now expect to work two more months in the area. They are presently working around Nine Mile and Dildo Banks.

District Ranger Winte reports the same company is still working their seismographic lines in his district. Because of rough country, high water, and repeated equipment breakdown, it may take

them longer to complete their work in this area than was at first estimated. Mr. Winte is spending considerable time checking their work to see that the agreement is lived up to. In cutting their lines, a few small hardwood trees have been cut in little hammocks. All large hammocks have been measured around and not cut through. So far, work is being done in compliance with their permit.

At the month's end, it was estimated that the Wisehart Well No. 1 and State Well No. 1 together were producing an average of 70 barrels of oil daily. Both of these wells are on land outside of the park boundary.

The drilling operations at State Well No. 2, which is inside of the Park continued during the month. By the end of the month, the well was down to 11,125 feet. Coring tests will be started at the 11,300-foot mark.

W. T. Price Construction Co. is constructing a fill, ½-mile west of State Well No. 1, north of the Tamiami Trail. Drilling of a new well will start at this location when State Well No. 2 is finished.

Law Enforcement: One case was heard before U. S. Commissioner Hodson this month. Mr. Junius D. Morrison of Miami was fined $15 for speeding through Royal Palm Hammock.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

In reply refer to:
A2823

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
OCTOBER 1954

Weather Conditions: Fall has come to the Everglades. The mean maximum temperature for all stations stayed between 80° and 85°. A sign that winter is coming was found in the northern part of the Park where 57° was recorded at Tamiami Station.

	Max Temp	Mean Max	Min Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	89°	84.5°	59°	65.2°	2.29"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	89°	85.3°	60°	68.6°	2.07"
Tamiami Ranger Station	91°	86.0°	57°	69.0°	.88"
Tavernier Ranger Station	87°	83.6°	65°	74.0°	4.51"

The average precipitation of the above stations was 2.44 inches, considerably below the average (6.50 inches) for October 1953.

Special Activities: The Chief Ranger attended a forest fire control conference from October 18 to 20 conducted near Tallahassee by the FloridaNational Forests, Federal and State foresters participating. Contact with personnel of other agencies proved especially helpful to our Park representative.

The Superintendent went to the Eastern Office of Design and Construction in Philadelphia and then to Washington in relation to plans on Flamingo and the main Park road. Later in the month he conferred with Governor-Nominee LeRoy Collins and others at Tallahassee. He stopped for a conference with Senator Spessard Holland on his return trip.

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: A compass survey was made of Gumbo-Limbo Trail to get it accurately upon base maps and for interpretive planning purposes. Another survey was started to get an "as built" map of Pine Island.

Complaints: An investigation was made of an incident at Coot Bay when charterboatman Steve Roberts allegedly struck a Park visitor. Mr. Roberts was poling at an alligator to get it out of the

way so he could go overboard to fix his wheel. The visitor told him to desist and after an exchange of angry words, Roberts struck him.

Mr. Roberts was called before the Superintendent and the Chief Ranger. He said he was often accused of poaching and other things he never did, but admitted the incident. He was warned that such action cannot be tolerated and any future complaint would result in loss of permit.

Construction:

Test Wells: Levels were run to each well and elevations established for the top of casings. Monthly pumping tests were made.

Dredging and Filling, Flamingo (Contract 14-10-111-31): Work was completed on the Flamingo boat basins with a total of 269,395 cubic yards dredged.

Canal Dredging (Contract 14-10-111-41): Notice to proceed for canal widening and dredging from Flamingo Marina to Flamingo Bridge was dated October 6. Approximately 31,554 cubic yards of material was moved by the end of the month.

Concessions: With the issuance of a concessions prospectus by the Director's Office, several groups came to the Park to discuss the proposals and study the area.

Willard Fletcher of Everglades Transway Service returned to the Park and began preparations for cruise boat service starting in late November or early December. Some canal clearing will be required.

John Baker, President of the National Audubon Society and Charles Brookfield, local representative, met with the Superintendent to work out plans for Audubon Wildlife Tours this winter. It was decided to operate from Bear Lake to Gator Lake in December. The boats will then be moved to Flamingo for trips to East Cape Canal, Lake Ingraham, and Cape Sable instead of the usual Cuthbert Rookery runs. (Fletcher will go to Cuthbert.)

Interpretive Service: The Park Naturalist continued work on rehabilitation of the exhibits at Royal Palm Station. A talk was given by him to the Monroe County Audubon Society at Key West.

Research and Observation: Work on assembling field records from ranger logs, the Biologist's field studies, and so forth, made some progress. This project is to define, as clearly as possible, the season and composition of the annually recurring waterbird spectacles.

Mrs. Mary P. Sherwood was employed by the Natural History Association to help with its magazine work. Manuscript for the December issue of Everglades Natural History went to the printers for galley proof.

Travel: For the first time since June, travel exceeded that of the corresponding month a year ago. Visitation totalled 9,517 compared to 8,732 during October last year.

All states except seven (Arizona, Maine, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, and Wyoming) were represented. Twelve foreign countries (England, Holland, Germany, France, Austria, Portugal, Italy, Pakistan, El Salvador, Mexico, Cuba, and Canada) and the United States Territory of Alaska were accounted for also.

Indications throughout southern Florida were that predictions for a big winter season are true. The "snowbird" crop of northern visitors was moving in ahead of schedule. As someone facetiously remarked: "They are trying to get away from hurricanes."

October showed increases in Greater Miami's tourist business (over October 1953) by 8 percent. Rail traffic declined while airlines increased their packaged tour and coach services. Road traffic increased. The motel occupancy records showed very unusual and noteworthy trend in that direction.

Law Enforcement: Two cases were heard before U. S. Commissioner Hodson for violations of speed limits with fines totalling $40.

Warnings were given to motel operators along Key Largo by District Ranger Bean about the removal of driftwood from the Park area. Most of this so-called "driftwood" is dead, weathered buttonwood which grew where it is found and never drifted any place.

New fishing camp operators along Buttonwood Sound who had placed a number of crawfish traps in Park waters were told to remove them, which they had done by the end of the month.

Several illegal entries into the Park by airboat were noted near the headwaters of Lostman's and Roger's Rivers. More intensified patrol activities during the coming month are expected to correct this situation.

Accidents and Safety: Two single car accidents occurred on the Park road during the month. The first involved a car towing a skiff which caused the car to skid and jackknife the trailer which overturned the car. Damage to the car amounted to about $100.

The second accident resulted from skidding on loose gravel causing the car to overturn on the glades side of the road. One of the occupants of the car had her right little finger severely injured. The finger was amputated at the first joint upon her arrival at the hospital in Homestead. Damage to the car amounted to approximately $750.

Personnel: Supervisory Ranger William Gray was transferred from Everglades National Park to Acadia National Park and Supervisory Ranger Clifford Senne from the latter park to here, effective November 2..

Miss Maude L. Crawford transferred to Everglades National Park as Cost Clerk from the Washington Office October 25.

Commercial Fishing: Manuel Arsua, operator of the Tavernier Fish Company for several years, sold his equipment to a fish company at Key Largo and is now working for Alonzo Cothron at Flamingo. Florida Seafoods, Inc., of Miami has leased the fish house and docks and has taken over Manuel's old stand. "Pedro" Braxton is the new manager of the enterprise.

Oil Exploration and Drilling: The drilling operation at State Well No. 2, inside the Park, terminated this month. The well reached a depth of 11,610 feet and turned out to be a "dry hole." The "Never-Say-Die" oil company is now preparing a new site 1,500 feet north of Well No. 2. Drilling of this new well is expected to begin around the first of December.

The Wisehart Well No. 1 and Gulf State Well No. 1 are still producing about 70 barrels of oil per day between them, or so it is said.

Seismographic crews working in the Tamiami District have pulled out without finishing their planned surveys. Whether they intend to return at a later date after the water table drops is not known.

Gulf Oil Company opened negotiations with the Superintendent to extend seismographic surveys beyond lease holdings in the area south of Royal Palm. Preliminary decision indicated the Superintendent would issue a permit providing Royal Palm area, Cuthbert rookery and feeding grounds, and roseate spoonbill nesting areas would not be endangered.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

File

A-2623

Summary of the November 1954 Monthly Narrative Report
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

		Page
OIL EXPLORATION:	New well in Park being drilled. Permit given for seismographic work.	7

In reply refer to:
A2823

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
P. O. BOX 275
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK NOVEMBER 1954

Weather Conditions: November was a monotonous month, just one beautiful warm day of sunshine after another with practically no rainfall. At Tamiami Station the temperature reached 90°. It was a crisp 48° once at Royal Palm causing Pine Islanders to drag out their kerosene stoves and close the windows until the sun got well up.

Rainfall was below normal in most sections of the Park. The exception was Florida Bay Ranger Station which had 6.73 inches of which 6.02 fell on the 14th, the same day that Key West had a record 19.8 inches.

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	86°	80.9°	48°	57.9°	1.32"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	85°	80.0°	52°	60.0°	1.92"
Tamiami Ranger Station	90°	79.7°	54°	61.6°	1.97"
Tavernier Ranger Station	83°	79.0°	60°	66.6°	6.73"

Special Activities: The Park's annual administrative and fire control training conference was held November 2-6. Members of the Protection Division attended the entire program with maintenance and clerical personnel joining in pertinent sessions. The success of the meeting was due in considerable part to the active participation of Assistant Regional Director Tobin, Chief Forester Cook, and Regional Forester Arnold.

Biologist Moore attended a five-day annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute which was held in Havana, Cuba.

Inspections: Regional Chief of Operations Daniel Tobin, Chief Forester Lawrence Cook, and Regional Forester Fred Arnold were in the Park for several days. The local staff had opportunities to discuss many Park problems with this group including such things as fire control, airplane scouting, concessions, bait shrimp problems, clerical staffing requirements and, of course, the need for much greater appropriations.

Ross Sweeny from E.O.D.C. was in the Park to study engineering aspects of the work at Flamingo with Mr. Martin of the same office who is assigned to the job.

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: Bureau of Public Roads crews ran centerline locations from station 1700/00 to 2069/00 and profiles (and check levels) from same beginning to 2024.00.

A field survey was made by the Park Engineer to determine how far inside the Park was the point of offense in the deer poaching case (see Law Enforcement).

The U. S. Marine Corps made aerial photos of the Flamingo marina and channel dredging jobs, connection between Broad and Shark Rivers, and the canals to be closed at Lake Ingraham-Cape Sable country. Prints and negatives were given to the Service.

Landscape Architect Ammerman continued site studies in various sections of the Park as part of a project of bringing together current thoughts and background data for suggesting a revised General Development Plan to be made by Eastern Office of Design and Construction. Work was begun by him to catalogue and organize plan files, including aerial photos. The latter has become voluminous since Cartographic Aid Shenker enlisted the cooperation of the U. S. Marine Corps Air Station at Opa Locka.

Maintenance and Shop Operations: Road maintenance was aimed at getting Ingraham Highway in shape for the winter season. This road was bladed to Flamingo Bridge except, of course, for the private lands area of the "Hole in the Doughnut." Moving and trimming gave a neat appearance to shoulders to Cypress Head from entrance. All road signs were refinished.

Work was done on Bear Lake Road to make it passable for concessioner cars during December use. It was necessary to clear same channels by dragline "dredging" and cutting growth along the canal.

Regulation propane gas houses or cabinets were installed at Flamingo, Brown's Camp, Florida Bay Station, and Tamiami Station. Toilets were replaced at Brown's Camp in accordance with Public Health Service recommendations.

A secondary gate on Seven Mile Road was set below oil drilling activity.

With better equipment and facilities, the Park shop continued to do work that has formerly been farmed out to private shops. For instance, one of the tractor buggies was completely rebuilt with numerous

modifications and improvements found desirable after tests in the field. A ramp truck was changed and guide rails added to minimize danger when loading glades tractors.

A temporary slat house at Pine Island now has 76 sprouted coconuts (in cans) and 210 unsprouted nuts. There are over a dozen small mahoganies and an uncounted number of royal palm seedlings. The project is to provide some of the plant material for Flamingo development.

Construction: Dredging and Filling, Flamingo (Contract No. 14-10-111-31): Final inspection was made on November 2 and letter of acceptance furnished to the contractor on November 4. This was for dredging boat basins.

Dredging and Filling, Flamingo (Contract No. 14-10-111-41): Canal dredging from boat basins proceeded well with about 82.660 cubic yards moved in November. Seven acres of mangrove were cleared ahead of the dredge. Change order No. 1, executed November 10, authorized continuation of the canal to Coot Bay and, perhaps, across said Bay to Tarpon Creek.

Bulkheading, Flamingo (Contract No. 14-10-111-43): Bid invitations were dated November 12 with original opening date set for the 13th. Additional information caused us to change the opening date to December 6.

Test Wells (Account 332.10): The monthly salinity tests continued.

Concessions: Propective park concessioners presented their propositions this month at Washington. Two groups were represented: Fred Harvey, Inc., and Everglades Park Concessions a de facto corporation from Miami. No letter of intent had been issued by the end of November.

Audubon Wildlife Tours began operation the last of November on the Gator Lake run.

Jack Lewis of National Parks Concessions, Inc., arrived on November 26 as manager for the winter operation at Coot Bay.

Cooperating Government Agencies: The advance cadre of the United States Department of Agriculture "cotton picker" crews arrived at Flamingo November 26 and began setting up camp for the winter. This is a regular, authorized project of the Division of Pink Bollworm Control, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

Natural History: Roseate spoonbills were well along with their nesting activities in Florida Bay by the end of November with fewer adults on duty for tourist purposes because parental duties were increasing.

Coots had arrived in numbers with large concentrations at West Lake Pond and in the Middle Lake-Seven Palms Lake area where "grass" was particularly thick on bottoms.

The Anhinga Trail area went into its winter season early this year (and corresponded with increased Park visitation). The roost off the end of the Trail built up to about two hundred birds. Alligators began moving in and putting themselves in proper display positions for Park visitors to observe and photograph.

Travel: Visitation for November in the Park reflected to a degree the early season in southern Florida this year. A total of 13,557 people entered the Park, being 1,269 more than last year. Visitors came from forty-three states, three Canadian provinces, and ten foreign countries (Russia, Malta, India, Argentine, Cuba, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Sweden).

Ranger Service: Following the Park conference, an intensive step-up in patrol commenced November 8, resulting from reports of poaching within and outside of the Park. A grogram was developed to cover the suspected areas within the Park on as near a daily 24-hour basis as possible.

Law Enforcement: Middle-aged "oldtimers" in Homestead and Florida City recall when a man named Sullivan killed a big buck deer where the Baptist Church now stands. They remember the silent Seminoles going from house to house selling fresh venison from the Everglades. The Indians had poled their long dugouts up to the western edge of the pinelands and walked through the deep woods to the "Homestead Country" where sawmills were working and homesteading farmers planted tomatoes here and there among the pines wherever they found a pot hole in the soft, oolitic limestone.

As in every pioneer community in America, the settlers lived off the land, in part, at least. Farming was--and still is--a winter activity while summer was for hunting or fishing. A plump white-tailed deer was--and still is--prime for sweetness of meat from August to early November.

As farm tractors came into use, the farmers from the "Homestead Country" began to devise means of adapting these vehicles for hunting purposes. They became known as "glades buggies" or "hunting buggies." Some were "wheel buggies," others were "tractor buggies." A coterie of hunters developed who learned the glades country before it was a Park.

When Everglades National Park was established in 1947, much of the territory where the coterie of "glades cats" roamed was shut off to them. However, a few made forays into the new Park and boasted about it around the city hall and bars. Gradually it became known that the coterie had shrunk to a relatively small group who still did not consider seasons, bag limits, or sex of game. They had several brushes with State Wildlife Officers but either got out of it or paid negligible fines. The "game wardens" became the villains to be outfoxed, out maneuvered, and bullied in games of hide and seek all over the open hunting country. For years, the Homestead fire and police station was a gathering place for those who bragged about their illegal hunting activities.

The coterie began to own airboats, small airplanes, and two-way radios. Their hunting centered in the Everglades and cypress country south of the so-called Loop Road and north of the northwestern boundary of the Park, within easy airplane shuttle distance from Homestead. A bad landing outside their camp gave this headquarters the name "Crackup Camp." In the vicinity the largest deer population in the Park began to build up and the overflow was systematically harvested throughout most of the year from Crackup Camp, or so it is said.

When Secretary McKay looked over the country south of Loop Road as a possible addition to the Park, the coterie was strong in its protests and a surprising note of opposition to completion of the Park came out of Homestead during the gubernatorial campaign of Charley Johns who used it as a campaign issue. The lands were added, nevertheless, but exclusive jurisdiction remained at the old boundary. Johns' opponent, LeRoy Collins, carried Homestead.

The word was out that the deer population was to be cleaned out before the Service could take over jurisdiction of the area added by the Secretary. As noted in our October report, there was evidence that the coterie was now coming into the Park (or shall we say "exclusive jurisdiction" area).

On November 14, 6 days before the hunting season, two Service airboats were on patrol near Coffee Pot Hammock at headwaters of Lostman's River. The party consisted of Assistant Chief Ranger Maxwell, District Ranger Winte, and Seasonal Ranger Ayers. They were not there by accident! Having lunch in the lee of a hammock, the rangers heard an airboat approaching. They cranked up and went looking for it.

A young buck deer was seen struggling through the water with an alien airboat in pursuit. One of the occupants of the boat raised a shotgun and fired at the deer. Then, seeing the approaching Park craft, the airboat turned and fled only to be overtaken soon after passing out of the Park, almost knocking over a boundary sign en route.

Four men were in the airboat: David L. "Rusty Sullivan, former police chief of Florida City; Norman Bagwell, pilot of a Homestead crop duster plane; and two charterboat permittees from Coot Bay, Steve Roberts and Tommy Williams. All were members of the coterie. They were arrested, disarmed, and taken to Tamiami Ranger Station. Brought before U. S. Commissioner Hodson at Homestead, they were let out on $500 bond each, charged with violations of Section 1.9, 1.11, and 20.45(e).

Homestead's Police Sergeant Biggers tried to get release of the airboat that evening. He said that two men had been left at Crackup Camp. Arresting rangers would not release the craft so Sergeant Biggers hired one elsewhere. The next day, it was found that one of the confiscated weapons belonged, or was said to belong, to Homestead's Police Chief Martin. Next day, also, the airboat was released to Sergeant Biggers, who claimed part ownership. The great question was: Who did the sergeant rescue from Crackup Camp?

Considerable local hubub occurred for several days and Miami newspapers and radio stations gleefully added to the din. Finally, U. S. Commissioner Hodson disqualified himself and bound the case over to the U. S. District Court, Southern District of Florida. Florida Wildlife Officers pressed charges against the four defendants for hunting out of season and they were released on $250 bond each pending trial in State court.

By the month's end the trial had not been held. Rudolph Gossman, President of the City Council of Homestead was preparing to lay the matter of purported local police interference or involvement in a Federal case before the Council. The case was beginning to be referred to as "The City of Homestead versus The United States" much to the dismay of many fine people of the local community.

One case of speeding was heard before the U. S. Commissioner and a $15 fine imposed. Four youths, one a juvenile, were arrested November 10 after robbing cars at Anhinga Trail parking area. They were bound over to Federal court in Miami with bond set at $1,000 each. The men were placed on a 2-year probation by the court. It is understood they were to join the armed services.

Personnel: The following seasonal fire control aids entered on duty November 1: Edmund Bucknall from Crater Lake, Chester Bise from Shenandoah, Joseph Bryant and Howard Copas from Mammoth Cave, Alton Shupe from Yellowstone, Perbert Perkins from Grand Teton John Scudder and Fred Devenport. Seasonal Ranger Albert Ayers of Grand Canyon went on duty at Tamiami Station.

District Rangers McDowell and Mrazek left for the 13th Annual Administrative Training Course at Richmond with Chief Clerk Heaton.

Oil Exploration: Gulf Oil Company and Commonwealth Oil Company began drilling on November 27 at their second well site in the Park some 2,000 feet northwest of where the same companies brought in a duster about a month before.

Gulf Oil Company, working on a valid lease (former Model Land Co. lands) south of the Royal Palm area of the Park was given a permit for 6 months by the Superintendent to extend seismographic surveys a few miles beyond lease boundaries, as was permitted at the Tamiami area. Work is being done with helicopter. Permit was designed to protect seasonal wildlife concentration, including roseate spoonbills in eastern Florida Bay.

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

File

A 28 23

Summary of the December 1954 Monthly Narrative Report
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

In reply refer to:
A-23

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
P. O. BOX 275
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK DECEMBER 1954

Weather Conditions: It seems worth noting that rainfall was below presumed normal for the second straight month. Cumulative effects of rainfall deficiency during the winter season spell fire danger later on. Data are not yet available or sufficiently collated to permit any such predictions, yet it is indicative and reportable. Surface water dropped rapidly in December and general inundation existed only in Shark River Valley.

As the Weather Bureau facetiously and somewhat optimistically stated, "We have had a short, cold winter." December cold waves brought temperatures to the mid thirties in two Park stations. It did not last long, but Park visitation dropped with the temperature. A definite relationship exists between cool weather and visitation.

Readings from Stationswere as follows:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	84°	75.3°	35°	49.5°	.53"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	84°	74.8°	35°		.32"
Tamiami Ranger Station	83°	77.0°	42°	54.6°	.68"
Tavernier Ranger Station	79°	75.3°	48°	62.4°	.49"

Special Activities: Biologist Moore helped officiate at the annual meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences at Tallahassee.

Inspections:

Edward Zimmer, Chief of Eastern Office of Design and Construction
Donald E. Lee, Chief of Concessions
Messrs. Nash and De Cost, auditors (checking concession applicant)
Messrs. Cron and Obenschain, B.P.R. engineers

Status of Private Lands: Considerable destruction was done on both sides of Loop Road in Collier County by Magnolia Oil Company. Crews ran bulldozers at intervals through the cypress and hammock area for short points. This serious defacement of the scenery of the new addition to the Park (on private lands) will take many, many years to heal.

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: B.P.R. crews continued their surveys of the main Park road from Flamingo north including test boring and plotting. The bridge site survey at Flamingo Canal was surveyed in detail.

Monthly tide gage summaries were compiled for gages at Flamingo, Coot Bay, and Whitewater Bay. These data are part of the studies on effects of canal dredging between Florida Bay and Coot Bay.

A survey was made of the Park boundary west from S. 3, T. 55 S., R. 35 W., to determine validity of boundary posting in connection with the "deerslayer" case in Federal court.

On December 15, a field conference was held to discuss problems in connection with the construction of the Park road. It was attended by: E. S. Zimmer, Chief of EODC; G. S. Martin, engineer of EODC; C. U. Roulerson, Project Engineer, 4th District Laboratory of State Road Department; T. A. Apple, Highway Engineer of B.P.R. from Tallahassee; and F. W. Cron, J. L. Obenschain, and E. C. Cates, Highway Engineers from B.P.R. in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

General Publicity: The law enforcement case (Roberts, et al.) brought headlines in local newspapers especially because of police involvement in the case.

The New York Herald Tribune began a series of excellent articles on the Park by John O'Reilly.

The magazine Motor News by Michigan's A.A.A. ran an article "Let's Go 'Glade-Gadding" by W. J. Trepagnier.

Maintenance: The Ingraham Highway was bladed to Flamingo Bridge (except private lands) and an asphalt dust palliative was applied at West Lake, Coot Bay, and Brown's Camp. Some road shoulder moving was done.

A new power plant building and a propane gas structure were installed at Lostman's Station.

Preparations were made for the Cuthbert concession trip by brushing out channels and erection of a chickee at the parking area.

Construction: Dredging and Filling, Contract 14-10-111-41. The canal between Flamingo and Coot Bay progressed with satisfaction. Approximately 134,071 cubic yards of dredging had been completed and 9 acres cleared. With better ground to work on, the dragline was able to remove vegetation and place it where it will be less noticeable north of Flamingo bridge. According to plans, the dredge should reach Coot Bay in late January.

Bulkheading and Finger Piers, Contract 14-10-111-43. On December 6, Alonzo Cothron entered the low bid at $169,838.39. Bid could not be accepted at once. The Superintendent was trying to work out the financing at the end of the month.

Concessions: The annual inspection of charter boats was made by Commander J. E. Eastman, U. S. Coast Guard, in company with Park personnel on December 17. In general, all crafts inspected were in good condition and only a few deficiencies were noted. These were called to the attention of the captains at the time of inspection and later by letter. A followup inspection will be made by the Chief Ranger in January.

Everglades Park Transway Service started operating a cruise boat from Coot Bay Ranger Station into Whitewater Bay early in the month with public response quite favorable. The Company has not started their trip to Bear Lake because of motor difficulty.

The National Audubon Society ended their trips for the season into the Alligator Lake area. Beginning the first of January, they plan to move their boats to Brown's Camp and conduct tours to the Lake Ingraham and East Cape areas.

Silver mullet permit applications for 1955 were mailed out to the 25 holders of last year's permits. By the end of the month, 11 applications had been returned and permits were issued for these.

Thirteen shrimping permits were issued for the coming year. This is a reduction of two from last year as Henry Thompson, who held two permits, is no longer in the business. All were notified that this will probably be the last year for shrimp permits.

Cooperating Government Agencies: The U. S. Department of Agriculture Pink Bollworm Control project got under way during the month. The camp at Flamingo was manned and crews were working the flats west of the Ranger Station. Other crews were working out of house boats along the north shore of Florida and Madeira Bays.

Research: The biologist's 48-page manuscript, "Variation in the Fox Squirrel in Florida" was accepted for publication by the American Midland Naturalist. Submitted for publication to the Journal of Mammalogy was his note on an opossum taking refuge under water.

Dr. William B. Robertson, former collaborator, has carried his work on the annotated list of Park birds through hawks. It is in rough draft and, when completed, is expected to be a sales publication at the Park.

Dr. Frank Craighead, collaborator, returned for the winter and is progressing with his contributions to the herbarium. Dr. Craighead procured an outboard cruise for this Park work.

Natural History: The number of birds along the Bear Lake to Gator Lake canal area was less than last year and somewhat disappointing to Audubon Tours. Larger numbers of roseate spoonbills helped, though. East River and Cuthbert rookeries were building up with Cuthbert apparently lagging just a little this year. It was too early to access roseate spoonbill nesting for the season, but everything seemed about normal in Florida Bay. Pinks were actively tending nests with early young reported at Stake Key. There were indications that the birds may be re-occupying Porjoe Key after a year's absence.

An Everglades kite was observed in the Tamiami District. This was the first record in that area since 1948. Crocodiles and otters were reported in Taylor River in the Florida Bay District.

The Anhinga Trail-Royal Palm Pond area was in excellent shape all month with more sunning alligators than ever before and a nice bird roost developing off the end of the trail.

Natural History Society: The December issue of Everglades Natural History went into the mail early in the month. About 1,000 copies of the 3,000 total were mailed out. The rest are being sold over the counter at various outlets inside and outside the Park.

Interpretive Service: Everglades is in its best interpretive position in the Park's history this winter because two ranger-naturalist positions were added (previously there had been but one). The following schedule was thus activated:

1. Information Service at Royal Palm Station was possible every day. This greatly reduced complaints and relieved ranger personnel for other pressing duties.

2. Anhinga Trail Service was stepped up. It is now possible to give informal interpretive service during periods of peak attendance and a talk at evening bird flights, the latter averaging 46 persons per talk. The evening bird flight "narrated" by a naturalist is proving to be a very popular and high form of interpretation.

3. Guided Walks, Gumbo Limbo Trail were started again after a lapse of several years. These walks are regularly scheduled twice each day except on Mondays. Average number of people per walk in December was 19.5.

4. Guided Hikes were started with visitors assembling at various places in the Park. These occur on Saturdays and one was taken in December with 19 people in attendance.

5. Guided Boat Trips are again employed this year, but the district ranger does not have to fill in two days per week. Forty-one trips were made carrying 628 persons or 15.3 per trip. These are concessioner trips to Coot Bay and Whitewater Bay (next month to Cuthbert Rookery).

6. Night Prowls continue to be a popular activity. These Saturday night "prowls" around Royal Palm Station averaged 10.5 persons each.

7. Illustrated Talks at Royal Palm Station Sunday evenings averaged 45 persons each.

8. Special Walks were scheduled for groups (scout troop, local school class, and two university groups from New York City).

Work continued on rehabilitation of exhibits at Royal Palm Ranger Station.

Travel: In spite of the cold spell, a total of 20,021 persons entered the Park during the month, an increase of more than 9% in visitation compared with December 1953.

All states were tallied except Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming. U. S. Territories and foreign countries represented include Hawaii, Cuba, Bahama, Venezuela, Nicaragua, England, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, South Africa, and seven Canadian Provinces.

The total 1954 visitation was 218,044, the seventh straight year of increase.

Ranger Service: Patrol mileage for December was as follows:

Car	10,021 miles
Boat	1,735 miles
Airboat	544 miles
Glades Buggy	56 miles
Total- - - - - - - - -	12,356 miles

Ranger activities during the month were centered around visitor contact and hunting patrols along the East Boundary, Northwest section and Long Pine Key. At the month's end it was apparent that the publicity given the Roberts, et al., case had deterred poaching.

Park protection personnel from the Tamiami District attended a conference between Seminole Indians and Mr. Emmets, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, held at Chief Jimmy Tiger's Village in the Park.

Law Enforcement: As reported last month, park rangers arrested four local men for hunting in the Park from an airboat. As the case

moved towards court, its many "angles" began to come out. Homestead's police chief, it developed, had been a member of the safari, but was "nursing a hangover" in camp. One of the captured revolvers was his, only later to be said to belong to his brother. And so it went.

The case finally went to trial in the District Court at Miami, Judge Choate presiding. Testimony was given for two days with defendants stoutly claiming they were just warming up their airboat after a cold night and had not gone near the Park. The jury did not seem to agree with them. D. R. Sullivan was found guilty of hunting in the Park. Bagwell and Roberts were found guilty on two counts, hunting and firearms. Tommy Williams was guilty on three counts, operating an airboat in the Park, hunting, and firearms. Sentence will be passed January 14.

Accidents: Coleman Irwin, onetime resident of Flamingo and former owner of the Flamingo Ranger Station, met accidental death by drowning in the Park waters on or about December 2. Mr. Irwin, a commercial fisherman, left Islamorada on the 2nd in an open skiff. His boat was found on the 4th by the Civil Air Patrol on a mud bank near Russell Key in Florida Bay. An extensive search, covering approximately 160 square miles, was conducted by ranger personnel and others the following five days. On the 10th, a charter boat guide sighted the body floating in a shoal area near Manatee Key about two miles from where the boat was found. District Ranger Bean was notified and immediately went out to Manatee Key to retrieve the body. With the aid of the Monroe County Coroner and others, the body was brought back to the Florida Bay Ranger Station where it was removed to a funeral home in Homestead. The cause of death was listed as accidental by the coroner.

One personal injury occurred when a visitor was bitten by a raccoon while attempting to feed the animal. The raccoon, which formerly lived at the picnic grounds at Royal Palm, now resides at the end of the Long Pine Key Road.

Oil Exploration: Drilling operations at the Gulf State Well No. 2 on Park land were proceeding at a rapid rate. By the end of the month, drilling had reached 9,800 feet. Another two weeks, barring accidents, should tell the story of whether oil will be found or not. An oil company representative indicated that if minimum flow is obtained "we'll call it a producer."

The Wisehart Well No. 1 and Gulf State Well No. 1 are still producing about 70 barrels per day between them.

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

AUTHOR

Monthly narrative reports.

TITLE

1953-54.

DATE LOANED	BORROWER'S NAME
2/23	Boone
12/14/78	M. Davis
[illegible]	[illegible]

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