MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

FOR

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

January, 1949

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Major L.M. Gray, Project Leader of the Land Acquisition Office, died at Pratt General Hospital, Coral Gables, on January 11.

In spite of lingering illness, Major Gray continued his keen interest in the work of his office almost to the end. He did much to win respect for the National Park Service in Florida by his fair dealings, integrity, and devotion to the principles of the Service. His loss is keenly felt by members of the park staff with whom he was so closely associated.

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WEATHER CONDITIONS

General

South Florida's newspapers thumped their chests all January and pointed with high glee to snows in California, blizzards in the midwest, and freezing weather elsewhere. They had a very good talking point because south Florida's temperatures were unusually high and the skies were clear almost all month. From the tourist trade standpoint, the weather was perfect, except for one, brief cold snap early in the month. Maximum temperature was 86 degrees on the 29th, minimum was 30 degrees (frost) on the 2nd. Mean temperature was 68.7 degrees. There was only .25 inches of rainfall.

Glades Conditions

Surface water in the Everglades practically disappeared during January; but a surprising amount remained in sloughs and canals when one considers that January was exceptionally dry. The reason for this has not been determined except that it was due to "recharge waters" from above. We suspect that flood control dykes and canal gates that have been built as emergency measures in the past two years, coupled with "supersaturation" of the glades last autumn, are important factors in this noteworthy glades water situation.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

The superintendent was invited to attend a board meeting of the Dade County Sportsmen's Club in Miami. He discussed the commercial and sports fishing outlook for the park and was given unqualified support for reasonable rules and regulations governing both when and if such support is sought.

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INSPECTIONS

J.C. Harrington, Regional Archeologist, spent several days on test excavations of Indian mound's stratigraphy with Dr. Goggins of the University of Florida and Ripley Bullin, of the Florida Park Service.

Donald Lee, Assistant Chief Counsel, from the Director's Office, accompanied Model Land Company officials on an inspection of the company's lands which the Service wishes to purchase.

STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS

Park personnel cooperated with the Land Acquisition Office in showing representatives of Model Land Company their so-called "valuable potato raising land" near Gator Lake. Unfortunately, the tide was low and part of the "land" was out of water.

Park Rangers reported that lumbering is again about to take place within the maximum boundaries of the park west of the Loop Road in Collier County. Several excellent cypress heads and pine strands remain there.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS

A preliminary map was completed for the headwaters of the Shark River (NP-EVE 2051).

Sketch plans were submitted for regional study and completion on temporary buildings, Royal Palm Ranger Station at Pine Island.

GENERAL PUBLICITY

Everglades National Park was the theme for Dade County's float at the inauguration of Governor Warren in Tallahassee.

The grand finale of Orange Bowl festivities in Miami was a fireworks display entitled "Birds of the Everglades."

Charles Brookfield and Oliver Griswold of the National Audubon Society published a small book containing historical anecdotes of the park environs, titled "They All Called it Tropical," it was first published serially in The Miami Herald.

COMPLAINTS

The park staff systematically tried to reduce the number of complaints in January; but many were inevitable in our "unready" park. However, the number of satisfied and even enthusiastic visitors was gratifying. Rangers were instructed to keep careful complaint records with the following results:

Complaint # 1:

No rest rooms except the latrine-over-the-canal at Coot Bay.

Comment:

The rest room situation, especially at Paradise Key, has become serious and it has been decided that funds be sought to correct it by erection of pit latrines.

Complaint # 2:

No food, cold drinks, or lodging are provided in the park by concessioners.

Comment: Rangers explained status of land acquisition as the principal reason why no concessioners have started in the park; but, inevitably we had to send thirsty or hungry tourists to the "concessioners without portfolio" at Flamingo. A drinking fountain was set up at Paradise Key.

Complaint # 3:

Road conditions and lack of turn arounds beyond Paradise Key disturbed many visitors.

Comment:

This is an old complaint which rangers meet by telling visitors that the Service does not yet own the road or have funds for maintenance and repairs. For more than a year, this has been widely publicized and many people understand the situation now.

Complaint # 4:

People often complain that they cannot "see anything" in the park.

Comment:

With preponderance of visitor traffic stopping at Paradise Key, emphasis was placed on that area by development of a self guiding nature trail, prohibiting all fishing in Taylor Slough where birds congregate, and having interpretive personnel on duty all week there.

Complaint # 5:

No gasoline stations.

Comment:

This complaint, previously reported, became negligible late in January after erection of a sign "No gas stations on this road."

MAINTENANCE

A temporary dock was erected at West Lake to accomodate Audubon Tours groups who embark on cabin cruisers there.

Work on rehabilitation of the house boat loaned by U.S.D.A. was completed.

A new, 1,000 gallon gasoline tank was installed at Coot Bay Ranger Station. The old one is company-owned and being removed.

CONCESSIONS

National Audubon Society 2-day tours carried on all month, with four guides including Robert P. Allen, the well known authority on Everglades bird life.

DONATIONS AND ACCESSIONS

A very fine Seminole-built dugout was found by the superintendent's son buried in mud between Cuthbert Lake and Ingraham Highway. The cypress dugout was brought to Royal Palm Ranger Station and stored for possible museum use in the future. Deeper than most post-Everglades-drainage dugouts, it is an excellent example of a now almost extinct art. We hope nobody claims it!

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE

Florida Greyhound Lines made a total of 12 trips to Paradise Key. Ranger-naturalist Nash conducted 9 of these (average 20 people per party) through the nature trail.

Because visitor pressure became intense on weekends, scheduled guided tours of Paradise Key became necessary and rangers willingly assisted interpretive personnel. Several Boy Scout and school groups attended.

The superintendent gave talks to the Palm Beach Garden Club, Hollywood Lions Club, Ft. Lauderdale Federated Garden Clubs, and the Dade County Sportsmen's Club.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

Dr. Brooke Worth began a two-weeks survey of small mammals to determine typhus of commensural rodents for the U. S. Public Health Service.

The East River and Cuthbert Lake Rookeries were both well into the season with wood ibises' young in nests. A very pretty rookery of American egrets in dildo cactus and palms was noted at Dildo Key in Florida Bay.

Casual counts of alligators in Ingraham Canal between Paradise Key and West Lake were from 23 to 32.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL

Travel in the park was much higher than had been anticipated and Service personnel were swamped by it. Road counters at Royal Palm Ranger Station (13,132) and Coot Bay Ranger Station (2,667) were used for the first time. Boat travel was estimated at 300. The peak of the winter tourist season had not yet been reached; but increasing bad weather in the north was stimulating tourist travel to Florida. It was noteworthy in January that the luxury trade along swank resorts fell below expectancy while less expensive lodgings and recreation facilities were bulging at the seams.

VISITORS

John H. Baker, President, National Audubon Society.
Donald Budge, Tennis Champion.
C.J. Tucker, Dist. Mgr., Southern Bell Telephone Co.
C.J. Bolen, Editor, Southern Telephone News
Clyde C. Trager, State Senator from Illinois.
James P. Welch, "Old AAA Traveler", Motor News.
Nelson Edwards, Paramount News
Glenn Water, Chairman, Dade County Camping Councel.
Mr. & Mrs. George Bookman, "Time" Magazine.

RANGER SERVICE

Park Rangers towed the houseboat from Homestead Boat Basin to Tarpon Bay via Intracoastal Waterway. Now securely moored in the strategic headwaters of the Shark River, it has been named "Shark River Patrol Station," perhaps the first of such floating stations in the Service's history.

Two seasonal rangers were on duty in January.

FIRE PROTECTION

Three fires were controlled along the "vulnerable" areas near Royal Palm Ranger Station. All were started by farmers burning fields.

Public contact and educational work in the park and along the east boundary was continued during the month. Approximately 50 fire prevention signs (Everglades Fire Control District) were posted by park personnel along the east boundary near the park.

The vegetative cover of flashy fuels increased in hazard throughout the park and environs during the dry month of January, but fire occurrence was far below pre park average in the park and nearby.

All motor vehicles were equipped with fire tools and serviced for immediate use in fire suppression.

COMMUNICATIONS

The park radio communications system worked with satisfaction in January. Although several sets are still in the process of procurement, relay and standby schedules permitted expeditious administration and served well in fire control work. The portable set at Shark River Patrol Station permitted first direct contact with rangers on West Coast patrol.

Excellent liaison functioned with Under Refuge Manager Jack Watson who covers Florida Bay for the Fish and Wildlife Service. His set has same wave length as used in the park.

COMMERCIAL FISHING

A fight between commercial live bait shrimpers near Flamingo ended up in Monroe County Court with Jack McCall being bound over to Criminal Court at Key West on $500 bond. The Chief Ranger, who witnessed early threats, appeared as a witness.

Mullet season was reopened on the twentieth of the month. Pompano were caught more regularly. Rangers counted 19 commercial fishing boats at one time at the mouth of Shark River.

A party of commercial fishermen set up two trailers and launched an airboat and fishing boat at West Lake. Contacted by the superintendent and chief ranger, they were told to leave government-owned lands as no new commercial fishing is permitted. Rangers followed up and the party moved to private lands at Snake Bight where rangers checked them almost daily.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

FOR

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

February, 1949

WEATHER CONDITIONS

General

The trend of a warm, dry winter reported in January continued throughout February. Mean temperature at Homestead was 71.05 degrees which was 5.75 degrees above the ten year average. Maximum temperature was 87 degrees on two days, and minimum was a brief, chilly 50 degrees.

This meant a great deal to the tourist trade and more to the local farmers. Prices on farm produce skyrocketed with freezes in California and Texas. Fresh tomatoes, beans, egg plants, and potatoes, brought extreme prices. Field crates of tomatoes, for instance, jumped from $4.00 to $9.00. It was estimated that six million dollars would be paid out to farmers at the Florida City Market by the end of the season. Farmers on park land and just outside the park on Long Pine Key were a little late for the peak, but were "cleaning up" nevertheless.

Glades Conditions

Rainfall continued to be deficient with only .87 inches for the month. 1.46 inches is ten year average. Water in the Everglades reflected the drought which has been the worst winter in twenty years. But again this month, glades water conditions were not as bad as might be expected.

Surface water (fresh) remained in three areas. The main Everglades drainageway which swings in an arc about twelve miles wide from Tamiami Trail to Shark and Broad Rivers was spotted with standing water and some surface flow continued. An area of about twenty square miles north of Seven Palms Lake - Cuthbert Lake - West Lake - had approximately eight inches of standing water (spotty). The third area was smaller - Taylor Slough east of Paradise Key - consisting of about two acres of water which was rapidly going down towards the end of the month.

Salt water encroachment along Ingraham Canal on February 23 in p.p.m. registered 18,600 at mile 19 below Paradise Key, 9,180 at mile 16.1, and 18 at .3 miles.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE

More complete labels were put along the nature trail in Paradise Key to relieve the interpretive personnel during periods of high visitor use.

The bird show in Taylor Slough which had become such an attraction was fast disappearing as water levels dropped. The situation at the peak of the travel year was that there was scarcely anything for the average park visitor to see from the highway.

The park naturalist gave talks at the Episcopal Church in Homestead and at the Riverside Garden Club in Miami.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

Gradual changes in wildlife activity because of the cumulative effects of draught became apparent in February. The only "fertile" areas were those three places mentioned earlier in this report where fresh water remained. Birds congregated in the three, limited areas as did alligators and probably other forms of wildlife. The main feeding grounds for the Cuthbert Lake Rookery and East River Rookery seemed to be north of Cuthbert Lake. This was noteworthy because Ingraham Canal drains the area east of the road (and permits salt intrusion) while just west of the road fresh water remained deep enough for bass fishing. Many more birds were north of Tamiami Trail than in the park south of the Trail.

There was no sign of Shark River Rookery in February. This once great rookery seems to have disappeared after three years of gradual depletion. East River Rookery and Cuthbert Lake Rookery were normal for February.

The Florida Bay situation was excellent according to reports of Jack C. Watson, of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Roseate spoonbills completed nesting and were beginning to move away. About 200 nests were there this year with several keys being used for the first time. White ibises nested this year on Porjoe Key. Wood ibises nested on a small key in Joe Bay and on Eagle Key. The great white heron population, located mainly in western Florida Bay, is now believed to consist of about one thousand birds (less than two dozen in 1935).

Hooded mergansers were added to the park check list during February. Avocets were again reported at Cuthbert Lake, as last year.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL

Travel in the park was the highest so far recorded with 15,147 in February. Only 5,017 of these reached Coot Bay. The greatest number of people at Paradise Key in one day was 994. At Coot Bay, it was 413 (same day).

Lloyd House of House Fish Company, in Flamingo, rented all his boats befpre ten o'clock one Sunday and claims to have made $300 per weekend from park visitors.

VISITORS

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Merriam, Regional Director, Region Two.
William Wharton, President of National Parks Association.
William H. Smith, Highway Engineer, Public Roads Administration.
Mr. Ludlam, Chief of Condemnation Section, Department of Justice.

POLICE PROTECTION

Airboats operating from Everglades and from Tamiami Trail invaded the headwaters of west coast and Whitewater Bay rivers where alligators were concentrated in limited areas. The result was a very serious loss of alligators throughout the vital areas of the park. Rangers tried as best they could to apprehend the violators, spending several nights and days on the case; but lack of comparable equipment and jurisdictional difficulties prevented them from stopping the well organized foray of market hunters. Attempts at air to boat liaison were unsuccessful because most of the poaching took place at night.

Clyde Lunsford, brother of Dr. E.C. Lunsford, who owns Cape Sable beaches shot a man through the leg on the bank of East Cape Canal. The victim reported to the Chief Ranger at Coot Bay Ranger Station where he was treated and statements taken. He was then sent to the hospital. Mr. Lunsford and Jack McCall (who previously engaged in the shrimp battle of Slagel's Ditch) were disarmed by the Chief Ranger. Mr. Lunsford was turned over to the Border Patrol who, in turn, notified Monroe County authorities.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION

Five fires occurred during the month, the largest covering 5,600 acres, 1,280 of which were park lands. This was an Everglades fire fanned by a strong wind. It was put out by using bulldozers and other equipment. Newspapers and the radio, including Commentator H.B. Kaltenborn, gave wide publicity to the "first glades conflagration ever put out."

Extreme hazardous conditions prevailed throughout pinelands and most of the glades areas all month making constant patrol and "alert" states necessary.

ACCIDENTS

A National Audubon Society station wagon driven by Robert P. Allen, en route to the park with Audubon Tour visitors was involved in an accident near Florida City. Mr. Allen received minor cuts. Three ladies were hospitalized at Homestead, one of whom was in critical condition.

Two motorcycle accidents occurred at almost the same place about two miles south of Paradise Key on the rough road. Three of the victims were given first aid by Mrs. Edward Stephanic, wife of Ranger Stephanic, of Royal Palm Ranger Station.

Fire Control Aid LeVan was injuried when piece of galvanized metal struck his eye while working at Coot Bay.

COMMERCIAL FISHING AND COMMERCIAL SHRIMPING

Approximately 26 men using 16 inboard power boats, three airplanes, and 4 specially equipped trucks are now engaged in catching and transporting live shrimp from park waters for sportsmen at Everglades, Miami, and the Florida Keys. Two years ago, there was one man with a jeep, two with a boat.

Live shrimp are sold by the shrimpers for 2½¢ to 3¢ each. The sportsman buys them for 4¢ to 6¢ each. Daily catches are believed to average 3,000 to 6,000. This means that the average shrimper grosses at least $50 per day. They often make a great deal more.

Such lucrative business is naturally attracting more and more people to it. Competition for shrimping spots and for markets is increasing and as long as the shrimp last, will continue. Shrimp are a basic food organism used by fishes and by birds. The effect of this intensive shrimping is presumably detrimental to the wildlife of the park.

Three big dragnet crews moved into Florida Bay late in February.

Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

FOR

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

March, 1949

WEATHER CONDITIONS

General

With the winter tourist and truck crop season about over, south Florida can relax and be thankful the area survived its season with no serious cold snaps. The lowest March temperature was 43 degrees, highest was 88 degrees. The average was about normal.

Glades Conditions

Rainfall continued deficient in March with only 1.63 inches near Homestead against a 4.59 ten year average. Showers were scattered throughout the park, but had no appreciable effect on water levels.

Salt samples were taken on March 16, showing 8,440 p.p.m. at Concrete Bridge, 12.7 miles below Paradise Key; 14,100 p.p.m., at 19.0 miles, and 9,420 p.p.m, at 9.0 miles. Encroachment was serious everywhere and believed especially so in the main feeding grounds for Cuthbert Lake and East River Rookeries. The fresh water table dropped to 8 inches above mean sea level in the Redlands (Homestead, Florida City, and nearby pinelands), which are the highest area in south Dade County. The only fresh water inundated areas were some unconnected pools in the main Everglades drainage and a portion of Taylor Slough east of Paradise Key. Water was salty to the extreme headwaters of west coast rivers.

It was interesting to note that on one side of U.S. # 1, ten miles south of Florida City, at north boundary of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge, people were catching salt water fish, while on the other side of the highway they were taking black bass. A check showed 17,500 p.p.m. chloride on one side and only 590 p.p.m. on the other. Such is the effect of a road which also acts as a dyke,

INSPECTIONS

Superintendent Edmund Rogers, of Yellowstone National Park, spent several days in the park. He was consulted by the staff upon numerous topics relatively new to us, but upon which he had dealt before.

Regional Director Thomas J. Allen, Assistant Director Hillory Tolson, Chief Historian Ronald Lee, Chief of Development Thomas Vint, and Regional Landscape Architect Stanley Abbott, made a general inspection of the park. Messrs. Vint and Abbott stayed several days after the rest of the party left to discuss in the field some of the plans relating to park headquarters, Paradise Key, Cape Sable Road, Coot Bay and Cape Sable Developments, and the place of Florida Bay in the park.

Forester William Savage from the Regional Office, came down during a period of high fire hazard. He participated in several fires and made studies relating to the location of fire towers.

PUBLICITY

Mr. Oliver Griswold, President of the Tropical Audubon Society, wrote an excellent article entitled "Have We Saved the Everglades?" which appeared in the winter edition of The Living Wilderness.

Grantland Rice syndicated a fanciful article called "Last Frontier" concerning the park area.

COMPLAINTS

Following several brief daylight trips into the park, from a Miami Beach Hotel, Mr. Tony Merrill, of Washington, D.C., strongly criticized the Service for: (1) not having any comfort stations, (2) failure to keep someone on the houseboat at all times, (3) lack of full interpretive devises at Paradise Key, (4) above all, the foray of alligator hunters reported last month, and (5) shooting along the park road reported by the National Audubon Society.

We explained: (1) no funds are available for comfort stations, (2) the houseboat is a patrol station, not a ranger station, (3) temporary interpretive devises have been installed wherein possible, (4) we made every effort to stop 'gator hunters - and for first time in history of west coast were able to slow them down, although we lacked necessary equipment to catch them, (5) by phone, National Audubon Society denied the report of shooting along the road and Merrill later apologized to them (but not to us) for the false report. The same complaints were unsuccessfully registered with John D. Pennekamp, of The Miami Herald.

Mr. Merrill questioned the superintendent on personnel and many other matters. His purpose in coming here, we understand, was to prepare an article on recreation for National Parks Magazine and a guide book. He is planning to make a trip to all western parks this summer for the same (?) purpose.

Other complaints were the same as we have experienced all year: nothing to see, no sightseeing boats, lack of gasoline or other concession facilities, the condition of the road, and the fact that there are no comfort stations.

MAINTENANCE

All buildings at Coot Bay Ranger Station were repainted, some on an experimental basis with paint supplied from various companies which will not turn black from swamp gasses.

Seventy-five feet of the dock at Coot Bay was torn out and replaced with new planking and piles.

CONCESSIONERS

National Audubon Society Tours began experiencing late season boat trouble on the Cuthbert Lake run. Most of the month, one boat had to be towed by the second boat which had a badly missing engine.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE

The superintendent and park naturalist gave talks at the Lake Worth and Clewiston Garden Clubs, respectively.

The Homestead High School biology class and a group of forestry students from Michigan State University, were given specially conducted trips by the park naturalist.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

Signs of spring in the Everglades do not pop out at one, as in colder climates where nature is in a hurry to take advantage of every warm day. But, there are indications of seasonal change which become noticeable in March. Ortopodium orchids sent out four to six foot sprays of yellowish, spotted flowers. The cypress trees came alive and began to show new leaves. Air plants (Tillandsia) had brilliant red bloom stalks and small, purple blossoms. During the first week of March, the swallow-tailed kites came back on schedule with as many as ten in a loose "flock" at one time. And, of course, the little things that sting, bite, probe, or sit down and push became more numerous.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION (Continued)

Rookeries at East River and Cuthbert Lake had passed their climax with many birds of the year already at flying stage. There was still no sign of rookery activity at Shark River, though.

In Florida Bay, the roseate spoonbills left after completing their nesting cycle. But then a strange thing happened - about fifty of the birds came back to roost at Stake Key. Usually, at this time of the year, the pinks follow a post nuptial seasonal movement up the west coast. Some did, of course, but others returned.

Feeding grounds for birds were considered very poor in March due to salt infiltration and dried up Everglades. The situation was becoming so bad that a large die off of black bass had started.

All forms of wildlife dependent upon fresh water were crowded into extremely restricted areas or, as in the case of certain birds, had moved out of the park.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL

Travel held better than was anticipated during March although it fell off the last week of the month. Records made at Royal Palm Ranger Station showed 13,686 for the month, a decrease of only 1,461 below the February peak. As usual, only about one third of the park visitors got beyond Paradise Key and down to Coot Bay.

VISITORS

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Reid, Managing Director of the Izaac Walton League of America.
Mr. John H. Baker, President of the National Audubon Society.
Mr. Don McNeil, of the radio show, "Breakfast Club."
Mr. Edgar W. Allfather, P.R.A. engineer from Roanoke, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. R.R. Robinson, Master Mechanic, of Yellowstone National Park.
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Neilson, Chief Fiscal Officer, National Park Service.
Mr. John D. Pennekamp, Associate Editor, The Miami Herald.
Mr. Will H. Preston, Attorney for Everglades National Park Commission.
Mr. McGregor Smith, President of Florida Power and Light Co.
Mr. Grantland Rice, Sports writer.
Mr. Tony Merrill, of Washington, D.C., "conservationist" and writer.
Mr. Wallace Kirkland, "Life" photographer.
Mr. Rupert Leach, "Viewmaster" photographer.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION

Fire hazard remained exceptionally high all month and was reduced for but a few hours by rains. As could be expected, the incident of fires increased and the entire park staff was taxed to suppress thirteen fires. The largest of these was on March 27, and it was necessary to employ bulldozers to construct a fire break to prevent the fire from entering the park.

Of the 24 fires controlled this season and 12,000 acres of pinelands and Everglades burned, only 2,800 acres were inside the park.

COMMERCIAL FISHING

The drums began to beat for a better program of salt water fisheries conservation as the Florida Legislature prepared for its biennial session under a new governor.

John D. Pennekamp, member of the Everglades National Park Commission, and editor of The Miami Herald, lamented on lack of enforcement of the Florida crayfish closed season. He then followed with an article chiding the state Board of Conservation (salt water) for being merely a "license collecting agency".

Allan Corson, fishing editor of The Miami Herald reported on an interview with Earl Riccou, East Coast Conservation Agent. Riccou threatened to stop drag seining in Florida Bay.

Ralph Cooksey, President of the Florida Wildlife Federation, held a joint meeting with the Commercial Fishermen's Association at Tampa. They drew up a joint bill for presentation to the Legislature for the purpose of establishing a Salt Water Fish Commission comparable to the now efficient Fresh Water Fish and Game Commission. The Retail Fish Dealers' Association failed to concur with the program.

Earl Roman, former fishing editor of the Herald, and now instructor in angling at the University of Miami, compiled statistics showing that salt water sports fishing enterprises in Florida during 1947 amounted to $625,000,000!

Meanwhile, two new drag seine outfits began working over Florida Bay.

Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

FOR

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

April, 1949

WEATHER CONDITIONS

General

The average temperature for April at Homestead was 73.7 degrees which was 14.1 degrees below ten year average. Maximum on two days was 90 degrees, minimum was 49 degrees.

Glades Conditions

The spring rainy season began in late April with 5.65 inches which was more than 2 inches above average. Sporatic, local showers became more frequent and widespread as the month progressed. A few, typical rainy season deluges occurred; but the Cape Sable country received less than more northerly portions of the park. Seasonal inundation began late in the month which showed at Taylor Slough and north of Cuthbert Lake.

Salt infiltration reached a serious peak during April with "sea water concentration" reported by the U.S.G.S. about April 15, only 9 miles below Paradise Key (18,400 p.p.m. on April 7). Generally, then, Glades conditions for much of April were decidedly bad although improvement was noticeable late in the month.

MAINTENANCE

The cabin cruiser, USNPS 11-200, was brought to Miami for engine overhaul and for repairs to the hull.

The temporary utility area at Royal Palm Lodge was completed with whitewashing the inside of the power house and garage.

Work on Coot Bay dock was 80% complete. Weather stations were installed at the Royal Palm Ranger Station and Coot Bay Ranger Station.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

Unusually heavy mortalities of immature birds at East River Rookery and Cuthbert Lake Rookery were investigated by Park Biologist Moore. The ratio of dead to nests averaged 1 bird to 10 nests at East River. The loss at Cuthbert Lake was found to be much less and not as significant. Losses

by species was summarized as follows:

High Mortality	Low Mortality	No Dead Found
wood ibis	Louisiana heron	white ibis
snowy egret	water turkey	
American egret	(1 dead, questionable cause)	

In reporting on his findings, the Park Biologist said in part: "These inspections were made at the close of a winter season so extremely dry that marsh feeding areas in the whole park were probably 95% dried up. That this imposes extreme hardship upon the adult birds to find and bring food to the young seems obvious. . . . . .

"Postmortem examinations of 10 young wood ibis picked up during the inspections were made to acquire information on probable cause of death. No wounds, lesions, inflammations, or pronounced parasitic infestations were found. The crops and intestines were uniformly entirely empty, there was no visceral fat, and the birds were in very poor flesh. Remarkable for these feeders on aquatic animal life, their gizzards were in every case filled with vegetable material. In some cases this was green, possibly with mangrove leaves from about the nests, in others, it appeared to be peaty or humus material from the ground.

"Postmortem examinations of one young American egret and one young snowy egret agreed in every particular with that of the wood ibises excepting that the whole alimentary canal was quite empty in the egrets. . ."

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL

Early April travel followed the pattern of the preceeding winter months. Later, it appeared that there was an increase in visitors from local communities and a falling off of northern tourists. At Coot Bay, rangers estimated 95% of travel was by local people who were going fishing at the close of the winter tourist and crop season.

A total of 10,220 people visited Paradise Key, 4,702 of whom reached Coot Bay. The number was higher than had been anticipated.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS

Data were gathered for a base map of Florida Bay.

Rangers Winte and Stephanic plotted and surveyed a route for a walk at Taylor Slough and, in doing, so opened an interesting canoe trail ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile) into hitherto unknown sections of this fertile area.

STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS

A commercial fisherman named M cGill began building a new house at Flamingo. At the same locality, the famous "Cootie Roberts' Beer Joint" reopened after being hauled back from the mangroves where it had reposed since the last hurricane.

VISITORS

Dr. Telford H. Work, Photographer and Lecturer.
Mrs. Lewis Babbit, Natural History Leader, Dade County Schools.
Mrs. Polly Mason, Miami Chamber of Commerce Information Bureau.
Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Hammerstein, Playwright.
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Schwab, Writer and Playwright.
Howe Sadler, Director of Florida News and Photo Service.
Morris Monts DeOca, Chief Photographer, Fla. Publicity Bureau.
Edward Lippman, Grantland Rice "Sportlight" photographer.
Rod Warren, Grantland Rice "Sportlight" photographer.
Russ Erwin, Grantland Rice "Sportlight" photographer.
E. J. Foulds, California Park Service

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION

Extremely dry burning conditions continued well into April and resulted in three fires, which burned 291 acres inside the park and 5,000 beyond park boundaries.

A new 30 men fire equipment trailer was made from a surplus pump trailer.

COMMUNICATIONS

Two, new 250 watt FM radio receivers and transmitters were received and one was installed at Park Headquarters. All tower antennas were altered to correct wave lengths. The result has been to greatly improve the communications, especially with Coot Bay Ranger Station. With minor work, we will have a functioning communications coverage during the forthcoming hurricane season.

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

FOR

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

May, 1949

WEATHER CONDITIONS

General

Weather stations were in operation at Paradise Key (Royal Palm Ranger Station) and Coot Bay Pond (Coot Bay Ranger Station) for the first time in May. Although no comparative data are yet available, it was quite evident that May was warmer than usual with considerable, summer humidity.

	Royal Palm Ranger Station	Coot Bay Ranger Station
Maximum temperature	95°	95°
Minimum temperature	60°	64°
Mean Maximum	91°	87°
Mean Minimum	65°	70°

Glades Conditions

Typical cloudbursts, usually thunderstorms, swept the park at irregular intervals during the first half of May bringing 9.93 inches of rainfall at Royal Palm Ranger Station and 3.94 inches at Coot Bay Ranger Station. The water table rose rapidly the first half of the month, but began to fall again later. On May 11, chloride concentration in Ingraham Canal 9.0 miles below Royal Palm Station was 1,060 ppm - a drop of 17,340 ppm in a month. Throughout the park, recharge waters pushed salt back early in May, but there was probably some re-infiltration later in the month.

INSPECTIONS

Regional Director Thomas J. Allen and Coordinating Superintendent of Southeastern National Monuments Vinten were in the park early in the month. Mr. Allen was interested in checking the Coot Bay Pond development and visiting the Florida Keys to see areas suggested for future ranger stations and contact points adjacent to Florida Bay. A trip was made by boat in Florida Bay.

STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS

Mr. Lloyd House, of the House Fish Company at Flamingo, went out of the commercial fishing business and began development of a wildcat concession including tourist cabins, store, and restaurant.

The "box score" on land acquisition in the park is now as follows:

Conveyed State lands by the State of Florida	403,072 acres	
Florida Federation of Women's Clubs donation	4,000 "	
Purchased by the Land Acquisition Office	214,113 "	
Total Lands now in federal ownership		621,185

Amount paid for private lands to date - - - - - - - - -$338,515

Private lands still to be purchase - - - - - - - - - - -143,009 acres

COMPLAINTS

An anonymous letter signed by a "park enthusiast" was received saying the Service should stop Mr. Olin Williams from "commercializing the park's resources" by catching shrimp and hauling them out by plane.

Many bitter complaints were received during the month on the condition of the road at Coot Bay Ranger Station. Rangers explained the status of private lands prohibited action at present.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Two 500 gallon water tanks were installed at Coot Bay to provide drinking water (from roofs) and for operation of plumbing at the rangers' quarters. A concrete block and metal storage building was 75% complete at Coot Bay. This building, on the island, was made by using some parts of a surplus Quonset type ammunition storage building. When completed it will permit removal of stores from the shop.

The location of temporary quarters and utility yard at Pine Island was staked out ready for scarifying.

PERSONNEL

Maintenanceman Marcus B. Parker was assigned to the Houseboat to patrol the Shark River-Broad River country pending change of position to park warden. Mr. H.J. Parker was employed and assigned to Coot Bay as construction laborer.

CONCESSIONERS

National Audubon Society Wildlife Tours ended at the park and were started out of Everglades (City) to Duck Rock Roost beyond park boundaries for the summer.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Mr. Nevin D. Hoy, of the U.S. Geological Survey in Miami, conferred with the superintendent relative to a coordinated study of ground water levels and salinity in the park in connection with the proposed plan of the Army Engineers for Flood Control in the Everglades. The Geological Survey offered technical advice if this Service will collect the data.

U.S. Weather Bureau officials inspected cooperative weather stations in the park.

U.S. Public Health Service "bug catchers" operated as batteries permitted at Coot Bay. The U.S. Public Health Service provided a battery charger for this purpose.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE

Three school groups visited the park during May and were given guided tours by the Park Naturalist. A class of ornithology students from the University of Miami was taken to East River Rookery.

The park movie was shown at the Homestead High School and a talk was given by the park superintendent and park naturalist at the Council of Nature Education of Dade County.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

The Park Biologist made a preliminary investigation of the raccoon-turtle relationships along the Cape Sable beaches to determine the status of raccoon predation at the beginning of the turtle-nesting season. He found that 28.6% of the nests were pillaged by raccoons and concluded that evidence so far does not indicate that raccoons are a critical factor in the decreasing abundance of the loggerhead and perhaps other sea turtles.

Regular observations were possible for the first time at a swallow-tailed kite's nest which is located at Pine Island near the entrance to the park.

An attempt was made by the Park Biologist to determine a method for checking the population of manatees in the park. Three hundred miles of park waterways were covered, but few were "flushed."

East River Rookery had practically ceased to exist for this season by the end of the month except for the white ibis, young of which were nearly at flying stage. Normally, this rookery should have carried on until well into June, but the mortality of young birds mentioned in last month's report no doubt hastened its end. Young white ibis were in good shape, though. The rookery was mapped and a nest count made on sample islands for comparative purposes in the future.

An usual concentration of otters was examined along the Loop Road (outside the park) - more than four per mile of canal.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL

Travel in the park was almost exclusively by local residents who were going fishing. It is customary for local people to take a little fishing time off in the spring after the wear and tear of the winter tourist season.

A total of 6,485 people visited the park in May.

RANGER SERVICE

The entire west coast waterways area of the park from Cape Sable to Lostmans River was well covered by patrols in May. Boats were systematically contacted and an attempt was made to stop one suspicious boat, but it was able to outrun the Service craft and left the area headed out in the Gulf toward Everglades.

FIRE PROTECTION

No fires reported during the month although some scouting and observations were made. Lumbering operators north of the Tamiami Trail continued to burn off some cypress lands and on several occasions fires were reported in this area although they were considerable distance from the park boundary. Dade County Fire Patrol requested our assistance for follow-up patrol on one fire 5 miles east of the park boundary.

One Chrysler-Hale Fire Pumper was overhauled and serviced for installation at Coot Bay Ranger Station where it will be placed for building fire, dock and boat protection at this station. Recent heavy rains have flooded many acres of the marsh and saw grass areas of the park.

All fire equipment was relocated in the central fire cache at Royal Palm Ranger Station under the supervision of Acting District Ranger Edward P. Stephanic. Inventory, maintenance, and issuances of fire equipment will be made at this cache in the future.

COMMUNICATION

A new 800 watt automatic power plant was installed at Shark River Patrol Station for operation of the radio at this place. Our radio network has been functioning very well since the installation of the new Link 250 watters was made at Headquarters and Coot Bay Ranger Station. From these fixed stations we have been able to communicate with all vehicles and floating craft from all locations in the park area where tests have been made to date.

SPORTS FISHING

The fine art of catching big fish on light tackle is growing in south Florida and the devotees of fly rod fishing chalked up some remarkable records during May.

Charles Ebbets, of Miami, well known Everglades photographer, broke the world's tarpon record in Florida Bay. He took a 40 pound fish on a fly rod with a 12 pound test leader after a 50 minute fight. A week later, J. Lee Cuddy, of Miami, beat Ebbet's record near Flamingo by taking a 46 pound tarpon on a 6 3/8 ounce fly rod. He also established a record with the same tackle on a 39 3/4 pound redfish.

Throughout the park and surrounding waters, tarpon began to run strong and snook fishing began to improve with the advancing season.

ACCIDENTS

On May 4, lightning struck a commercial fisherman's tent on the bank of East Cape Canal killing Mrs. Patricia Benedict, of Miami, who, with a party of sports fishermen, had taken refuge in the tent. Her husband, Frank, was severely burned and another member of the party, Ray Goddard, was badly shaken up. The party had been out in an open skiff rented at House Fish Company in Flamingo.

Notified at Coot Bay Ranger Station, rangers radioed headquarters. A Coast Guard plane was immediately sent to bring out the wounded and rangers assisted in bringing Mrs. Benedict's body to Homestead.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
June, 1949

WEATHER CONDITIONS

June was warm, perhaps "hot" would be a better word for it - one of those months when the least exertion causes one to perspire freely, and hence few people are foolish enough to exert themselves. Temperatures in the park ranged from a high of 93° to a low of 61° with the average in the eighties.

The Glades were filling with water all month and inundation of the area was considered average for this time of the year. All canals in and near the park were full. Salt water encroachment was no longer serious although there was, on June 16, 10,100 ppm. chloride at bottom and 3,020 at top of Ingraham Canal 19.0 miles below Royal Palm Ranger Station (Concrete Bridge).

Rain fell in a series of thunderstorms and occasional, typical cloudbursts. There was 7.69 inches for the month at Royal Palm Ranger Station and 7.96 inches at Coot Bay Ranger Station. The heaviest rainfall in one day was 2.93 inches at Coot Bay Ranger Station.

Except during squalls, winds prevailed from the southeast. Generally, there were no sustained blows, but when rainstorms occurred they were accompanied by varying winds that made small craft travel difficult or dangerous for a few hours.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

The Superintendent gave a talk at a meeting of the Miami Junior League relative to a proposal for a Nature Museum and Workshop in Miami to be sponsored by the League. The project was approved by them later.

The Chief Ranger and Park Ranger Winte met with 68 officers and men of the U.S. Coast Guard at Dinner Key Base and gave a talk on survival in the Everglades. Coast Guard personnel showed lively interest in this subject and later treated Service representatives to a flight over the park.

The Superintendent gave a report on the status of the park to the Miami Rotary Club, pointing out the situation as to land acquisition and its retarding effect upon the development of any park facilities and services. The Club passed a resolution the following week supporting the park and urging expeditious clearing of obstacles now blocking the completion of the land acquisition program.

STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS

A nurseryman from Ft. Lauderdale made field checks in the Madiera Bay country to locate palms on private lands which he planned to dig out. Contacted by the Superintendent and the Land Acquisition Office, every effort was made to dissuade him. Later in the month, the area was posted in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

All squatters on lands now belonging to the United States were notified during the month to vacate the premises in a given time.

MAINTENANCE

The cabin cruiser, speedboat, and airboat were painted and varnished during June. Other boats were given minor maintenance to last through the summer season.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Foundations were poured for a temporary quarters building at Pine Island.

A storage building, 14'x15' was completed at Coot Bay Ranger Station. Three sections of 220' dock were completed.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Mr. James Loftis, Conservation Agent (salt water) for the State of Florida, consulted with Service representatives on numerous occasions during the month. An effort was made by Mr. Loftis to apprehend violators of State Law relative to use of drag seines and purse nets in Florida Bay. One conviction was obtained, one outfit (Mills) was released for lack of sufficient evidence. A third (Santini) was bound over to Criminal Court in Key West and the case has not yet been heard.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

The Park Naturalist did not carry on any visitor contact work as this is the slack season. He was at Ft. Jefferson National Monument June 10-17 on special assignment to study the tern colonies.

On June 1 and 2, Dr. John Goggins, of the University of Florida, was a Service guest at Cape Sable. Reconnoitering the beaches, Dr. Goggins found ample evidence of early Indians but no middens or mounds were located.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

Duck Rock Roost (N.W. of park) was inspected by the Superintendent and Biologist accompanied by Charles Brookfield, of the National Audubon Society, and Mr. and Mrs. Philip Wylie (well known writer for slick magazines).

The scarcity of immature white ibises is noteworthy at the roost this year. Otherwise, it appeared normal in spite of the thrashing received in last year's hurricane.

On June 9, East River Rookery still held about 100 immature white ibises in flying stage, all apparently in good condition.

For several days, the park biologist carried on loggerhead turtle studies at Cape Sable and found that raccoon predation was increasing with the advancing of the nesting season.

As usual this time of the year, post nuptial wandering of roseate spoonbills brought fair numbers into the park. Forty-five were noted feeding near East Cape Canal. The population at feeding grounds at Cape Sable Flats was building up; but, as normal, few birds were noted in the 'Glades sections of the park.

Two American crocodiles about three feet long were released at West Lake and one large alligator was dropped in Taylor Slough. They were confiscated by State officers from outside the park. The crocodiles were said to have been taken by frog (?) hunters in airboats "near the head of Shark River." If true, this would indicate an extention of the crocodile range in the park.

RANGER SERVICE

It was necessary for ranger personnel to work on various construction jobs most of the month - Pine Island and Coot Bay and sandwich in such patrols as possible. Park Warden Parker worked out of the house boat at Tarpon Bay giving good coverage to the Shark River-Lostmans River area. Rangers explored for a new route from Ingraham Highway to East River Rookery by canoe.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION

The Annual Report of Forest Protection and Building Fire Equipment was submitted to the Director's Office during the month. It indicated a total value of all fire fighting equipment on hand to be $11,389.92, as compared to a value of $5,015.25 for 1948, or over twice as much as our first year of operation in this activity.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION (Cont.)

The following figures show a breakdown of this equipment for comparison purposes:

	1948 Value	1949 Value
Forest Fire Protection Equipment	$4,870.03	$7,115.22
Building Fire Protection Equipment	145.22	4,274.70
Totals	$5,015.25	$11,389.92

The above figures do not include the value of a glades buggy tractor, delivery of which is expected any day. This piece of equipment will cost over $3,800.00, and added to $11,389.92 gives us a total value of $15,189.92, for Forest Fire and Building Fire Equipment.

Within annual appropriations to date, Everglades has received $6,250.38 for purchase of fire equipment all of which has been spent for this activity. Of the total value of this equipment, $8,939.54, was received from transfer from other National Park Service areas or received through WAA purchases.

OIL

The Coastal Petroleum Company received approval of their application from the Florida Geological Survey to drill a test well at Sec. 32, T. 62 S, R. 38 E. The site is at the northern end of Plantation Key about 2 miles south of Tavernier and about 2 miles from the Intracoastal Waterway Boundary of Everglades National Wildlife Refuge (1944 park boundary).

PEOPLE

Dr. John C. Gifford, one of the originators of the Everglades National Park Movement and Professor of Tropical Forestry at the University of Miami, died during June. Dr. Gifford was former editor of American Forestry Magazine, taught forestry at Cornell University. His historical account entitled "Billey Bowlegs" remains as one of the best books on the episodes of the Seminole Wars. He was associated with Ernest F. Coe and Dr. David Fairchilds in the early days of the Everglades National Park Association.

PEOPLE (Cont.)

Mr. John D. Pennekamp, Legislative Chairman of the Everglades National Park Commission and Associate Editor of the Miami Herald and Mr. Karl Bickel, of Sarasota, member of the Executive Committee of the Everglades National Park Commission and former chairman of the board of United Press were both appointed to the new State Park Board for Florida by Governor Warren.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
July, 1949

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Temperatures were considered about average for July with much gloating by local citizens on reports of heat waves in the North. Royal Palm Station registered a maximum temperature on four days of 94° and a minimum on three days of 70°. At Coot Bay Station, the maximum on three days was 91° and the minimum on one day was 70°.

Glades waters were considered a little below average for July and there was considerable, local fluctuation of the water table. Chloride concentration at 19.0 miles below Royal Palm Station in Ingraham Canal was 5,880 ppm. on July 15, at 16.1 miles it was only 59 ppm. Rainfall at Coot Bay totalled 12.97 inches with 2.27 inches in one cloudburst. At Royal Palm, the total monthly rainfall was 8.98 inches. Generally, rainfall was slightly deficient.

Throughout the Everglades region water crews "pulled all the stops" and every canal was wide open to the sea. This is a precautionary measure usually employed at this time of the year to lower the lake level of Lake Okeechobee in case of hurricane and in preparation for the September-October peak rains.

Winds throughout the month were moderate except during rain squalls. At Coot Bay, winds prevailed from the south south east for fifteen days. At Royal Palm Station, prevailing winds for sixteen days were from the southeast, from the south for five days, from the east for nine days, and out of the southwest for one day.

INSPECTIONS

Regional Director Allen was in the park to inspect construction work and discuss on the ground the proposed temporary concessions building at Coot Bay Pond.

Special Assistant to the Director Ben H. Thompson was in the park for the first time in several years. He visited Florida Bay, Shark River, Everglades, Duck Rock, and Cape Sable.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

By the end of July, one of the temporary quarters buildings at Pine Island had been framed in and the roof was on.

NEW CONSTRUCTION (Cont.)

At Coot Bay Station, installation was completed by park rangers of a rain water system for the two quarters buildings.

The cooperative weather bureau station was moved to a permanent site at this station.

CONCESSIONS

Mr. H.S. Sanborn, President of National Parks Concessions, Inc. came to the park with Regional Director Allen to see the proposed, temporary concessions site at Coot Bay Pond. He indicated agreement with the scheme and gave us all a "lift" in his laudatory comments about the park itself.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

Not much was to be seen from Ingraham Highway during July. The largest concentration of birds was at Duck Rock, northwest of the present park boundary in the Gulf of Mexico. The superintendent, park biologist, park warden, and one ranger went to Duck Rock with Ben H. Thompson, Special Assistant to the Director, and MacGregor Smith, President of the Florida Power and Light Company. There, with the Audubon warden on duty, all hands made a systematic count of the white ibises coming in to roost on Duck Rock (a mangrove key about an acre in size). The total number arrived at was 46,224. It is believed that the margin of error was less than five percent.

Other birds at Duck Rock included some roseate spoonbills, eastern glossy ibises, Louisiana herons, snowy egrets, eastern brown pelicans, and man-o-war-birds. It is a spectacular sight to see the long, undulating flights of swiftly moving white ibises come in against the sunset over the Gulf, with an occasional brilliant flash as a roseate spoonbill or two comes by.

At Buzzard Key Roost, also northwest of the park, the biologist found that the birds were spooky and many flights sheered off when they saw the Service boat - a sure sign somebody had been shooting. The count at Buzzard Key was an estimate: 500 man-o-war-birds, 4,000 white ibises, and 2,500 mixed American egrets, Louisiana herons, Florida cormorants, eastern brown pelicans, and roseate spoonbills.

The park biologist visited areas in Florida Bay and the country around Fox Lakes, Gator Lake, and Bear Lake (Cape Sable area). In the latter region, feeding conditions for birds was found satisfactory with the inundations of fresh and brakish water.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION (Cont.)

Egg laying by sea turtles seemed to be tapering off along the Cape Sable beaches late in July. Additional nesting areas were found at Highlands Point (in park) and Pavilion Key (northwest of park). It appears that the excellent, high beach at Highlands Point is the best turtle nesting beach for its size in the park.

An Everglades kite was seen in Taylor Slough on July 11.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL

Travel in the park during July was 5,136, which comprised a 350 percent increase over July last year. We are unable to attribute this to anything at all. There has been no upsurge of summer visitors to southern Florida that would account for it. More awareness of the park by local people has been countered by the well known fact that the Cape Sable Road is in abominable condition.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Mr. Moore and Mr. Baggley, U.S. Weather Bureau field inspectors from their Regional Office in Atlanta, Georgia, inspected the cooperative stations at Royal Palm and Coot Bay Ranger Stations and found them to be in good operative order with daily weather observations being made satisfactorily.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Approximately 1500 miles of waterway patrols were made by rangers and other members of the staff during the month. Eight hundred and sixty four miles of remote waterways were covered by the park warden. It is estimated that at least 80 percent of the boats and vessels plying the waterways of the park were observed and contacted on these patrols.

An individual identification and contact card system has been started for the purpose of gaining detailed knowledge about all persons living and working within the park area and those frequenting the area for commercial fishing and other purposes.

On July 7, 1949, a regulation restricting the use of glade buggies or air boats within the park was published in the Federal Register. Special efforts were made to publish this information in south Florida. Miami and local newspapers carried the text of the regulation in full. Our office distributed a notice which was posted in the post offices and other public places surrounding the park and rangers personally contacted or mailed copies to 53 owners and operators of these conveyances.

FIRE PROTECTION

On July 8, a small lightening-caused fire was controlled on Pine Island Key. This is the first recorded lightening caused fire for the park.

The annual building fire inspections were completed and a decided improvement in the first aid and suppression equipment for building fire protection is noteworthy. Good housekeeping conditions exist in and around all buildings and as soon as the necessary funds are available, electrical wiring, and cooking gas hazards will be eliminated.

ACCIDENTS

"Cootie" Roberts' fish truck drove into Ingraham Canal near West Lake. A coupe following the truck down, about one fourth mile behind also dove into the canal. We suspect that a new mixture of "Cape Sable shine" has been developed with a delayed reaction.

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Reports came to park headquarters of a new type of shrimping activity off Flamingo in Florida Bay. Four crews have now begun to take shrimp by dragging box nets behind power boats. This new technique uproots or tears away the bottom vegetation where shrimp live. "Admiral of the Flamingo Fleet" Brown complained that this shrimping has driven away the fish and the sports fishermen. Areas being dragged for shrimp so far are Conchie Basin and Man-o-War Basin. The draggers are said to be working for "Barrelhead" and "Ickey" House.

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
August, 1949

WEATHER CONDITIONS

August was characterized by uniformly high temperatures which made it an unusually hot month this year. Mean maximum temperatures were 88.9° for Coot Bay Station and 90.9° at Royal Palm Station. Mean minimums, in the same order, were 74.7° and 71.9°. Highest recordings were 93° at Royal Palm Station for five days. The effects of this hot, "muggy" weather upon working conditions, personnel, and esprit de corps was noticeable for the first time in August. The summer was just too long.

Rainfall was deficient and Glades conditions were not up to par for August. Unless September and October bring copious rains, the situation in the park for fires and wildlife will be bad this winter. By a strange coincidence, total rainfall for both recording stations (Royal Palm and Coot Bay) was identical in August - 6.50 inches with a maximum of 2.50 at Coot Bay during one cloudburst.

Chloride concentration at 19.0 miles below Paradise Key in the Ingraham Canal was approximately the same as July and noted at 5,830 ppm. August 10.

The Weather Bureau's Hurricane Warning Service in Miami issued advisories on two tropical storms, one of which blasted the Florida mainland near Palm Beach crossing the state to the Okeechobee region and moving northwest. This was a major hurricane and did millions of dollars worth of damage.

Everglades National Park's "Hurricane S.O.P" was put into operation for both storms and all hatches were battened down. No damage was caused to the park. Winds up to 50 m.p.h. were recorded at Homestead and estimated at 45 m.p.h. at Coot Bay. Some unusually high tides occurred along the Gulf coast of the park.

Prevailing winds were recorded as follows: Royal Palm Station, S.E. 16 days, S. 5 days, N.E. 2 days, N.W. 1 day; Coot Bay Station, S.E. 16 days, S. 3 days, E. 6 days, and N.E. 2 days.

STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS

The Trustees of the Florida Internal Improvement Fund (governor and cabinet) verified and approved the official Service land map of the park. This important step added another bulwark to the Land Acquisition Office's work.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS

Plans for the Coot Bay concession and public facilities development together with the Taylor Slough nature walk at Royal Palm, were received from the Regional Office and preparations to start work on these projects are underway.

GENERAL PUBLICITY

Mr. Wayne Hanley, staff writer for the Kansas City Star, was taken on a trip to Coot Bay, Shark River, Whitewater and Oyster Bays to secure first hand information to include in an article he will publish on Everglades National Park.

"Salty" Mallantz, sports radio announcer, WIOD, Miami, gave Everglades National Park some fine pre-law enforcement publicity relative to the special regulation pertaining to restricted air boat and glade buggy travel in the park area.

Miami and local papers carried articles on the Senate Committee hearings on H.R. 4029, which was released from Washington by Senator O'Mahoney's Office.

MAINTENANCE

A shower room addition was nearing completion at Coot Bay Ranger Station. It works well except there is yet no water to use in it.

Tool and spare parts cabinets were completed and installed in the power and tool house at Coot Bay.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Work continued on the first quarters at Pine Island. The building was wired for electricity, rough plumbing completed, and exterior siding nearly furnished.

Approximately 105 cubic yards of gravel and rock fill were "appropriated" from Dade County's new pit and hauled by Ranger Winte for a parking turnout in connection with the proposed Taylor Slough elevated trail.

APPROACHES TO PARK AREA

Dade County road maintenance crews started scarifying, grading, rolling and gravel fill work on the road from Royal Palm Ranger Station toward Humpback Bridge on the Cape Sable Road. When completed this work will greatly improve road conditions in the park to the Dade County Line.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

U.S. Weather Bureau started publication of climatological data received from cooperative weather stations at Coot Bay and Royal Palm Stations.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representative Jack C. Watson, Tavernier, Florida, maintained close contact with this office via radio during both hurricane warnings as well as other matters pertinent to this service.

U.S. Public Health Service entomologist Jim Haegger continued collections and studies of insects in the park area.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

Bird counts were made on the developing roost at "Whitewash Key" in Oyster Bay on August 9 (3,410) and 11 (4,086). Snowy egrets seemed to about equal in number the white ibises. Various other birds were also found. With flight lines coming from northwest and southwest directions, it would seem that main feeding areas at this time of the year are along the Gulf coast.

Vegetative study sites were selected on Long Pine Key with a view of securing information on plant succession in pine rockland following a fire of known date. A collection of plants involved was started.

Samples of sugar cane from Cane Patch (upper Shark River) were collected that had been chewed and bitten off by a large animal. Tracks of a "large animal" were noted at Lostmans River indicating the possibility of black bear in the park.

Manatee were observed during August at Whitewater Bay, headwaters of Rodgers River, Manatee Cove, Broad River Bay, and Avocado Creek. Incidentally, no porpoises were seen all month which may indicate that these usually quite common mammals are seasonal visitors in the park.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL

Travel for the month was recorded to be 3950 persons. 1186 persons less than reported in July, 1949. A considerable portion of the travel recorded was from local residents travel. Charter boat business at Coot Bay was at a low ebb, however, some of this was due to the hurricane warnings issued for south Florida and partly due to the almost impassable condition of the road from Humpback Bridge to Coot Bay and Flamingo.

VISITORS

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Hanley, Writer, Kansas City Star, Kansas City, Mo.
Dr. E. Lowe Pierce, Marine Biologist, University of Florida

RANGER SERVICE

1186 miles of park waterways and roads were patrolled during the month by protection personnel.

Mr. James B. Earle reported for duty as park ranger on Aug. 8, 1949, and was assigned to Coot Bay Ranger Station.

BUILDING FIRE PROTECTION

Protective metal hooks, gas pressure gauge hangers and prefab concrete bases were secured for making safe and proper installation of pressure cooking gas units for all National Park Service buildings. When installed, these units will meet I.C.C. approved standards for this type installation.

ACCIDENTS

On Aug. 7, 1949, a Piper Cub aircraft made a forced landing on the main highway about ½ mile east of Royal Palm Ranger Station. Pilot J.R. Dumanious and Mr. Houghtailing were uninjured. After refuelling, the craft was made airborne again and returned to its base in Miami.

R.P. Barton, Jr. and Newton Hansen, students at the University of Florida and Iowa University, capsized in their airboat in Coot Bay Pond on Aug. 24, 1949. The boat was heavily loaded on the bow and upon reducing foreward speed abruptly, the vessel took a nose dive under the water and then overturned giving occupants, camping equipment, and motor a brackish water ducking. Neither Barton or Newton were injured but plans of these forestry students to see Everglades National Park were washed up for the present. Rescue of men and equipment was made by charterboatmen Watson and Williams who were watching their take off from Coot Bay.

Mr. DeBock, fisherman from Tavernier, Florida, was rendered assistance by sending radio messages for motor parts for his boat. His vessel was anchored in Little Joe River for two days prior to discovery by rangers on patrol.

COMMERCIAL FISHING AND SHRIMPING

Lloyd House, of Flamingo, showed two shrimp dragnets to the Park Biologist and Dr. Pierce, a visiting marine biology professor from the University of Florida. He wished to convince both men that reported disturbance to plant life and bottom ecology by these nets was incorrect. From what he said, Dr. Pierce estimated that one net must operate 293.3 hours to drag a square mile or 75 such nets could do it in one ordinary day. No conclusions were drawn or facts verified at this time.

Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent

Report 1ml

Summary of the September 1949 Monthly Narrative Report
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
September, 1949

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Temperatures for September in the park were considered about average when compared to data kept over a longer period near Homestead. Maximum temperatures ran in the low nineties, minimums in the low seventies.

Rainfall, although still deficient for the so called "rainy season," stepped up a little. At Coot Bay Ranger Station, 10.03 inches of rainfall occurred (4.02 inches in one day). At Royal Palm Ranger Station the total was 9.26 inches. This was a deficiency of about three inches.

Glades waters came up rapidly in September and the Ingraham Highway had water running over it in many places. Conditions could be characterized as about average in this respect. On September 9, the chloride concentration at mile 19.0 (cement bridge) was 10,850 P.P.M.

Prevailing winds at Royal Palm Station were from the southeast.

MAINTENANCE

The ex-Navy amphibious "alligator" was hauled to Coot Bay and found usable although a few bugs had to be worked out of it.

Troubles with the cabin cruiser had this piece of equipment laid up for repairs most of the month.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Work on temporary quarters at Pine Island continued and was about 80% complete.

A beginning was made on an elevated trail at Taylor Slough near Paradise Key, but lack of a pile driver made it necessary to discontinue the work for the time being. It was found that piling could not be driven by hand in this area.

After receiving bills of materials for Coot Bay temporary concession facilities about the middle of the month, the work program was organized and materials sought. Bad road conditions and material shortages at all supply houses caused unfortunate, but unavoidable delays. Some work was begun, but it could not go into "high gear" as had been hoped for earlier.

A patrol station was about 20% complete at Lostmans River. This emergency construction was made necessary because the houseboat now in use had to be returned to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

Conferences were held with Dr. Daniel Wolfenbarger, entomologist of the South Florida Plant Experimental Station, Melvin H. Gallatin, of the Soil Conservation Service, and Dr. Roy Woodbury, of the University of Miami botany department relative to pink bollworm control work proposed in the park. A conference was also held with Mr. James Cowger, project leader for the Pink Bollworm Division of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, U.S.D.A. Service representatives could not agree to recommend resumption of wild cotton eradication to control pink bollworms using methods employed before the park was established. By the end of September, negotiations were at a stalemate.

LEGISLATION

H.R. 4029 was passed by the House and the Senate.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

Park Biologist Moore concentrated on making preliminary studies at Cape Sable to evaluate wildlife conditions while fresh water existed in the area. He also went into the Madiera Bay country with a representative of the U.S. Public Health Service who is working on malaria studies.

Duck Rock Roost on the Gulf Coast beyond park boundaries declined in September, but Catfish Key off Flamingo in Florida Bay was still an active roost (white ibis, Louisiana heron, snowy egret, and little blue heron in order of abundance).

Blue-winged teal made their appearance in September in the Cape Sable Flats and nearby areas. This was about the correct time for such a migration. Several hundred roseate spoonbills remained in this same area as has been customary since hunting has been stopped.

Throughout the park, alligators were beginning to make their usual fall appearance as the fresh water increased. A large alligator, about twelve feet long, was seen regularly at West Lake, so often in fact that a park visitor complained that it frightened his wife. A second 'gator, not quite as large took up residence at Coot Bay. There were numerous authenticated reports of a large crocodile also at West Lake. This croc is suspected of being the one that shamelessly ate a coot in full view of the National Audubon Society's Tour last spring.

RANGER SERVICE

Patrols via water and land made by rangers, wardens, and others totaled 2,391 miles exclusive of routine road mileages made by other Service personnel. All major sections of the park were visited; resulting in the best overall patrol coverage made in the park for any other month to date.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

A law enforcement training meeting was held on September 19, for our entire staff and included representatives of the F.B.I., U.S. District Attorney's Office, U.S. Border Patrol, Florida Highway Patrol, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Sheriff's Office of Monroe County.

A public notice to airmen and airports was published and distributed to discourage aircraft landings in the park.

FIRE PROTECTION

Regional Forester Fred Arnold assisted in inspecting the park area during the latter portion of the month. Fire tower sites were inspected, glade buggy tractor tested, pink bollworm operations studied, as well as other phases of forest fire protection reviewed.

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

THE INGRAHAM HIGHWAY NEAR COOT BAY RANGER STATION DURING RAINY SEASON

One of largest mahogany trees in native state. Picture taken in hammock west of Concrete Bridge.

Service "alligator" at Coot Bay R.S.

Report 1ml

Summary of the October 1949 Monthly Narrative Report
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

October was characterized by slowly falling temperatures and the usual late rainy season squalls. Temperature readings follow:

	Maximum	Minimum	Mean Max.	Mean Min.
Royal Palm Ranger Station	92	64	88.3	69.17
Coot Bay Ranger Station	89	69	82.2	74.2

Rainfall was considered about average and inundation of the glades lands was about right for a long term average by the end of the month although deficient earlier. Royal Palm Ranger Station had 9.70 inches of rainfall with 4.73 inches one day fall. Coot Bay Ranger Station had 6.73 inches.

Prevailing winds at Royal Palm Ranger Station were from the east 16 days, northeast 11 days, and north and west one day each. Chloride concentration at 19.0 miles in Ingraham Canal was 8,730 P.P.M. on October 5.

NEW CONSTRUCTION:

Construction crews left the Pine Island quarters job to put all possible manpower at Coot Bay. The quarters were 90% complete and ready for occupancy except for a few odd jobs by the end of the month.

The Coot Bay temporary concessions structure was bogged down (literally) most of the month because roads were impassable and Humpback Bridge went out. Work was stepped up late in October.

Some gravel was hauled for parking area extention at Coot Bay, but had to be discontinued because of broken axles, trucks getting bogged down, sprung frames, and attendent "inconveniences".

A patrol cabin for Park Warden Parker at Lostman's River was 80% complete by the end of October.

No work was done on the elevated nature trail at Taylor Slough because the pile driver was at use at Coot Bay.

COOPERATING NON-FEDERAL AGENCIES:

Dade County road crews continued filling and grading Ingraham Highway from Nine Mile Bend vicinity to West Lake.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATIONS:

The park biologist spent 4.5 hours over the park in a Border Patrol plane making observations on water conditions and the distribution of birds. He also took trips by skiff in Florida Bay, Cape Sable area, and the rivers leading into Whitewater Bay.

Possible crocodile nesting sites were recorded in Florida Bay consisting, in total, of about five miles in eighteen localities. Several crocodile nesting places were noted.

Warden Parker reported a new bird roost forming at the mouth of Lostman's River, which, like the roosts in Oyster Bay and Coot Bay may be directly related to Service protection work.

An unusual observation was made of gopher-tortoise burrows at Middle Cape Sable.

A 7.5 foot female alligator was given to the park and liberated in Taylor Slough. Ranger Winte recorded seven 'gators in the Slough, few of which were over six feet in length.

A short-tailed hawk, black phase, was seen at Paradise Key.

RANGER SERVICE:

Protection personnel covered 2,030 miles of the park during October. Indications are that airboats are taking advantage of high water to penetrate north of Tamiami Trail where complicated jurisdiction of the Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service make enforcement difficult.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

The Superintendent attended a conference with Coordinating Superintendent Vinten of Southeastern National Monuments at Jacksonville. The Army Engineers called in representatives of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Geological Survey, Soil Conservation Service, and Central and South Florida Flood Control Board to discuss the comprehensive plan for flood control of the Everglades.

Service representatives indicated interest in the Dade-Broward Conservation area north of the Trail, the Tamiami water control structures and levee and the Redlands levee.

COMPLAINTS:

For the first time, few complaints were registered in the park. This was directly attributable to a temporary sign erected by the Service which read: "Construction work ahead - This is Florida route 27 south - Road dead ends 30 miles from here - No gas stations beyond this point".

Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent

Report 1ml

Summary of the November 1949 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
November, 1949

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Cold fronts brought two cool spells to southern Florida in November. Accompanied by strong northerly winds, the second cold wave brought the thermometer at Royal Palm Ranger Station tumbling to a frigid 31°. The rest of the month, however, was relatively warm and average temperatures were thus approximately normal.

Rainfall was spotting - above normal at Royal Palm Ranger Station and probably below normal at Coot Bay Ranger Station. The Glades began to dry out, and areas of inundation were becoming less extensive. Prevailing winds continued from the southeast except for the cold spell periods when they came from the northerly quadrat.

	Max. Temp.	Min. Temp.	Mean Max.	Mean Min.	Rainfall Total
Royal Palm Ranger Sta.	89	31	80.3	57	7.17 in.
Coot Bay Ranger Sta.	85	42	74	59	1.49 in.

MAINTENANCE

Activities at Coot Bay Ranger Station centered around boat maintenance and repair - a never ending chore in a maritime area. The engine for the cabin cruiser (11-200) was removed and undergoing extensive repairs. The speedboat (11-201) was on the ways most of November being wooded down preparatory to painting.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Coot Bay temporary concession building was under construction, but deadlines previously set for completion could not be met. Pilings were in, joists in place, and decking completed on most of the dock.

Odds and ends of work on the first Pine Island temporary quarters were completed so that the district ranger could move in. The work on a second quarters building was postponed because all priority is being given to the Coot Bay job.

NEW CONSTRUCTION (Cont.)

The amphibious alligator tractor with pile driving rig was moved to Taylor Slough and most of the piling for the elevated trail was in place by the end of November.

Bids were prepared for Coot Bay test well in cooperation with the U.S. Geodetic Survey.

Data on fire towers was compiled as a basis for writing bid specifications for Pine Key Fire Tower. Local steelworkers were consulted on approximate erection costs to estimate if funds will be sufficient.

A radio tower was erected at Lostmans River Patrol Station. Materials came from stockpile on hand.

Rangers began prefabrication of a gate to prevent unauthorized entry by boats to Cuthbert Lake (Rookery).

INSPECTIONS

Mr. William G. Carnes and Mr. Edward S. Zimmer spent four days in the park. This was their initial visit and discussion centered around the master plan, road construction, and architectural treatment.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

Mr. Art Lundin, of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, was sent from Berkeley, California, to work with local officials on a method of wild cotton control for pink bollworms in the park that would be agreeable to this Service. Several conferences were held and the main objection (cutting guide lines) was overcome. Forester Savage, of Region One Office, participated in these conferences and helped to solve the previous impasse.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE

Talks were given: by superintendent to Miami Beach Anglers Club, by park naturalist to Boy Scout groups, and by the superintendent, biologist, and park naturalist, to the Historical Association of southern Florida on their "Everglades National Park Night."

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

Birds

Cuthbert Lake Rookery was occupied by Florida cormorants in late November. Wood ibis and water turkeys were present, but did not seem to be nesting. East River rookery was ready for occupancy and vegetation seemed to be better than usual for nesting sites.

Bird concentrations in November (allied of course to fresh water conditions) were in the Cape Sable country, north of Lake Ingraham, Cattail Lakes, Gator Lake, east of East Cape Canal, Fox Lakes to Bear Lake and Snake Bight Canal.

A crocodile was "transplanted" to the park from Virginia Key. It was 7'11" long and weighed 120 pounds.

Salinity hydrometers of two ranges and air and water thermometers were received from the Coast and Geodetic Survey for salinity tests at Cape Sable and other areas.

VISITORS

Congressman Ivor D. Fenton and Mrs. Fenton, of Pennsylvania, visited the park this month.

RANGER SERVICE

The seasonal employment of 4 rangers and 4 fire control aids has provided us with much needed manpower for this winter season.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

A total of 2028 miles were patrolled during the month. 537 miles via roadways and 1491 miles via water routes.

Commercial fishermen and charter boat operators living in the park and frequenting the Lostmans River and northwest sections of the park have been placed under close observations by the continued patrolling and manning of the Lostmans River Patrol Station. This area of the park is considered to be under better protection than heretofore and when airboat and glade buggy patrols can be made along the northwest boundaries to the Tamiami Trail at 40 Mile Bend our poaching and law enforcement problems in this area will be greatly minimized. The Cape Sable-Flamingo area where considerable numbers of commercial fishermen are concentrated is still poorly protected; however, the recent action taken by

LAW ENFORCEMENT(Cont.)

the superintendent to restrict airboats by commercial fishermen and their camps on Lake Ingraham and the canal waters leading to this lake will result in much better control of this area. Until such time as the commercial fishermen have moved their residences from park lands to private lands outside, we can anticipate frequent law violations in the Flamingo area.

A crack down on the landing of aircraft on waters and land areas of the park was made on October 1, 1949, and caused a "War of nerves" among local pilots and commercial shrimpers. Favorable reaction from our standpoint is being experienced.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION

Two minor fires occurred during the month, and our first trial use of the glades buggy towing a high pressured trailer tanker was met with favorably.

Killing vegetative temperatures occurred on November 27, when a drop to 31° at Royal Palm Ranger Station was recorded. Grasses and other light fuel types are curing fast and as soon as warmer and dryer weather arrives we can expect a decided increase in fire occurrence.

On one occasion during the latter part of the month, a fire started along Route #27 near the Tamiami Trail and three Dade County and Everglades Fire Control District fire trucks were seen in suppression activities on this fire. Our Service was called to the fire but no action was required due to sufficient equipment and manpower being furnished by these fire control agencies. The action taken on this fire clearly indicates that these agencies have become more fire conscious in their areas of responsibility which prior to park establishment have been left to burn at will out in the Everglades.

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent

Summary of the December 1949 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
December, 1949

WEATHER CONDITIONS

December was a pleasantly warm month in the park, free from insect annoyance, but having rather strong winds which made small boat travel difficult. Following is a summary of climatic data for Royal Palm Ranger Station and Coot Bay Ranger Station:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rain	Prev. Wind
Royal Palm Ranger Station	83°	80.4°	52°	60.1°	1.36"	SE
Coot Bay Ranger Station	82°	78°	54°	61°	.79"	NE

Rainfall in the Glades was above average with downpours north of the park which inundated winter truck crops. This resulted in better than average conditions within the park due mainly to seepage waters. Chloride concentration at Concrete Bridge (19.0 miles below Royal Palm Station) was 1,190 p.p.m. on December 29 - very good.

INSPECTIONS

Chief Engineer Kittredge made his initial visit to the park. He indicated special interest in road construction techniques, contemporary architectural treatment and building materials used locally.

Assistant Director Wirth and Regional Director Allen came down to go over in detail the park boundaries which would be included in a proposed Secretarial Order enlarging the park.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS

With the assistance of surveyors from the Land Acquisition Office, a party headed by Ranger Winte began a survey of the west boundary from Loop Road south. Glades buggies were used. When surveyed and posted, the park's most vulnerable boundary will be marked.

COMPLAINTS

Visitors at Royal Palm Ranger Station made very few complaints as compared with last year. At Coot Bay Ranger Station, the old "what an awful road" lament was noticeably absent. Lack of comfort stations was the same. For the first time, we received rather numerous complaints at the lack of boating facilities for short trips out of Coot Bay. In a way, this was good because it indicates the increasing public desire to use the park waterways.

MAINTENANCE

Everglades National Park now has a rest room! The old rest rooms at Royal Palm Lodge were scrubbed, painted, repaired, septic tanks cleaned, and fresh new signs "Men" and "Women" erected. Park visitors must walk through the temporary orientation museum by circuitous route to reach the rest rooms. No doubt, interpretive contacts will increase from now on.

All park boats were finally put in first class operating condition. The tool room and shop at Coot Bay Ranger Station was completely rebuilt inside.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Taylor Slough Trail which will hereafter be called "Anhinga Trail" neared completion and was already receiving some use at the end of December. There is every indication that this boardwalk is going to be an outstanding interpretive facility.

Work continued on the temporary concession building at Coot Bay Ranger Station. Studs were up, sub-flooring down, rafters on and roof completed.

Five hundred yards of gravel were spread on the parking area at Coot Bay Ranger Station about 800 yards more will be necessary to complete the work.

The gate at Cuthbert Creek was completed. This was done as an emergency measure to prevent unauthorized boat traffic at Cuthbert Lake Rookery.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Pink Bollworm Control crews set up camp at Flamingo. Working under terms of a Memorandum of Understanding, Ingraham prairie is now a spiderweb of "guide lines" made of string instead of clearings as formerly employed. Large numbers of cotton bolls were collected in December.

MUSEUM ACTIVITIES AND EXHIBITS

A temporary orientation museum installation was begun in December at Royal Palm Lodge. A Seminole dugout will be the "centerpiece." Exhibits will include: geology, early history, Seminole culture, vegetative types, wildlife, and botany.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

Drying up of the thin sheet of water which had covered Cape Sable Flats (marl prairie) was slowed slightly by some unseasonal rainfall. Nevertheless, the tremendous concentrations of wading birds began to dwindle as the waters evaporated.

In the Gulf Coast area, the former abundance of wading birds shifted eastward towards non-tidal areas, especially along Joe and Little Shark Rivers and near Coot Bay Ranger Station.

American egrets and wood ibis were nesting at Cuthbert Lake and East River during December. Florida cormorants and water turkeys were incubating at Cuthbert Lake.

The Park Biologist attended a meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences in Deland.

Ranger Earle observed a "baby" porpoise (pup, kitten, calf, or small fry?) being carried by the adult at the mouth of Harney River.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL

Travel increased in the park and 8,500 visitors were present compared with 3,150 in December, 1948. It was estimated that 1,200 persons visited Royal Palm Ranger Station during the two-day Christmas holiday. Increased visitation to the park did not correlate with the winter tourist "crop" in South Florida because the tourist season in December was about the same as last year.

RANGER SERVICE

Patrols on land and water areas of the park totalled 3655 miles with 1665 on water and 1990 on land. An increase of land mileage patrols was noted this month and is accounted for by increased patrols made by fire control aids along the park fire boundaries and by glades buggy patrols in the northwest section where a crew of five men were engaged in boundary survey and marking.

The great interior of the park, especially airboat trails from Tamiami Trail to Shark-Broad River headWaters remained unpatrolled. Protection of this vast area is complicated by equipment shortages and the fact that entrance by airboat can be made legally in Fish and Wildlife lands before reaching the park.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION

All vehicles were equipped with emergency fire suppression tools consisting of backpack pump, flapper, fire rake and water canteens.

Two fires occurred burning 18.99 acres on lands outside the park but within the park fire boundary. It is a pleasure to report that local farmers are being more careful in their debris burning activities near the park this year.

OIL

The Grossman Hammock well (T. 55 S., R. 37 E.,) about one mile from the eastern park boundary was abandoned in December after reaching a depth of 11,522 feet. Stephen Trumbull, Miami "Herald" reporter, debunked oil exploration for "dry holes" in an acticle which was deemed helpful to the park supporters.

COMMERCIAL FISHING

With mullet season closed, the commercial fishermen in the park concentrated on trout and live shrimp - and maybe a surreptitous mullet or two that jumped into their boats. Complaints were frequent and loud that the shrimp are getting too small for the market and fishermen from New Smyrna are muscling into the lucrative live bait market at Miami with jumbo sized shrimp.

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

Summary of the January 1950 Monthly Narrative Report For EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
January, 1950

INTERPRETATION

Everglades National Park began its first experiment in a regular interpretive program during January with guided tours at Anhinga and Gumbo Limbo Trails. Although the Naturalist Division had been active last year and earlier in the season, regularly scheduled walks were not previously attempted.

Anhinga Trail, an elevated boardwalk up Taylor Slough, proved to be the most successful interpretive devise yet developed in the park. Essentially, it gives the park visitor his first opportunity for intimate contact with the wildlife of the area. The trail winds in and out along the edge of the slough terminating at a thatched "chickee." This trail has exceeded our expectations in its public appeal. The wildlife of the area from garfish and alligators to purple gallinules and the ever present anhingas (water turkeys) performed, grunted, squawked, and wallowed with increasing lack of fear before a most appreciative audience. What was started as an experiment "to see what the visitors want" has already proven itself as a part of the pattern for the park's development.

Gumbo Limbo Trail in Paradise Key is keyed to the botany of a subtropical hammock. It is interpreted by a mimeographed folder and guided trips. Public reaction here has been surprisingly good, too. Last year this trail was a "slapped together" affair and not too successful. This year, with better organization it has been received much better by the public.

Complaints have decreased markedly and the humor of the park visitor has improved a great deal. Only once did our old troubles plague us. A traffic jam on January 22, when all parking space was full and failure of the water supply at rest rooms due to this peak load had a few people grumbling. During a lull, rangers counted 65 cars in the center of Paradise Key alone. After that we tore up P.C.P.'s for a 30 car parking area! There were 2,616 interpretive contacts in January.

This report of January's interpretive work may perhaps seem more enthusiastic than warranted by the facts. However, after two years of making excuses, the park staff finds it refreshing to find satisfied "customers." More important perhaps, as a contributory factor to enthusiasm, is the implication for the development and use of the park in the future.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

January was everything it should be in south Florida and a little more. Days were pleasantly warm and nights comfortably cool. Skies were clear, winds were balmy. The winter tourist season was in full bloom.

Climatic data from Service stations were:

	Max. Temp.	Min. Temp.	Mean ~~Max.~~ MIN.	Mean ~~Min.~~ MAX.	Inches Rain
Royal Palm Ranger Sta.	83	80.6	53	58.9	.52
Coot Bay Ranger Sta.	83	80.8	57	60.3	.95

December rains had held glades waters better than usual, and during January it remained fairly good; but sloughs and potholes were beginning to dry out towards the end of January.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

The superintendent and park naturalist left for a regionwide conference at Richmond, Virginia, late in the month.

Early in January, a three day In-Service Training Conference was held under the direction of the chief ranger. The conference covered all phases of Service work in the park and is considered well worth annual repetition. Several staff members expressed the need for a general Service film for in-service training purposes.

The superintendent gave a talk to the Homestead Rotary Club on the subject "Stop Selling Everglades Park Short." The chief ranger showed park movies and gave a talk to the Redlands Sportsmen's Club.

INSPECTIONS

Engineer Ross Sweeny and Mr. O.B. Taylor, (Soil and Moisture Conservation) from the Regional Office studied the Army Engineers' plan for the Everglades and consulted with: M.H. Gallatin, Soil Conservation Service; N.D. Hoy, U.S. Geological Survey; Lamar Johnson and Turner Wallace, Central and South Florida Flood Control District; and C.R. Vinten, Coordinating Superintendent, Southeastern National Monuments. A much better understanding of the implications, pitfalls, and advantages of the Army Engineers plan in relation to the park resulted.

PLANS, MAPS, SURVEYS

Ten miles of boundary line running south from Loop Road was completely surveyed and posted. Posts used are galvanized pipes with an orange board bolted in place. Regular National Park Service boundary signs are screwed on the boards. Experiments show that these signs are visible for a long distance. The durability of galvanized pipe is, of course, well known and this seems to be an excellent method of boundary posting.

Sections of the proposed park entrance road from entrance to Long Pine Key, and at concrete bridge vicinity were charted on glades buggy trips. The Paradise Key Spur Road was similarly handled. Preliminary drawings for this, for the contact-comfort station at Paradise Key, and the Royal Palm Ranger Station layout were prepared and submitted to Region One. As far as the park staff is concerned - after much study and debate - the general layouts submitted are the answer to one of our most perplexing planning problems.

GENERAL PUBLICITY

National Parks Magazine carried an article entitled "Growing Pains in the Everglades" by the superintendent.

Verne Williams, feature writer for the Miami Daily News gathered pictures and data for an article on a park ranger's life to be called "Tropical Ranger."

Dr. Paul Kellog of the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, prepared a radio broadcast on bird noises at Taylor Slough by wire transcription.

COMPLAINTS

Royal Palm Ranger Station made no special mention of complaints. At Coot Bay Ranger Station, it was still a matter of concern with the following complaints most frequent:

1. No rental skiffs.
2. Lack of toilet facilities.
3. No way to get off single road.
4. Lack of means for reaching bird rookeries except through Audubon trips.

CONSTRUCTION

Lostmans River Patrol Cabin was completed for minimum winter use. Addition of dock facilities and minor items are required to make this site useful and habitable for all year occupancy.

The concessions building at Coot Bay Pond was 75 percent complete. Principal remaining items are toilets, plumbing, water supply, electric wiring, cabinets, painting, gas station, and sewage disposal.

Work moved ahead sporatically on the parking area extension at Coot Bay Pond and this should be finished in February.

CONCESSIONS

Mr. H.S. Sanborn, General Manager of National Parks Concessions, Inc. and Mr. M.C. Lund, Isle Royale National Park Manager of same company, inspected the progress of the Coot Bay Pond concession building. Discussions revealed that minor floor layout changes would make the structure more usable and the changes were accordingly authorized.

National Audubon Society tours began from West Lake to Cuthbert Rookery. The pattern remained the same as last year except people could take either a one-day tour or a two-day one (Miami to Cuthbert Rookery first day, Florida Bay second day). Tour leaders reported less people on the trips this year.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Messrs. Harold Scott and George Snodgrass of the U.S. Army Engineers, Jacksonville visited the park office to discuss the proposed Redland levee with the superintendent.

Two state wildlife officers went into the northwest section of the park and nearby areas with park rangers to cooperate in the suppression of illegal alligator hunting. No arrests were made, but cooperative arrangements for stopping market hunting which might infringe on the park were worked out.

COOPERATING NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

Dr. John M. Goggins, archeologist of the University of Florida, visited the park for several days to note Tequesta mounds at Paradise Key and Lostmans River which have proven to be of unusual interest. It is quite evident that archeological sites in the park have more value for scientific and interpretive purposes than the Service had realized when the park was proposed and created.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

A small, previously unknown wood ibis rookery was found south of East River Rookery between Hell's Bay and Pearl Bay (Long. 80°52' 15", Lat. 25°15' 30").

Cuthbert Lake and East River Rookeries were in mid-season development during January with wood ibis beginning to hatch. The ratio of wood ibis to American egrets at East River was ten to one. Other species were of course present as usual.

Many years ago, there was evidence of roseate spoonbills nesting at East River (Ernest Holt) and in 1938-39 they were at Cuthbert Lake. Since then, all pinks have nested at Florida Bay. It seems therefore a matter of somewhat unusual significance that the park biologist saw a pink twice (same bird?) flying over East River Rookery in January.

Great white herons were nesting on keys in Florida Bay in January and had downy young.

The Tropical Audubon Society conducted its second, annual Christmas census at Paradise Key. Noteworthy was a record of two dark phase short-tailed hawks.

Johnson's Mound, near the mouth of Lostmans River, seems to be of considerable acheological interest. It is an extensive shell mound and supports a mature colony of royal palms. Deer tracks were seen in it for the first time in January.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL

Park visitation continued to be greater than in the same month in past years. 15,085 visited by road at Paradise Key (park total for month), 6,638 of whom reached Coot Bay Ranger Station. This increase did not correspond with "the season" in southern Florida. Warm weather up north combined with perhaps other factors decreased the influx of visitors to resort areas in January.

VISITORS

Attorney General J. Howard McGrath, U.S. Attorney (Miami) Duhaime, and party, spent most of one day in the park going to East River Rookery. The Attorney General indicated unusual interest and we were pleased with his reactions and his expressed desire to expedite the land acquisition program.

Frank Standley, Office of Press Relations, State Department.

Granville B. Lisles, Chief Ranger of Shenandoah National Park; Raymond W. McIntyre, Superintendent of Devils Tower National Monument; B.T. Campbell, Chief Ranger of Blue Ridge Parkway; Max R. Wainwright, Lehman Caves, National Monument; Jack DeWeese, Superintendent of Fort Jefferson National Monument.

Merritt C. Farrar, Executive Director, Florida Audubon Society.

Mr. Rush Gabrielson and party. Mr. Gabrielson is a brother of Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, former chief of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mr. John Thurston, Assistant Administrator of Federal Security Agency, Washington, D.C.

William Lantaff, candidate for Representative Smather's seat in Congress.

Allan Cruickshank, well known bird photographer.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Patrols by land totaled 1425 miles while on water, 2327 miles were traveled. Intensive patrols were continued in the water areas of the northwest section from Lostmans River Patrol Station to prevent seasonal alligator poachers from entering the park. State wildlife officers have shown considerable cooperation in the joint attempt to apprehend one known hunter working along the Gulf coast from Everglades City to Cape Sable.

Numerous airboat tracks enter the park in the northeast section and center at the "Blue Shanty" on the Tamiami Trail which is one of the frogging headquarters for commercial purposes. It is planned to post the park boundary in this section to eliminate this illegal traffic.

Two illegal aircraft landing cases were disposed of with strong warnings to the pilot owners of the aircraft.

LAW ENFORCEMENT (Cont.)

The law enforcement situation is vastly better than last year, but there are still a few holes to plug.

FOREST FIRE CONTROL

One small fire occurred at Flamingo during the month caused by a smoker and controlled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture camp located nearby. Last year we had 4 fires during January.

Inland water levels in the park are now reduced to a strip from 5 to 8 miles wide in the Shark River Valley of the "River of Grass" from the Tamiami Trail to the headwaters of Shark and Broad Rivers. Drying conditions on both sides of this drainage basin have increased fire danger. All river headwaters areas for a distance of several miles extending into the glades were still covered with water at the end of January.

FLAMINGO INCIDENT

The Lloyd Houses, of Flamingo, and Slagel's Ditch, had a little altercation during January ending in a wild chase through the park. In the "pilot car" was Mrs. Lloyd House and son Mitchell "Nut" House. Following came Lloyd "Barrelhead" House, his daughter Mrs. Floyd "Jimmy" Walker, and a shrimper named Lester Sullivan with a broken jaw. Close behind was Floyd Walker and friend Walter Mann. Somewhere in the affair a man from Andrews Fish Company appeared and disappeared again "in what might have been a drunken condition."

The pilot car stopped at Coot Bay Ranger Station and requested that Royal Palm Ranger Station be radioed to stop Floyd Walker's car so Barrelhead could get Lester Sullivan to the hospital with only a broken jaw. The request was granted. When in trouble - see a ranger!

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent

Summary of the February 1950 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
February, 1950

ENLARGEMENT OF EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

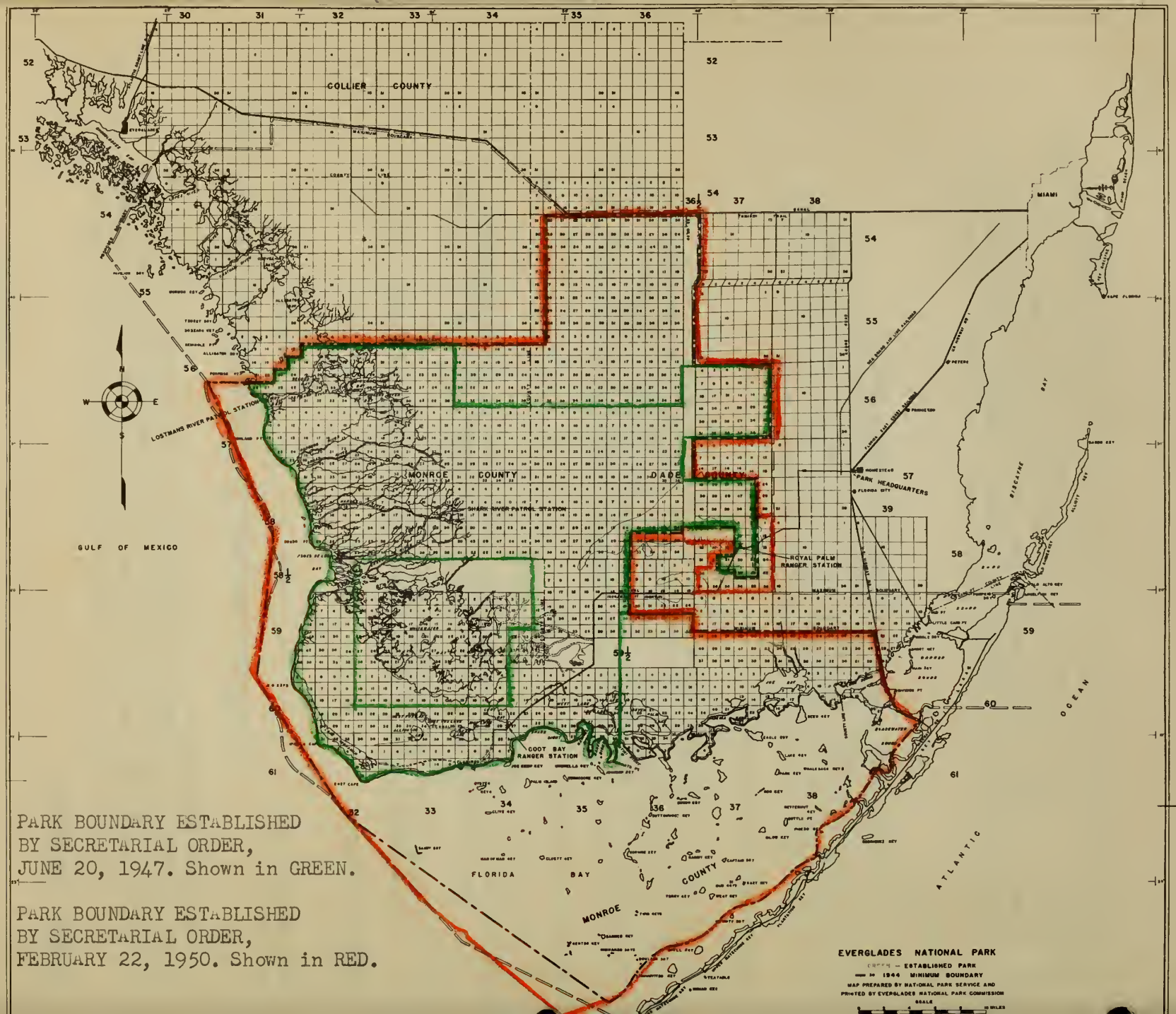
On June 20, 1947, the Secretary signed an order which created Everglades National Park. The agreed upon boundary based upon 1944 legislation was not used. Because of a variety of complicating factors, only a part of this so-called 1944 area became the park. Residual areas remained under the protection of the Fish and Wildlife Service until the way could be cleared to include them in the park. The area of the original (1947) park was estimated at 461,000 acres of which about 185,000 acres were private lands - the rest being State conveyed property - including Royal Palm State Park.

By February 22, 1950, the wrinkles had been smoothed out and the Secretary tripled the size of the park by adding the residual lands within the 1944 line plus certain state properties which the Governor and his Cabinet agreed to convey earlier in the month near Royal Palm Ranger Station. This action by the Secretary made Everglades National Park the third in size (Yellowstone and Mount McKinley are larger) and it now consists of about 1,228,500 acres.

The Land Acquisition Office at Coconut Grove had, meanwhile, been purchasing private lands within the 1944 line (whether Park or Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge). Funds being used were donated by the State. This very successful program has resulted in the purchase of 226,055 acres of private lands, being more than half of those private holdings in the 1944 boundary. Holdout lands now remaining, or some of same, will be procured through court action and steps are being taken for same.

The attached map shows, in green, the boundaries of the park as established by Secretarial Order in 1947. In red, are shown the present boundaries of the park as the result of the Secretarial Order in this report period.

It might be added that Congress delegated to the Secretary the right to create Everglades National Park within a maximum boundary (48 STAT 816) in 1934. The park as now constituted is still less than the area included within the authorized, maximum boundaries. Section 4 of this 1934 act contains wording that is well worth noting: "The (park) shall be permanently reserved as a wilderness, and no development of the (park) or plan for the entertainment of visitors shall be undertaken which will interfere with the preservation intact of the unique flora and fauna and the essential primitive natural conditions now prevailing in this area."


COLLIER COUNTY
MONROE COUNTY
DADE COUNTY
GULF OF MEXICO
LOSTMANS RIVER PATROL STATION
SHARK RIVER PATROL STATION
PARK HEADQUARTERS
ROYAL PALM RANGER STATION
COOT BAY RANGER STATION
MIAMI
FLORIDA BAY
MONROE COUNTY
ATLANTIC OCEAN
BISCAYNE BAY
PARK BOUNDARY ESTABLISHED BY SECRETARIAL ORDER, JUNE 20, 1947. Shown in GREEN.
PARK BOUNDARY ESTABLISHED BY SECRETARIAL ORDER, FEBRUARY 22, 1950. Shown in RED.
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
ESTABLISHED PARK
1944 MINIMUM BOUNDARY
MAP PREPARED BY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND PRINTED BY EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK COMMISSION
SCALE

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

A bit of the late winter cold waves which hit the north touched the lower Florida peninsula, as is usual. No freezing weather occurred in the park, however, and cold spells were of less duration than customarily experienced. Generally, February was a very pleasant, mild month. Following are recordings:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Total Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	85	80.8	35	52.6	0.91
Coot Bay Ranger Station	83	79.3	48	58.6	1.03

Prevailing winds at Royal Palm Ranger Station were East, at Coot Bay Ranger Station, East and Southeast.

Pinelands were bone dry. Water was holding fairly well in lower glade lands and the Shark River drainageway; but was receding rapidly towards the end of February.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

The superintendent met with Governor Fuller Warren and his Cabinet at Tallahassee to request conveyance of State lands near Royal Palm Ranger Station which would be added to the park. A resolution was passed withdrawing these lands from sale and, at same time, authorizing conveyance upon request of the Department after they were added to the park.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS:

Two trips were made to locate the southeast corner of T. 55 S., R. 37 E. After it was located, a glades buggy trip was made to facilitate boundary posting. Five miles had to be covered through pinnacle rockland on foot. This strategic boundary, when finally posted will plug the airboat trail from Tamiami Trail to Shark River.

COMPLAINTS:

A negative report is "reportable" under this heading. There were practically no serious complaints in February. Rangers at Coot Bay found that those who lodged complaints had not stopped at Royal Palm to be "oriented." At Royal Palm the only recordable complaints were on lack of campgrounds. A rock pit near the entrance (outside park prior to expansion) was used by campers practically all month. This desire to camp in the park is worth noting because many of us did not anticipate such a demand.

MAINTENANCE:

The small parking turnout at Anhinga Trail caused congestion and almost resulted in several serious accidents. As an emergency measure, it became necessary to obtain more fill from the county and make this turnout larger and safer. A temporary guard rail of cabbage palm logs was started to prevent cars from rolling into the slough.

Work was begun putting a hatch over the pilot's seat of the speedboat (11-201) for Florida Bay use where the pilot must stand up to see shoals ahead.

NEW CONSTRUCTION:

The temporary comfort-station-filling station at Coot Bay Pond was proceeding rapidly and should be finished in March.

The temporary concessions building at Coot Bay Pond was completed except for flooring, cabinet work, connections and painting.

Except for some top dressing of road rock and blading, the parking area at Coot Bay Pond was finished.

INTERPRETATION:

The Park Naturalist and Seasonal Ranger-Naturalist continued successful guided tours at Paradise Key. Crowds made it necessary to break the tours into two groups on occasion, but even this was unmanageable at times.

Anhinga Trail continued to be the prime attraction in the park. Although the slough was loosing water fast, the wildlife concentration remained adequate. An average of from 400 to 500 persons used the Trail each Sunday.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

Flora

One of Florida's showiest native orchids, Brassia caudata, was rediscovered in the park area by Captain C.C. Von Paulson. This orchid has not been seen in Florida for many years and was generally believed to have been exterminated by collectors, fires, or other reasons.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION: (Cont.)

Bird Rookeries

Cuthbert Lake Rookery was well advanced and in normal condition for this time of the year. Except that no white ibis were nesting at East River Rookery, the situation was also all right. Ironhead Rookery, discovered last month near East River contained 32 wood ibis. At Porjoe Key, in Florida Bay, 13 roseate spoonbills of this year's brood were out of nests and feeding in nearby shoals. A wood ibis (other birds ?) rookery was beginning to form, according to Park Warden Parker at the headwaters of Rookery Branch of Shark River - the first evidence of a rookery at that famous site in three years.

Bird Roosts and Feeding Grounds

Whitewash Key in Oyster Bay appears to be inoperative during the winter; but a new roost on Frigate Key in Ponce de Leon Bay was occupied by man-o-war-birds and Florida cormorants.

Reports indicate bird concentrations at river headwaters, north side of Tamiami Trail, and Humble Oil Well Road. A small but highly spectacular roost of snowy egrets, wood ibis and other species drew evening crowds to Anhinga Trail (Taylor Slough). Snake Bight and Garfield Bight were excellent bird feeding areas all month.

Alligators and Crocodiles

A ten or eleven foot alligator appeared on a bank about fifty feet from the observation platform on Anhinga Trail where he (or she) became an immediate, though sedentary attraction. A second big fellow showed up and a few early morning park visitors were able to witness the two roaring at each other. Numerous small alligators along the Trail boosted the sale of camera films in the local community.

Rangers on patrol at Shark, Broad, and Lostmans Rivers headwaters had favorable reports on 'gator populations; but earlier illegal hunting from airboats in glades lands now added to the park seem to have resulted in serious depopulation of the saurians south of Tamiami Trail including last year's excellent crop at Seven Mile Fire Tower site.

A four foot crocodile appeared and remained for some time around Coot Bay Ranger Station.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

The winter tourist season in south Florida got off to a late start, but was better than ever before (in number of people) in February according to the various indices used to calculate the trade. Late winter cold spells in the north were no doubt an important factor.

A total of 20,097 persons visited the Royal Palm Ranger Station section of the park in February. This was the highest visitor count yet made and 4,950 above February last year. Of the total for February, 8,533 reached Coot Bay Ranger Station.

VISITORS:

Mr. B.F.L. Heron, formerly with the General Land Office, Washington, D.C.
Mr. J.H. Westermann, Director of Development, Information Bureau for the Netherlands Antilles.
Assistant Chief Ranger and Mrs. E.M. Dale, Blue Ridge Parkway.
Mr. A. Dale Waters, Council for Social Agencies, Miami, Fla.
Major Rutledge Smith, father of MacGregor Smith (President of the Florida Power and Light Co.)
Mr. M.C. Merrill, Chief of Publications in the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 25 years.
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Holmes, free lance writers who want to write a story on Everglades National Park.
Dr. D.B. Young, of George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
Dr. and Mrs. Nice, Mrs. Margaret Nice is a well known authority on bird behavior.
Charles Elliott, former NPS and Georgia official, with Joe Brooks, who heads Metropolitan Miami Fishing Tournament, and Charles Ebbetts, photographer.

RANGER SERVICE:

With the enlargement of the park, it became necessary to transfer Park Ranger Winte from Royal Palm Ranger Station to Tamiami Trail and Park Ranger Maxwell from Coot Bay Ranger Station to Florida Bay. This meant stretching personnel and equipment which was just beginning to give adequate coverage to the park. Each regular park ranger (or warden) is now called upon to protect over 200,000 acres of lands and waters.

The rewards of protection work, like those of preventative medicine, are sometimes difficult to assess; but cumulative results are becoming everywhere apparent in the park. So far this fiscal year 20,875 miles have been logged in patrols of which 4,323 miles was done in February (2,755 by water and 1,468 by land). The need for air patrols has become increasingly apparent during this period.

RANGER SERVICE (Cont.)

The ringleador of the market hunters for alligators was smoked out in February. These "phantom" hunters, swamp wise and army trained, have bothered the Service along west coast areas since the park was created. Once working openly, they became more secretive as pressure increased, working only at night by small boats, burying carcasses so vultures would not congregate, and hiding among the mangroves by day. Service patrols, coordinated with state patrols by air and water caused the last of the known (but unapprehended) market hunters to quit in February. Future forays are expected, but the regular incursions of market hunters is, we feel, at an end, providing adequate personnel and equipment can be kept in the field.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION:

Three threatening fires were controlled on lands outside the park but within the park fire boundary burning a total of 403.4 acres.

Newly received "Smoky" fire posters have been posted at convenient places along the patrol routes of the park fire boundary. Personal contacts by fire control aids and rangers were started. All farmers, residences, and grove homes adjacent or on the park fire boundary, were requested to secure burning permits prior to clearing lands or debris burning. A noticeable decline in debris burning fires have been experienced so far this fire season.

Fire danger built up in February and is expected to reach a serious state in March.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

Summary of the March 1950 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Everglades National Park

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
March, 1950

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

March weather in Florida reflects the variable conditions characteristic of the month up north. A cold spell occurred unexpectedly late in the month following an equally unexpected heat wave. Rainfall was below average. Salt intrusion along Ingraham Canal at Concrete Bridge was 8,190 p.p.m. on March 29. Winds were generally strong and variable coming from southeast, south, southwest, and west. There were no really "prevailing" winds.

Weather records were:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Total Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	90	83.7	38	56.7	1.51
Coot Bay Ranger Station	87	80.8	46	60	.90

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

The superintendent was reelected to the board of the Florida Audubon Society and gave a talk on the park at the annual meeting at Rollins College. A talk was also given during the month at the Civitan Club in Miami.

PUBLICITY:

The Fort Myers News-Press carried an editorial on March 19, following action by Monroe County Commissioners who sought to withhold Cape Sable lands from the park for private purposes. The editorial said in part:

> "A move seems to be afoot down at Key West to renege on some of the land promises for the Everglades National Park to give aid and comfort and maybe something more to private exploiters seeking to profit personally from the great public wildlife development projected for the area. . . For years the land has been undeveloped but now . . . . the promoters envision a profitable future. They have plans to capitalize on the park development by building a hotel, golf course, swimming pool, yacht harbor, cottages, and other resort facilities. . . .

"No doubt a lot of money could be made by the private exploitation of the park lands. . . . . .But Everglades National Park. . . . . .belongs to the people. Any attempt by private exploiters to chisel into this trust should be vigorously rebuffed."

Dr. John M. Goggin, of the University of Florida, published a paper entitled, "Stratigraphic Tests in Everglades National Park" dealing with archeology

MAINTENANCE:

As one ranger reported it: "Boats were headaches." The boat ways at Coot Bay Ranger Station finally deteriorated to a point where they can no longer be used with safety. So, the necessary boat repairs were complicated and on the cabin cruiser, had to go to Tavernier, on Key Largo, to be hauled.

NEW CONSTRUCTION:

The two war surplus cabins on the former Wilkinson property near Coot Bay Pond were moved during March. One was placed at Shark River headwaters and is being called Little Banana Patch Patrol Station. The other was moved to where the U.S. Department of Agriculture road borders Florida Bay and is now called Crocodile Point Patrol Station. These new stations give the Service bases for patrol of two strategic areas: the Shark River country and the north shore of Florida Bay.

The Coot Bay Concessions facilities were nearing completion in March and it is hoped funds will permit construction of a dock in connection with these buildings in April.

INTERPRETATION:

The park naturalist talked to a group of 25 Boy Scouts at Princeton. He and the seasonal ranger-naturalist continued daily conducted walks over Gumbo Limbo Trail and Anhinga Trail. A total of 440 persons were on these walks.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

Bird Rookeries

Some wood ibis young reached flying stage at Cuthbert Lake, but others remained in their nests. East River Rookery was not as far advanced and few young wood ibis were flying. About 50 white ibis appeared to be preparing to nest. Other birds were present and had young. At Catfish Key in Florida Bay, great white herons were still nesting. On nearby Dildo Key there were nesting cormorants, American egrets, Wards herons, great white herons, and black-crowned night herons.

Feeding Grounds

Roseate spoonbills began to move from Florida Bay (and Cuba?) and scatter along the coasts or elsewhere. They were seen in Taylor Slough and in the fertile transition zone between mangroves and open glades where white pelicans also fed. Generally, with dry weather conditions the residual fresh water areas such as heads of rivers, mangrove-glade borders, sloughs, and shallow canals (Humble Oil Road) were concentration areas for birds.

Alligators

The "gator situation is looking up" according to the park biologist's report. Warden M.B. Parker reported the best one-day count at Shark River headwaters he has ever made in his years of familiarity with that area. Ranger Winte, long acquainted with the open Everglades, reported the 'gator population as good in the recently acquired Tamiami Trail country. Along Anhinga Trail (Taylor Slough) park visitors saw as many as 12 or 13 in a five minute visit.

The "crocodile" in Ingraham Canal near West Lake turned out to be a startlingly light-colored alligator.

Flora

Most of the orchids were in bloom with Cyrtipodium making a good show near Royal Palm Lodge.

Cypress trees began to leaf out, being about the only "indicator of spring" in the park.

Unusual Observations

A purple gallinule became so unafraid at Anhinga Trail that it snatched a gold fraternity pin (biological fraternity) from the person of Dr. Paul Kellog, of the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University. Quick action by Dr. Kellog retrieved the pin. The purple gallinule is a wiser but disillusioned bird. It will never trust a professional ornithologist again!

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

The travel season in south Florida has followed a trend which this year has become quite pronounced. Visitors arrive later and the season lasts longer into spring.

In the park, a total of 17,415 visitors was tallied (Royal Palm Station). The Sunday totals, which are indicative, ran 1109, 1078, 770, and 987.

VISITORS:

Charles G. Sauers, Advisory Board Member.
William P. Wharton, President, National Parks Association.
Dr. Paul Kellog, ornithologist, Cornell University.
W.L. Phillips, architect, Miami.
Lewis G. Scoggin, Director, Florida Park Service.
Dr. Ellsworth P. Killip, Head Curator of Botany, U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C.
Dr. Jason B. Swallen, Assistant Head Curator, U.S. National Museum.
Lamar Johnson, Engineer, Central and South Florida Flood Control District, W. Palm Beach, Fla.
Harold Scott, Engineer in Charge, Everglades Flood Control Project, U.S. Army Engineers.

RANGER SERVICE:

Water patrol mileage for the month was reduced slightly because both inboard boats were laid up for a time for repairs after heavy winter use. The repairs could no longer be delayed. Skiffs with outboards filled the breach and the airboat was used. Nevertheless, 2,409 miles of park waters were patrolled (1,500 land miles). The increased size of the park makes it impossible to give as much coverage as before, but with months of successful patrol work behind the protective force, the area remains better protected than last year.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION:

Although March again proved to be a month of high fire hazard, only two fires occurred burning 172.23 acres of which 82.4 acres were in the park. The "Flagpole Kelly perch" on the radio tower atop Royal Palm Lodge proved a useful, though uncomfortable lookout for fire detection.

OIL

A company began to salvage the casing from the last oil exploratory well dug in what is now the park near West Lake.

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent

Summary of the April 1950 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
April, 1950

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

The expected spring rains did not come in April; except for a few, scattered downpours. Generally speaking, it was an unusually cool and windy month. Data from stations follows:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Total Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	89	81.3	37	52.8	3.30"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	85	79.3	47.4	57	1.56"
40-Mile Bend, Tamiami Trail	00	00	00	00	3.45"

Winds for April were variable and sufficiently strong to often cause discomfort in small craft.

Chloride infiltration was 1,800 p.p.m., at 19.0 miles S.W. of Royal Palm Ranger Station in Ingraham Canal. Glades were dry except for slight inundations after rains.

INSPECTIONS:

Mr. Arthur Fawcett, official Service photographer was in the park taking pictures in April.

Mr. Frederick Law Olmstead, collaborator, and W.L. Phillips, former Service employee (landscape architect) discussed the park's master plan with the superintendent in the field.

Regional Forester Fred H. Arnold made observations in the park during a time of high fire hazard.

CONSTRUCTION:

The concession building at Coot Bay was complete except for laying finished floors, plumbing connections, and inside cabinet work.

The test well was started at Coot Bay under contract and had reached 200' depth by the end of the month.

CONSTRUCTION (Continued):

A second temporary quarters building at Pine Island was moving ahead fast with foundations complete, framing in place, sub-flooring in, and roof sheathed.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

The work of the Pink Bollworm Division of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine ended for the season. This agency is working under a Memorandum of Understanding on the control of pink bollworms by wild cotton eradication. Their camp at Flamingo was dismantled and abandoned until fall. Project Leader James Cowger reported the work successful and the reproduction of wild cotton in the park less than anticipated.

COOPERATING NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

National Audubon Society Tours were discontinued for the season at the end of April. The Tours started slow, but ended successfully.

The superintendent was re-elected to the Board of the Tropical Audubon Society for another year.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

Cuthbert Lake Rookery was passed its peak and relatively few birds remained by the end of the month. It is noteworthy that in this regularly observed rookery (Audubon Tours), the birds are unusually unafraid of man.

East River Rookery also began to wane by the end of April. White ibis which usually are late nesters were not present. A matter that is viewed with alarm because of a similar desertion of Shark River Rookery a few years ago.

Dildo Key Rookery had only cormorants and black-crowned night herons left, American egrets, great white herons, and Ward's herons had all left their nests.

In Florida Bay, all roseate spoonbills had left their nests and there were only straggler birds at rookery keys.

Bird Feeding Grounds

The park seemed almost deserted of bird life except at rookeries and at the Snake Bight area of Florida Bay where birds were congregated. The situation at Duck Rock northwest of the park is not known.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION (Continued)

Special Observations

Wurdemann heron on Seven Mile Road.
Flock of eastern glossy ibis, near Tamiami Trail.
Cinnamon teal at West Lake.
Canvasback at West Lake Pond.
American flamingo at Bottle Key.
Sea turtles were recorded at Cormorant Pass (between Oyster Bay and Whitewater Bay) and Lake Ingraham via Middle Cape Canal. No nesting was noted.

INCREASE OR DECREASE OF TRAVEL:

The type of park visitor changed in April. Instead of sight seeing tourists, we began to have Florida people taking some leisure after the winter tourist season and following crop harvests. A total of 12,682 were in the park during April.

It is noteworthy that all "concessioners without portfolio" who rent skiffs, operate charterboats, serve fish dinners, etc., did their biggest business since the park was started during April. These facilities are located around Flamingo and where U.S. Highway No. 1 touches Florida Bay.

VISITORS:

Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Creswell, Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
Mr. and Mrs. L.C. Danner, retired District Park Ranger, Yosemite National Park.
Congresswoman Reva Beck Bosone of Utah, member of the Public Lands Committee, Washington, D.C.
Mr. Ike Vern, photographer for Holiday Magazine.
Mr. Carol Livingston, State Advertising Board, Tallahassee, Fla.
Dr. Arthur J. Cain, Oxford University, Oxfordshire, England.

RANGER SERVICE:

Protection patrols by boat totalled 3,317 miles and by road 715 miles during the month with a total of 4,032 miles travelled by rangers, wardens, and the biologist.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION:

Ten fires occurred, of which 3 were scouted by aircraft to determine threat of entering park lands; 3 were non-reportable and 4 were suppressed by our forces. 1,534 acres were burned, of which 196 acres were in the park.

COMMERCIAL FISHING:

Park Ranger Maxwell reported "When the Service took over Florida Bay many of the fishermen seemed to think that the drag netting would be stopped at that time. They are now starting to ask me questions about it. . . . . The drag men seem to know that their days are numbered and are working overtime to get every fish they can. If fishing in the Bay, as well as the rest of the park, is to be saved I think that the public hearing (on fishing regulations) should take place as soon as possible."

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

Summary of the May 1950 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
May, 1950

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Early May was dry and warm. The rains began in the latter part of the month, and Jupiter pluvious how it poured! It was also warmer then with increased humidity. Mosquitoes began to sing and summer heat was with us again.

Recordings from various stations were:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Total Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	92	86.5	58	63.2	5.65"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	90	86.3	53	63.3	3.83"
40-Mile Bend	00	00	00	00	5.35"

Winds were generally from the southeast with a few days of east, south, and southwest.

A freak storm - or perhaps two - occurred at the mouth of Shark River and up the west coast. Hail fell accompanied by strong winds. The entire big mangrove area was defoliated to an extent that the water was covered with so many mangrove leaves as to appear green at a distance. Farther up the coast some large trees were actually toppled by the fury of the storm.

STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS

Excerpts from a newspaper account may perhaps be the best way of recording the following: "McGrath Asked to Condemn Private Lands in Everglades National Park, 165 Owners Still Balking ---- Secretary of the Interior Oscar Chapman said he has asked Atty. Gen. Howard McGrath to start condemnation proceedings against private lands in Everglades National Park. National Park Service officials said the department now feels it has acquired all the private lands in the area that can be obtained by direct purchase, and can acquire the remainder the government wants only through condemnation....the National Park Service office at Coconut Grove has purchased about 65% of the private lands for an undisclosed amount....'Barring unexpected high jury awards, the balance in the state-donated fund should be adequate for the purchase of the remaining private holdings' (said Secretary)...."

Dredging and filling was begun again on Ravelin Island at Jewfish Creek which is outside the present park boundaries.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Employees Temporary Quarters - Pine Island: One residence is complete and occupied. The second is progressing satisfactorily and should be completed in June.

Temporary Store and Snack Bar - Coot Bay Pond B-50: This structure is within 15 days of completion.

Temporary Gas Station - Coot Bay Pond, B-51: Work is all done except inside touchup and general clean up.

Temporary Concession Quarters - Coot Bay Pond B-51: Same as gas station.

Test Well - Coot Bay Pond, U-12: The well is down 244 feet. Work was suspended to begin installation of 4 inch casing. No fresh water yet.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

The board of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District passed a resolution which authorized their Engineering Department to actively cooperate on a technical basis with the National Park Service. The initial action has been an eighteen page report entitled "A Report on Water Resources of Everglades National Park, Florida". It contains the terse conclusion: "That one drop of water must now preserve what two drops of water created."

COOPERATING NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

Warden Glenn Kufoid of the National Audubon Society took up his lonely vigil at Duck Rock for the summer. This important rookery and roost is northwest of the park boundary on the Gulf Coast. Audubon Tours to the area were unsuccessful last year and will not be attempted again.

INTERPRETATION:

The highly successful "Nature Workshop" sponsored by the Tropical Audubon Society and University of Miami visited Paradise Key. They had to "run their own show" because all interpretive personnel and the Superintendent (one of the workshop's founders) were on fires. Over 200 persons, mainly teachers, were present and the event was entirely successful. This was the final session of the workshop which consists of a course in southern Florida natural history. Next year full college credit will be given including credit for refresher courses teachers are required to take by Florida law.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

Members of the park staff such as Park Warden Winte who have known the area over a period of many years are beginning to notice more deer and deer sign. We are now quite sure that the deer population is at last beginning to build up after what may have been an extreme all time low caused by post war

poaching by glades buggies and airboats coupled with floods. Areas where this increase seems especially noticeable are northeast of Lostmans River headwaters and the northerly fringe of Long Pine Key.

Park Biologist Mooro, with two broken ankles rode some twenty miles from Long Pine Key to Tamiami Trail lying face down across a glades buggie. In spite of his tortuous ride, his comment to the Superintendent was: "You would be surprised to know how little deer sign there is across the central glades. I ought to know because I had my eyes glued on the ground all the way across".

Black bear sign was noted where a very large animal worked through the open glades not far from Lostmans River headwaters. Another "black bear" sign noted by a certain Regional Forester brought this comment from the park biologist: "Hmm, big alligator".

Special Observations:

Florida cranes were observed at Squawk Creek.

Manatees were seen at Big Lostman Bay, Puzzle Lake Creek, and Rogers River.

Six reddish egrets along the East Cape Canal were seen.

Cougar tracks were noted on Long Pine Key.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

Total visitation for the month was 8,470 compared with 6,485 for May, 1949.

RANGER SERVICE:

Patrols were reduced during the month due to heavy fire control operations which taxed the use of every available man. Less patrols were made on Florida Bay, where newly acquired land and water areas should be patrolled on an increasing basis. Gulf coast and inland water areas were patrolled about half as much as desired; however, the general coverage was maintained by one man. 1729 miles were patrolled by water and 1384 miles by land, totaling 3113 miles.

FIRE:

For the first time since the early summer of 1945, southern Florida had a series of major fires. From the Tamiami Trail to the farmland around Lake Okeechobee hundreds of square miles went up in smoke. Over in the Big Cypress country which borders the Everglades on the west, a vast pall of smoke dominated the scene for there, too, numerous fires raged unchecked. Big fires buned in the pinelands from Miami to Homestead. In comparison, the park suffered very little, but it was a major fire disaster, nevertheless.

A fire started by lumbermen west of the park boundary had been going for several weeks before it threatened the park and had to be suppressed. This was within maximum park boundaries, but it never reached the park itself. Called "Loop Road Fire", it burned off about 60,000 acres. This fire was stopped in places by Gum Slough; but burned out Lostmans Pines about two miles north of the park as well as most of the attractive cypress country south of Loop Road.

A large glades fire started west of Krome Road near Tamiami Trail (several townships east of it burned the week before) and headed towards the unprotected park. Equipment breakdowns stopped Service crews from direct attack and necessitated a quick retreat to the park boundary where a fire line was established and burning out employed. A peat area caused several outbreaks later, but the fire never burned into the park. The cause of this fire is unknown, but it was no doubt from human carelessness. It burned 24,000 acres.

Long Pine Key fire began also outside the park (probably smokers) and moved westward across glades and rough pineland. Maximum emphasis was given to the suppression of this fire; but extremely difficult terrain hampered the work. The south flank was held protecting some valuable mahogany hammocks and wildlife areas. The northern flank was held with great difficulty. Danger soon developed on the northwest head which was approaching dense, highly inflammable sawgrass in the Shark River drainage. A glades buggie went down all the way from Tamiami Trail in what the newspapers termed an "end run" and other units finally got in from the south to put the head out. A total of 32,240 acres burned doing serious damage to mature hammocks and excellent hammock reproductions.

Mowry Fire, also man-caused outside the park was potentially very dangerous. It was fought aggressively and with speed (rented equipment); but still managed to burn 2,560 acres of pineland and glades, barely touching the park.

All of these fires were going at once and the strain of such an emergency was almost too much for the park staff and the regional men who were here. But, this was the first time major Everglades fires were ever suppressed. It can be done.

Public attention was focused on the fires by the newspapers, radio, newsreels, and even television. The park fires were top headline news in Miami for almost a week and nationally carried by U. P., A. P. and Acme. This had a very fine effect. Heretofore, Everglades fires were taken as a matter of course. That is no longer true and on every hand public concern has been noticeable - a broad concern which has been growing in south Florida since the end of the war and which existed before only among the more ardent conservationists.

The annual report of Forest Protection and Building Fire Equipment contained the following totals:

	To June, 1949	To June, 1950
Value of Forest Protection Equipment	$7,115.72	$23,197.80
Value of Building Protection Equipment	4,274.70	5,128.95
Total:	$11,390.42	$ 28,326.75

ACCIDENTS:

Park Biologist Joseph C. Moore was envolved in a plane crash while scouting Long Pine Key Fire. He suffered compound fractures of the right ankle, dislocation of the left ankel, one broken rib, and cuts in the head. The plane, a Luscomb, was piloted by Lt. Roy Berry of the Civilian Air Patrol. Lt. Berry had cuts about the head.

The plane had scouted the fire and dropped down to throw a note out to Chief Ranger Semingsen who was in a glades buggie. Miscalculation caused the plane to nose down and it struck the ground at about 85 miles per hour, nosed in, and overturned throwing both Moore and Berry clear. The injured men were given first aid and then brought out about twenty miles (3 hours) through the central glades to the Tamiami Trail where a Service radio car was located on the Tamiami Fire. Ambulances were sent from Homestead in response to the radio call and both men were finally taken to Pratt General Hospital at Coral Gables. Meanwhile the Coast Guard had taken off from Dinner Key to search from the plane that was overdue.

Minor injuries at the fire were sustained by fire fighters Martinez and Gangliardi.

PERSONNEL:

Charlotte Sides, clerk-typist, became the bride of Roger Glenn of Homestead, owner of Glenn's Print Shop. Charlotte is a native of Mississippi and joined the park staff February 7, 1949.

Frank Shomaker of the regional office staff was transferred with promotion to the position of Park Engineer at Everglades - and spent his first two weeks of duty as a fire fighter.

The various seasonal personnel have now scattered to other areas: Rohn and Raftery to Yellowstone, Sheffield and Lyons to Crater Lake, Leaphart and Henthorn to Glacier, and Damm to Switzerland for advance studies.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS:

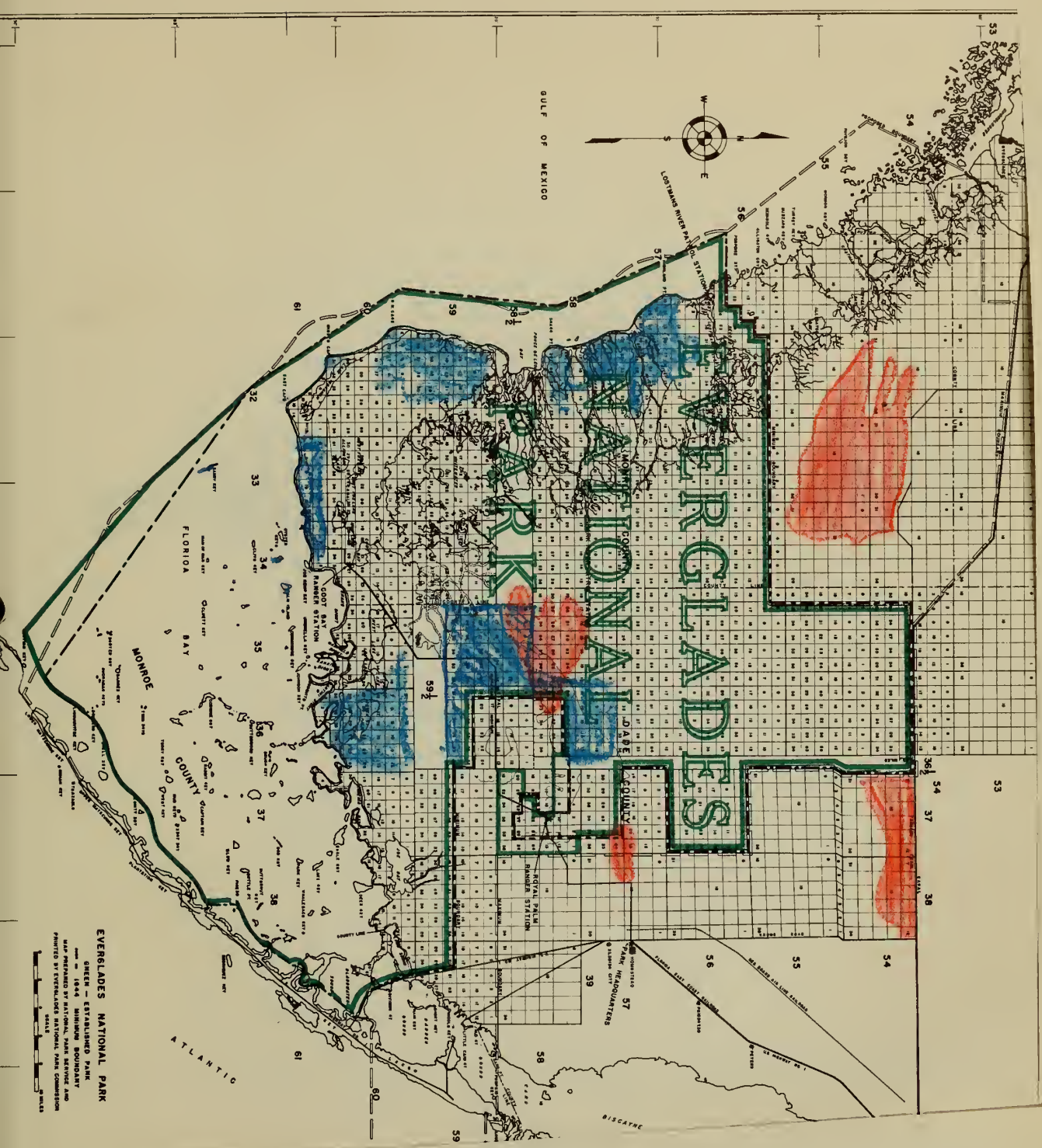
Contact - Comfort Station - Paradise Key - B-10-1

Preliminary topographic surveys were started at the site.

Ranger Residence - Pine Island - B-1-1

Architect Harry L. Keck, Jr., of Coral Gables was awarded a contract. Preliminary sketches were approved by the Regional Office.

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent



[illegible], Australian pines, and Trail in foreground.

Tamiami Fire # 3 showing disc break along park boundary (dark line) and glades buggie tracks. Line of Australian pines along Tamiami Trail in background.

Tamiami Fire # 3 - One of the heads of the fire burning out at boundary fire break. Tamiami Canal, Australian pines, and Trail in foreground.

These are pictures of the Luscomb in which Park Biologist Moore and Lt. Roy Berry crashed at Willow Springs, northwest of Long Pine Key.

Summary of the June 1950 Monthly Narrative Report For EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
June, 1950

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

The climate of south Florida during June was nothing to brag about. It was hot, humid, and had a deficiency of rainfall although the park made out better on rain than the Miami to Homestead area. Data from stations follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Total Rainfall
Coot Bay Ranger Station	92	89	64	70.6	6.03
Royal Palm Ranger Station	94	90.3	62	65.07	1.10

Winds were generally moderate and from the southeast. Summer calms were common making Florida Bay like a giant, shimmering mirror with the horizon line so indistinct that it blended with the sky.

Ingraham Canal was blocked experimentally 19 miles beyond Royal Palm Ranger Station (a few miles before reaching West Lake). The results are noteworthy - chloride concentrations on June 28 were recorded as follows: below barrier 3,900; above barrier 124; at 16.1 miles (Concrete Bridge) 161. Last month, on May 24 they were: at site barrier now stands, 10,100; at 16.1 miles (Concrete Bridge) 2,430.

INSPECTIONS:

Regional Director Thomas J. Allen and Assistant Regional Director Edward Zimmer were in the park during June. Special attention was given to the proposed contact-comfort station at Paradise Key, tentative plans for park entrance road and headquarters site, the Cape Sable-Flamingo country and its ultimate utilization, the status of construction at Coot Bay Ranger Station, and special fishing regulations.

STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS:

The regional office approved a plan whereby all squatters on park lands would be either told to vacate same by December 1, or, in some instances, be offered business concession permits. Notices were sent out during the month.

Personnel from the Land Acquisition Office made survey and general study trips at various times to Boggy Key and several other privately-owned keys in Florida Bay accompanied by rangers.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS:

Final plans and a draft of specifications prepared by Architect Harry L. Keck, Jr., were submitted to the regional office for residence B-1-1, Pine Island. The estimated construction cost of $10,200 is now probably low due to rapidly increasing building costs.

Drawing NP-EVE-5350, 2 sheets of topography for the contact-comfort station site at Paradise Key were completed by Park Engineer Shomaker.

COMPLAINTS:

Numerous complaints were registered at Coot Bay Ranger Station on the condition of the road, mostly by out-of-state people.

Several women complained about our now quite famous "powder room" at Coot Bay.

MAINTENANCE:

A flag pole was erected at Coot Bay Ranger Station giving the area a nautical look with the U.S. flag at forepeak and N.P.S. green and white pennant snapping from the yardarm.

The Coot Bay parking area was given some top dressing of pea rock and pit run gravel placed where settling had occurred.

CONSTRUCTION:

Employees' Temporary Quarters - Pine Island: complete except for cleanup and future landscaping.

Temporary Store and Snack Bar - Coot Bay: within four man days of completion by present crew. Some plumbing work remains. Funds will not permit construction of dock along road although materials are at hand.

Temporary Service Station and Rest Rooms - Coot Bay: Same as last month.

Temporary Concession Quarters - Coot Bay: Same as last month.

Test Well - Coot Bay: Failed to reach potable water at 485 feet. Funds all used so contractor left.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

Roseate spoonbills (about 300) were again seen at East Cape Canal. This once rare phenomenon is now a routine, summer observation.

Eastern brown pelicans began to nest in certain keys in Florida Bay. Southern bald eagles were also nesting on Bay keys.

Reports of white-tailed deer along Seven Mile Road (old Humble Oil Well Road) south of Tamiami Trail indicate an increase in that area. Otter are also seen regularly in the area.

Turtles were crawling in June with reports of raccoon and Flamingo fishermen depredations on same along the various beaches of the park.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

A total of 6,123 people visited the park in June, compared with 4,684 for the same month last year.

RANGER SERVICE:

Protection patrols by boat in the water areas of the park totalled 2,171 miles and by road 450 miles during the month with a total of 2,621 miles patrolled.

Park Warden Winte was on annual leave during the month and while driving to California expected to visit several national parks.

District Ranger Stephanic started annual leave for thirty days the latter part of June to visit his family in New Jersey.

FIRE PROTECTION:

Two rangers and one fire control aid are attending a State of Florida sponsored and approved vocational training school at Homestead Fire Department for Building Fire and Woods' Fire Control. Captain B. Bullock of Miami City Fire Department, who is the In-Service Training Officer for the City of Miami Firemen, is instructor for the course prepared by the University of Oklahoma A. & M. The training course is somewhat briefed as compared to the University of Maryland course given at Shenandoah National Park two years ago and considered an excellent refresher course. One of the principle objectives of the course is to combine the fire facilities and personnel of Homestead, Florida City, Dade County Fire Patrol, and Everglades National Park into a better working cooperative group for joint fire control activities beyond the facilities of any one fire organization in this vicinity.

ACCIDENTS:

Park Warden Marcus B. Parker overturned his pickup into Ingraham Canal during a rain squall when he tried to dodge an alligator in the road. He was not injured - nor was the alligator.

COMMERCIAL FISHING:

The Knight Fish Company of Snake Bight was preparing to move out at month's end. The airboats, under permit, worked overtime setting nets and bringing in fabulous catches of mullet, many of which were almost too small to market.

The superintendent issued an order closing all inside waters to nets and seines. Entrances to these areas were posted in accordance with regulations. A group of commercial fishermen gathered at Loren Roberts' house to discuss the matter with the superintendent. The group consisted of Loren Roberts, "Cootie" Roberts, "Buddy Roberts, "Bull" Roberts, Manuel from Combs Fish Co., Jack Croslin, wholesaler, and several others whose identity is not known.

Later in the month, proposed special fishing regulations were gone over with a group consisting of Regional Director Allen, the superintendent, Park Ranger Maxwell, Judge E.R. Lowe, Manuel, and Jack C. Watson, of the Fish and Wildlife Service. This meeting took place in Judge Lowe's Office at Tavernier on Key Largo.

PERSONNEL:

Pauline Bradley, Clerk-Stenographer, became the bride of David Bogart.

David Bogart, former seasonal fire control aid, entered on duty as park ranger. There is something about the Everglades he likes.

William J. Gray, former seasonal fire control aid, entered on duty as permanent fire lookout.

Park Biologist Joseph C. Moore was released from Pratt General Hospital temporarily. Mr. Moore was injured in a plane crash while scouting a fire. He expects to be called back to the hospital in July to undergo another operation.

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

Summary of the July 1950 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
July, 1950

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Park Warden Barney Parker reported a small tornado at Turkey Key during July. Apparently a waterspout developed and when it hit land acted like a tornado. Parker, in a skiff about a mile away saw the ominous cloud and heard the crashing of timber as the twister hit Turkey Key. He decided it was not a good place to be in a skiff. Later on he found that considerable damage was done to houseboats and other boats owned by commercial fishermen at Turkey Key. Winds were estimated by the fishermen at 150 m.p.h.

July temperatures were a little above normal and rainfall at ranger stations was average. However, the rainfall throughout the park was considered deficient with less than average inundation. Climatic conditions were right for mosquitoes and July was one of the worst "mosquito months" known in many years. With rather erratic winds instead of the steady southeast breeze, the mosquito hordes were carried into Miami. The things that slapping Miamians said about the Everglades cannot be repeated here.

Chloride concentrations in the Ingraham Canal continued to show improvement because of the barrier that the Service put in near Old Dad's Corner. On July 19, there was 5,680 p.p.m. chloride below the barrier and 78 p.p.m. above it. Water movement in the canal above the barrier was slow and this suggests that fresh ground water is spreading, instead of draining off to Florida Bay.

Station records follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Total Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	92	89.8	66	69.7	11.7
Coot Bay Ranger Station	92	89	64	69.1	15.17
40-Mile Bend*	-	-	-	-	8.06

* Tamiami Trail

NEW CONSTRUCTION:

Employees' Temporary Quarters, Pine Island - No work in July.
Temporary Store and Snack Bar, Coot Bay (B-50) - 98% complete.
Temporary Gas Station, Coot Bay (B-51) - No work in July.
Temporary Concession Quarters, Coot Bay - Roof leaked. Asphalt roofing compound mopped on.
Employees' Residence, Pine Island (B-1-1) - Plans submitted to Region, returned with notations, and given to architect for revision.
Test Well, Coot Bay (U-12) - Bid invitations sent out for deepening to maximum 570 feet.
Paradise Key Well (U-1-1) - Bid invitation out.
Pine Key Fire Tower (B-2-1), Long Pine Key - Bid of $1224 accepted for erection of tower. Site was cleared and tower unloaded and stockpiled at site.
Little Banana Patch Radio Tower, Upper Shark River - The Chief Ranger led a party in the erection of an open web radio tower at the Little Banana Patch Patrol Station. The tower came from surplus stock on hand and has a crows nest attachment and platform for observation purposes. Tower is seventy feet high and gives good seeing range for cross section with Pine Key Tower and the Lostmans River as well as Shark River country. It was erected in order to provide a place for a radio aerial and also to assist in law enforcement and fire protection in this area. The tower, being semi-portable can be removed and used elsewhere if desired later.

CONCESSIONS:

During July, National Parks Concessions, Inc., personnel visited the facilities at Coot Bay in preparation for the start of operations in December. Members of the party were: H.S. Sanborn, General Manager, Ray Scott, Photographer, and G.B. Hanson, of the clerical force.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES:

At various times during July, conferences were held at the park headquarters with those who are in authority on the Flood Control Plan for the Everglades. Those attending these conferences were: Messrs. Harold Scott and Snodgrass of the Corps of Engineers, Messrs. D.L. Milliken and Nevin D. Hoy of the U.S. Geological Survey, Messrs. Jacob Stevens and Melvin Gallatin of the Soil Conservation Service, and Mr. Lamar Johnson of the Central and South Florida Flood Control District.

State Conservation Officers Cooper and Newton, of Homestead, were discharged during the month and have not yet been replaced by new men.

Mr. William H. Smith, Engineer, Public Roads Administration, of Arlington, Va., made the initial inspection for his agency of the park and proposed road system. He saw the area by glades buggy and pickup.

The Fish and Wildlife Service renewed for another fiscal year, wildlife leases upon 82,092.94 acres of lands that are still in private ownership in the park. These leases were originally arrived at when the area that is now the park was the Everglades Wildlife Refuge.

COOPERATING NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES:

The superintendent and Mr. Robert P. Allen, of the National Audubon Society, visited Everglades twice during the month in order to work together on a solution of the Duck Rock situation. Duck Rock, the largest bird concentration point in the area during summer months is protected by the Audubon Society. The warden in charge desired to leave and there was danger of having this important area shot up.

INTERPRETATION:

As part of the summer program of Dade County Schools, 517 children attended nature walks conducted by the park naturalist at Paradise Key.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

Birds were scattered and there was no good "bird show" anywhere in the park during July. Eastern brown pelicans, Florida cormorants and some American egrets were nesting on keys in Florida Bay. A few roseate spoonbills remained in the Bay which is unusual during the summer.

On the mud flats around Snake Bight, many northern nesting shorebirds were present - to our surprise. Dowitchers outnumbered all others. A few southerly nesting warblers began to appear including some Louisiana water thrushes, redstarts, and yellow-throated warblers.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

About ten years ago, most of the resort facilities in south Florida were closed completely during the summer months. In response to a campaign of advertizing and promotion, a few resorts tried staying open and with lowered prices attempted to attract enough trade to pay expenses. During the war, many of these facilities were open all the time either on lease by the government or catering to the military trade. After the war, the summer Latin American influx came a little unexpectedly during the summer and helped the slack season trade considerably. But all the time, promotion continued to see Florida in summer when prices are low. This year it is paying dividends. Out of state cars owned by "yankeetourists" are decidedly more common than ever before - whether because of the campaign or from a combination of circumstances we do not know.

In the park during July there were 2,444 more visitors than for the same month last year or 7,579 total for July 1950. This was unexpected by the park staff and somewhat embarrassing because many were on vacation, no seasonal personnel were on hand, and conditions in the park itself were not conducive to tourist travel.

VISITORS:

Dr. W.M. Lauter, Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, University of Florida, to study toxic effects of the manchineel tree.
Dr. H.B. Sherman, Head, Department of Biology, University of Florida.

RANGER SERVICE:

Protection patrols by roads totalled 405 miles and 1,569 miles were made via water routes, making a total of 1,974 miles for the month.

District Ranger Stephanic, Ranger Maxwell, and Park Warden Winte returned from annual leave.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

"Old Man Mobley" showed up at Hammer Point near Tavernier with his inboard boat and "push boat" used in 'gator hunting. Checked by Park Ranger Bogart and Jack Watson, of Fish and Wildlife Service, Mobley was advised on the park regulations. One of the last of the oldtime 'gator hunters, Mobley remained at his camp on Hammer Point, under watchful eyes, until month's end. Mobley claims he is going to have to sell his boats and go and live "up around Miami."

FIRE PROTECTION:

Chief Ranger Semingsen, Park Ranger Bogart, and Fire Control Aid Gray were graduated in a building fire protection course sponsored by the Florida State Firemen's Association. The course was one approved by the State of Florida for volunteer fire departments as furnished by Oklahoma A. & M. University.

The 1950-1959 park fire atlas was completed and submitted to the Regional and Washington Offices.

The City of Miami Fire Department shops made three fire hose adapters, at no cost, for use in building fire protection at Royal Palm, Coot Bay, and on the park fire truck.

COMMERCIAL FISHING:

The Knight Fish Company, of Snake Bight, moved out and will use Tavernier as an operational base from now on. Rangers erected a steel gate on Snake Bight Road and locked it for the time being.

Combs Fish Company, of Tavernier, decided not to invest in any new drag seines. They are replacing worn seines with gill nets.

Drag seine crews were reported making an all out effort to get everything possible before Service special regulations are promulgated.

The area closed by superintendent's order in June was completely posted with signs reading "No Nets or Seines." This included inland waters and was an emergency measure pending special regulations.

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

Summary of the August 1950 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER CONDITIONS:	A month of hurricane alerts. Rainfall deficient.	1
INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:	4,315 people visited the park in spite of condition of the road.	1
RANGER SERVICE:	Danger of airboat traffic increased. Snake Bight cleared of all occupants.	1
FOREST FIRE PROTECTION:	Fire danger existed in so-called "rainy season".	1

Everglades National Park

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
August, 1950

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

August seemed to be a hurricane-breeder this year. Although no storms actually struck the park, personnel were busy battening down through several alerts. Towards the end of the month, a storm passed to the west in the Gulf bringing winds up to 60 m.p.h. in the park. Rainfall was deficient and there was much concern about the water table which was low for this time of the year. Salt water intrusion in Ingraham Canal remained relatively low though because of the barrier placed in it a few months ago. The summer continued hot and extremely uncomfortable in the park. The maximum temperature at Royal Palm Station was 94 degrees, average maximum 91.1 degrees, minimum temperature 66 degrees and average minimum 73.3 degrees. There was 7.14 inches of rainfall.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

The road to Coot Bay and Flamingo was in the worst shape it had ever been in and for several days at a time even a jeep could not get through. The heavy fish trucks out of Flamingo dug ruts several feet deep which would leave most cars hanging. In spite of it all, 4,315 people visited the park.

RANGER SERVICE:

With slightly higher water conditions, danger of traffic into the park by airboats from the Loop Road increased. Park Warden Winte, working with airboat (with State Wildlife Officers) and Park Warden Parker, working into the glades at head of Lostmans by skiff were able to give a good appraisal of the situation. Although considerable airboat traffic existed between the Lostmans River boundary and Loop Road, it is noteworthy that even outside the park, Winte and the State Wildlife Officers found that the boatmen did not carry firearms anymore.

Snake Bight was cleared of all occupants during August including some commercial fishermen who had reoccupied the premises.

The Assistant U.S. Attorney was contacted by Acting Chief Ranger Stephanic and agreed to cooperate with the Service if any violations of commercial fishing regulations occur.

With the superintendent at Washington, chief ranger on leave, and others absent from the park, the job of moving some surplus mine yawls from Miami to Tavernier took "all hands" including the Chief Clerk.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION:

A little to everyone's surprise, fire danger existed in August. Relatively low water tables, high evaporation rate, and drying winds created a somewhat hazardous condition in which fires could have easily started and gained some strength; but would probably not have covered very large areas before hitting wet spots and going out. Nevertheless, it should be reported that fire danger did exist in the so-called "rainy season".

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

Report 1ml

Summary of the September 1950 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Everglades National Park

Report 1ml

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
September, 1950

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Hurricanes continued to breed and threaten from a distance throughout September but failed to reach the mainland.

Rainfall at Royal Palm Ranger Station was only 5.26 inches, a deficiency of about 7 inches. Rainfall in September 1949, amounted to 9.26 inches. Low water tables prevailed which, if continued, would cause an extremely hazardous fire season.

The maximum temperature at Royal Palm Ranger Station was 93° with a mean maximum of 90°; minimum temperature 68° with mean minimum temperature 72°.

Prevailing winds were SE for 14 days.

FLAMINGO ROAD:

The Ingraham Highway from Humpback Bridge to Coot Bay and Flamingo was in worse condition during September than ever before since the park was started, except for a brief time after the 1948 hurricane. Ruts were knee-deep and only the largest of fish company trucks could get through (providing they had winches). Attempts to move Service vehicles back and forth soon failed and it became necessary to operate only by skiff down the canal to the ranger station. Stocks of gasoline at the station became low with no way of replenishing them. This seriously effected protection work in the Cape Sable Ranger District by airboat, cruiser, or out of Lostmans River Patrol Station.

NEW CONSTRUCTION:

Bid invitations were sent out on two quarters' buildings for Pine Island.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

The Park Naturalist began work on a check list of birds for the park and had it roughed out from available records by the end of the month. Meanwhile, the Park Biologist, still unable to do field work because of his injury during fires last spring, worked on a series of information sheets on "What to see at Everglades National Park" on a monthly basis. This type of approach will be "tried on for size" this winter.

White-tailed deer were seen by rangers on airboat patrol in the country bordering the headwaters of the various rivers of the Gulf Coast and Whitewater Bay region.

RANGER SERVICE:

Repaired boats and motors began filtering back into use but patrols were still somewhat limited due to vacations, transportation of two mine yawls to Coot Bay from Miami and the lack of good gasoline supply at Coot Bay. The Correctcraft cabin cruiser was back in service after having a new bottom installed.

The airboat was used to good advantage making several contacts across the north boundary - no airboats were found within the park. Again, checks with state conservation officers yielded no guns carried in airboats.

Approximately 700 miles of road patrols were made and approximately 450 miles of boat patrols, including airboats.

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

Summary of the October 1950 Monthly Narrative Report For EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
October, 1950

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

On October 17, a small, intense hurricane passed over the state a little north of the park hitting Miami "on the nose". Highest winds in Homestead were about 55 m.p.h. Much time was spent getting the park ready for the impending blow that, fortunately, did not come. A total of eight hurricane alerts occurred during "the season" this year.

Rainfall for the year remained deficient; but was satisfactory for October.

Readings from stations follow:

	Max. Temp.	Min. Temp.	Mean Max.	Mean Min.	Total Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	91	65	86.2	70.9	10.91
Coot Bay Ranger Station	90	-	85	-	12.41

CONSTRUCTION:

Residences B-1-1 and B-21

Bids for construction were opened October 17. The only bidder was too high and the bid was rejected.

Pine Key Fire Tower, B-2-1

The structure is now almost complete. Installation of windows and lightning protection is all that remains to be done.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

The birds came back to Coot Bay Pond on schedule, an estimated 5,000 egrets. A few wood ibis and white ibis came in. Alligators were more numerous also in the locality.

Roseate spoonbills began to arrive in Florida Bay on October 15 coming on a "migratory" flight line apparently from the lower Keys rather than from Boot Key vicinity.

VISITORS:

U.S. Public Health Officer George Carley, Atlanta, Georgia
Dr. Eula Whitehouse, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas
Mr. A.J. Knox, Treasurer, National Parks Concessions, Inc., Mammoth Cave, Ky.
Mr. James Cowger, Project Leader, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Coral Gables, Fla.
Mr. Jack Ball, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, Jacksonville, Fla.

RANGER SERVICE:

Rangers and wardens made 1831 patrol miles by water and 434 by land during the month.

Two airboats were used to patrol water covered glade lands, from Highway 27 near concrete bridge, for posting and patrolling park boundaries. This is our first year of glade patrols made with airboat to protect deer and other wildlife.

FIRE PROTECTION:

Fire Control Aid Gray worked all month on repairs and maintenance of equipment. All fire equipment is now about ready for the season.

District Ranger Barnes attended the U.S. Forest Service fire training school near Tallahassee. Emphasis was on organization for large fires.

It is not too early to make reasonable predictions on the fire season. Deficiency of water in the Everglades indicates that unless unseasonal rains occur this winter, the fire season will begin earlier and hazardous conditions will be greater than last year.

FLAMINGO ROAD:

On October 8, the road below Humpback Bridge became so bad that even the old army trucks stopped coming through. Charterboatman Walter Mann made it as far as Coot Bay, but could not get beyond there. One truck remained stuck in a hole for more than three weeks. Rangers carried all supplies including 500 gallons of gasoline down the canal by skiff.

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

Summary of the November 1950 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
November, 1950

HEARING ON PROPOSED FISHING REGULATIONS

A public hearing was held on November 16 to permit expression of public opinion upon fishing regulations proposed by the Service. The hearing was conducted by Chief Naturalist John Doerr, Chairman, Assistant Regional Director Elbert Cox, and Assistant Chief Counsel Donald Lee. Every sportsmen's organization in the Miami-Florida Keys area was represented as well as such groups as the Tropical Audubon Society, Everglades Audubon Society, National Audubon Society, Federated Garden Clubs, Federated Women's Clubs, and even the D.A.R. In all, they represented more than 30,700 members in support of the park. Some commercial fishing companies were represented in favor and some were in general opposition.

The hearing lasted most of the day and did a great deal to "clear the air" on the intentions, responsibilities, and policies of this Service. In his opening remarks, Chairman Doerr explained that the Service had upon several occasions indicated that commercial fishing would be permitted in the park's waters commensurate with Service objectives and on what might be called a sustained yield basis. Principal abuses that the regulations were designed to correct are: use of large drag seines in Florida Bay, taking of large numbers of shrimp for sale as bait, killing and nest robbing of loggerhead or other sea turtles, further loss of Florida lobster (crayfish), and depletion of fertile rivers and estuaries where seines take a large toll.

Vehement opposition by representatives of the Crossland Fish Company and the representative of the commercial fishermen of Collier County largely subsided during the meeting when it was found that public opinion was strongly against the drag seines and that the regulations were more than fair in other categories. Changes recommended in the regulations were all of a minor nature.

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

The weather for November was erratic, reflecting as usual in winter the situation in the north. Soon after blizzards and high winds were reported in the northeastern states, a "norther" struck southern Florida bringing frost with it. This cold spell was unusual because it came so early in the season. Temperatures in the park dropped as much as thirty-six degrees in a single day. "Curing" of the grasses by frost hastened the fire season.

With merely observational data, it appeared that strong northerly winds hastened fresh water runoff in the park and seriously reduced water levels. Then, with the return of southeasterly winds, salt intrusion became apparent in river headwaters. All of these unseasonal factors will no doubt be reflected in the forthcoming fire season and bird rookery season.

Ground-water levels in southern Florida ranged from 0.1 to 2.3 feet lower at the end of October, with greatest losses occurring in Dade County. In the lower Everglades, west of Miami, losses ranged from 0.1 to 1.3 feet being the lowest November level on record (1940-50). Rainfall over the Everglades in general during November was 50% of normal in the north and slightly above in the park. The flow into the park from Tamiami Canal was 1,300 second feet November 1, 500 November 14, and continued to decline later.

Recordings from stations were:

	Max. Temp	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Total Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	87	79.2	37	58.8	.47
Coot Bay Ranger Ranger Station	84	-	35	-	.46

INSPECTIONS:

Regional Director Allen visited the park to attend the hearing on fishing regulations. While here, he discussed with the superintendent and others the progress of Coot Bay development, plans for residences, and law enforcement. He also visited the Land Acquisition Office.

Chief Naturalist John Doerr spent several days in the park going out by boat and airboat. He was chairman at the hearing on fishing regulations. While here, he went over interpretive problems, especially at Royal Palm Area with the superintendent and park naturalist.

Assistant Chief Counsel Lee conferred with Assistant U.S. Attorney Duhaime in Miami regarding the prosecution of the case of U.S. v. Smallwood et al. He also participated in the public hearing.

Assistant Regional Director Elbert Cox came down to participate in the public hearing; but was able to remain over to visit areas of the park that he had not been in before where developments are planned or in progress.

Assistant Director Hillory Tolson and Chief Finance Officer Keith Neilson inspected the progress of the work at Coot Bay. They were given a first hand idea of enforcement problems in the park when taken through the mangrove-Everglades fringe by airboat. Both attended a regular park staff meeting and gave the staff interesting talks on Service organization, general fiscal procedure, and the handling of budget estimates at Washington.

MAINTENANCE:

The park runabout 11-201 was completely overhauled and painted. It was launched at Homestead Bayfront Park and taken to Florida Bay where it will be assigned.

Work of gravelling and repairing the road from Humpback to Coot Bay was more than half complete by the end of November.

NEW CONSTRUCTION:

The temporary store and snack bar as well as the service station and concessioners' quarters at Coot Bay were completed except for plumbing installations and the placing of gasoline tanks.

Bids and specifications were sent out on two permanent residences for Pine Island and for Royal Palm Ranger Station (contact-comfort station). Opening date is December 13. Eleven contractors have indicated desire to bid.

Drilling was resumed on the test well at Coot Bay on November 29. By the end of the month they were down to a little more than 500 feet with no indication of fresh water.

CONCESSIONS:

Mr. and Mrs. M.C. Lund of National Parks Concessions, Inc. began making contacts with various dealers at Homestead and Miami in preparation for the Coot Bay concession this winter. Orders were placed for furniture, contacts made with gasoline and butane distributers, and much detail work completed. The aim is to get the concession in operation by the end of the year.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

Waterfowl arrived in relatively large numbers during November with blue-winged teal, pintail, and others increasing the number. Large flocks of coots were in certain locations such as West Lake. Roseate spoonbills were present at Florida Bay nesting sites. Large concentrations of egrets were in "on schedule" along Joe River.

The Anhinga Trail wildlife show began to improve as other areas of the glades gradually dried up. Roosts of egrets and herons made an interesting picture in the evenings. Alligators took up their old stands. Rangers reported an amusing and slightly ludicrous observation of a small 'gator riding along through the water perched on the head of a very large 'gator. Purple gallinules, limpkins, coots, Florida gallinules, and pied-billed grebes were all easily observed from the walk.

Park Warden Barney Parker reported a considerable increase of birds along the headwaters of Lostmans and Broad Rivers, but not at Shark. Two, large manatees were noted near the head of Rodgers River. Duck Rock, which is a very large roost in summer, was abandoned by early November.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION (Continued)

Parker reported three "very hostile" rattlesnakes on an Indian mound. He was looking at a lime tree when a snake struck him about midway between his foot and knee, just piercing the rubber boot but not reaching the flesh of his leg. As Parker turned his body to reach for his revolver he saw a second large diamondback coiled by his left foot. He considered these as "dangerous animals" as described by regulations and disposed of the two. A third diamondback was present but he (or she) and Parker both got away.

Park Biologist Moore read a paper at the annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute in Miami entitled: "The Stranding of Rare Cetaceans on the Florida Coast."

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

Unless war conditions prevent it, south Florida is expected to have the biggest winter season in its history. The storms up north seemed to have a stimulating effect already and 8,838 people visited the park in November which was about 3,000 more than in 1949.

VISITORS:

Mr. Harold S. Peters, Biologist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien, formerly of Natchez Trace Parkway.

RANGER SERVICE:

Patrols by boat, skiff, airboat, and motor vehicle were stepped up considerably in November in order to protect the park during the hunting season. Park rangers and wardens patrolled 3,743 miles in November, 1,465 of which were on land, 1,454 by water, and 824 on "a drop of dew" by airboat.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

On November 3, District Park Ranger Stephanic and Park Warden Winte were on patrol in the park's aluminum airboat along the east-west boundary in the northwest part of the park. They apprehended another airboat with three men in it from Chockoloskee Island. The men had in their possession the carcasses of three does and one buck deer as well as unsealed firearms. The three were arrested and arraigned before the U.S. Commissioner in Miami where they were released on bail of $200 each. Three charges were made against them: possession of the deer, possession of firearms, and operation of an airboat without permission in the park.

On November 24, District Park Ranger Barnes and Park Warden Winte apprehended six boys from Tampa and St. Petersburg with orchids and airplants in their possession. The boys, 14 to 19 years old, were given tickets stating that they had violated park regulations and released with the understanding that the school authorities would be contacted to determine what restitution would be made. All were students of the same school.

FIRE CONTROL:

Three glades fires occurred outside the park and were reported by local residents as endangering the park. Fortunately, favorable winds from the north and northwest caused the fires to burn out long before they reached the park. As mentioned under "Weather Conditions", some frost damage to grasses seemed to have made these flash fuels in places extremely susceptible to fires.

HISTORY:

On the morning of November 20, the first Service vehicle made its bouncing and churning way from Humpback to Coot Bay. For many weeks before that, all ingress and egress was by skiff up the canal. With funds at last available for maintenance of infamous Flamingo Road, Coot Bay will presumably never again be a remote outpost in a sea of liquid and semi-liquid. Park Rangers were seen wearing shoes in the area late in the month.

PERSONNEL:

District Park Ranger Edward P. Stephanic was promoted to the position of Assistant Chief Ranger. Park Ranger Ralph Maxwell was promoted to the position of District Park Ranger for the Cape Sable District.

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

Summary of the December 1950 Monthly Narrative Report
For
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Summary of the December 1950 Monthly Narrative Report
(Continued)

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
December, 1950

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

So far this winter, cold spells have been earlier and more frequent. Precipitation has been fair making up, in a measure, for deficiencies that existed during the rainy season. Late December rainfall brought sufficient inundation to the upper glades' regions of the park to permit airboats to operate from Loop Road to the park and down the Shark River Valley from Blue Shanty on Tamiami Trail to the Shark-Broad Rivers' headwaters.

Readings from stations were:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Total Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	83	77.2	34	51.5	2.82
Coot Bay Ranger Station	85	74.5	38	47.8	1.72
	-	-	-		
40-Mile Bend					2.41

INSPECTIONS:

Jorge Alvarez and Gordon Marshall, auditors from the General Accounting Office checked the payrolls during the month.

Edward Zimmer, Assistant Regional Director and Mr. Breeze, of the Director's Office, went over proposed Royal Palm Ranger Station development (contact-comfort station), Pine Island residential area plans, and Coot Bay development then about complete. They studied the existing fire tower and proposed 7-mile site from the aesthetic aspect. They also studied the sign program.

Mr. H.J. Spellman, Divisional Engineer of the Bureau of Public Roads, made his initial studies of the proposed and existing road. He foresaw less road construction difficulty than Service personnel have heretofore anticipated.

STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS:

All of the 1,210,000 acres of lands and waters within Everglades National Park now belong to the United States. Declaration of Taking for 125,000 acres of "holdout" lands was filed in the federal court at Jacksonville on December 4. The Department deposited $320,459 in the court as estimated just compensation for these lands to be distributed among 125 owners. Occupants of lands within the park were ordered to vacate same by February 4, 1951. Principal occupants were the commercial fishing companies at Flamingo.

This action brings to a close, except for court trials on contested tracts, one of the largest and most successful land acquisition programs so far undertaken by the National Park Service. Credit for the undertaking goes to the late Major L.M. Gray, Project Leader Albert Manly, and former Assistant Chief Counsel Donald Lee. Everglades National Park is one of the few Service areas having no internal holdings problem.

SQUATTERS ON PARK LANDS:

During December the Andrews Fish Company of Flamingo moved out, lock, stock, and barrel. They were occupying government lands purchased from Model Land Company and had been resisting orders to vacate the premises. Edward Brooker of Manatee Creek, on U.S. #1, moved from his structure also in December and Service personnel checked the area over for cleanup. Smitty's Place below Manatee Creek was completely eliminated. This just about finishes the squatter problem.

COMPLAINTS:

Numerous verbal complaints have been received because park boundaries are not marked in some of the strategic hunting country. Hunters using glades buggies and airboats on lands bordering the park stated that they are never sure when they are inside or out of the area. The perennial question is: "Would I be prosecuted if found inside an unmarked boundary?"

Efforts have been made to correct this situation, but funds have not permitted adequate boundary marking yet since posts must be set in open country.

Complaints are beginning to come in on the shortage of parking space at Coot Bay.

MAINTENANCE:

The recently gravelled surface of Ingraham Highway from Humpback Bridge to Coot Bay was bladed several times in December and gravel renewed where necessary. This section of the road has now been completely rebuilt.

NEW CONSTRUCTION:

The status of projects follows:

B-50, Temporary Store and Snack Bar - Coot Bay. The job is complete with fresh water being hauled and salt water being used in toilets.

B-51, Temporary Gas Station. This is complete and ready for pump installation.

B-1-1, B-21, B-22, Residences, Pine Island. Bids were rejected due to fund deficiency on two structures. Force account will be attempted.

B-2-1, Pine Key Fire Tower. Job completed.

B-9, Seven Mile Fire Tower. Bids have been prepared to erect this tower.

U-1-1, Water System, Paradise Key. Well drilled December 6, to 25 feet.

U-12, Test Well, Coot Bay. Well completed December 5, when flowing salt water was struck. The test well failed to produce fresh water at total depth of 522 feet.

CONCESSIONS:

National Parks Concessions, Inc., opened their snack bar at Coot Bay late in December. It was immediately popular and 308 meals were served. The gas station was not ready for operation.

A meeting was held with skiff and charterboat operators for the purpose of outlining a future course to follow when they go on a permit basis. Later, preliminary discussions were held with live bait dealers in the park.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE:

Seasonal Ranger-Naturalist Sheffield reported on duty and regular, daily nature walks were started for the winter season at Paradise Key. Attention was again focussed on Anhinga Trail which proves to be the best interpretive site so far developed in the park.

Talks given during the month were:

Park Naturalist spoke to Deland Tourist Club.
Superintendent spoke at the Dade County Sportsmen's Club and at the Tropical Audubon Society.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:

East River Rookery had no nesting birds on rookery keys on December 21. Records indicate that this rookery is behind schedule for one year, but seems to be about right for some other years. At Cuthbert Lake, the rookery was well formed by December 19 with wood ibis, Florida cormorants, and water turkeys in residence.

About 35 roseate spoonbills began nesting at Stake Key (in November). Tern Key was populated with around 30, some of which may have been nesting. The spoonbill situation for the winter was not well enough stabalized to permit a full appraisal of relative conditions for the nesting season.

A systematic sampling of alligator populations is being attempted by the park biologist.

Colorful birds (egrets, herons, and ibises) were moving from Joe River to rookery sites on schedule in late December.

On December 1, the park biologist read a paper: "Breathing and Breeding of the Florida Manatee" at a meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:

Travel figures continued to climb over previous years with 16,686 for December as compared with 8,500 in the same month last year. The predictions for an unusually heavy travel season in south Florida for this winter seem to be correct.

VISITORS:

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Davis. Mr. Davis is a representative of the Remington Arms.

Mr. Theodore T. Smith, of the Director's Office.

Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Daniels, of Cleveland, Ohio.

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

Mr. E.E. Peeples, of the Florida Power and Light Company.

Representatives of the "Voice of America" radio program.

Dr. Sten Karlberg, Royal School of Forestry, Stockholm.

Dr. Whalen, U.N. Dept. of Agriculture, of Switzerland.

RANGER SERVICE:

Total patrol mileage for protection personnel for the month was 4,580 with 2,687 by roads, 1,783 by boat, and 138 by airboat.

Most of the seasonal personnel were on duty at month's end. The majority of these men served in similar capacities at other national parks last summer.

Vincent Mrazek was appointed to fill the park ranger vacancy. Mr. Mrazek is a graduate of the University of Miami and, prior to appointment, was working at Hough Taylor Birch State Park at Ft. Lauderdale.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

The case of the United States v. Smallwood, Demeara, and Brown, was settled in December. The three men had been arrested for killing deer, operating an airboat, and possessing unsealed firearms in the park. They were fined $500 each, and given a suspended sentence of six months in jail and $1,000 fine. All three were placed on probation for three years. Smallwood is a charterboatman who, the week prior to arrest had bragged to "Salty" Mallantz, of the Miami Daily News that he could "go into the park whenever he wanted to in order to kill deer." Demeara used to be a commercial fisherman for Roberts in Flamingo. Brown runs a store for commercial fishermen at Chockoloskee Island. The judgement on this case had a salutary effect on the poacher ilk near the park.

LAW ENFORCEMENT (Cont.):

An airboat trip was made from Ingraham Highway eastward towards U.S.#1 to determine if the depth of water was consistent and to find the break-through at the lower reaches of Taylor Slough. Approximately 6 miles of shoaling water could be reached by airboat. The trip was exploratory and for the purpose of mapping future patrol routes. It indicated that Highway #27 (the Ingraham Highway) is a dike which retards fresh water runoff.

FIRE CONTROL:

Fire posters were erected along county road patrol routes early this season due to killing frosts that occurred on Dec. 19 and 20 all over south Florida. Nearly all grass and flashy fuel types were cured to such a degree that fire hazard conditions increased rapidly. Cool, cloudy and some days with light rains have helped considerably to retard fire occurrence so far. Local "old timers" have warned us of the severity of the present fire season.

Pine Key Fire Tower was manned beginning Dec. 18 and one fire reported from the tower that threatened park lands. Two reportable fires occurred with one started by hunters south of the Tamiami Trail near 40-Mile Bend and the other east of Long Pine Key started by farmers clearing lands. Radio communication to the tower is maintained by a mobile unit until a power plant is received from the manufacturer.

County authorities were requested to grade county roads used as our patrol routes which are from 3 to 4 miles from the park boundary to reduce fire hazards caused by the travelling public and local residents.

All available fire fighting equipment was nearly ready for immediate use except for new equipment items being purchased such as the low boy heavy duty trailer. Back pack pumps and hand tools have been installed in most vehicles used by rangers and others for roadside fire attack.

COMMERCIAL FISHING:

Mullet season was closed in December, but the usual "except" or "provided" of state law, the season was closed on black mullet only. This is quite correct because black mullet spawn in December and silver mullet spawn in the spring; but the law does not stipulate which mullet the season is closed upon. Reports were that Flamingo fishermen were stripping black mullet of spawn or roe which has a big market among the negroes of Georgia. The fish are thrown away and the spawn taken out of the park in private cars.

Combs Fish Company, of Tavernier, began purchasing gill nets as specified in proposed special fishing regulations for Florida Bay. As far as is known, nobody has purchased any new drag seines for several months.

Crossland Fish Company and Knight Fish Company both approached the superintendent in an attempt to get a change in the proposed regulations on drag seines. Both said that the national emergency should be considered. They were told of the policy followed by the government in World War II and assured that the Service could foresee no relinquishing of regulations.

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Florence S. Schwartz entered on duty on December 18 as Clerk-Typist, GS-3. She fills the position vacated by Robert N. Gentner when he was changed to the position of Supply Clerk (Storekeeper), GS-3.

DANIEL B. BEARD

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Superintendent