

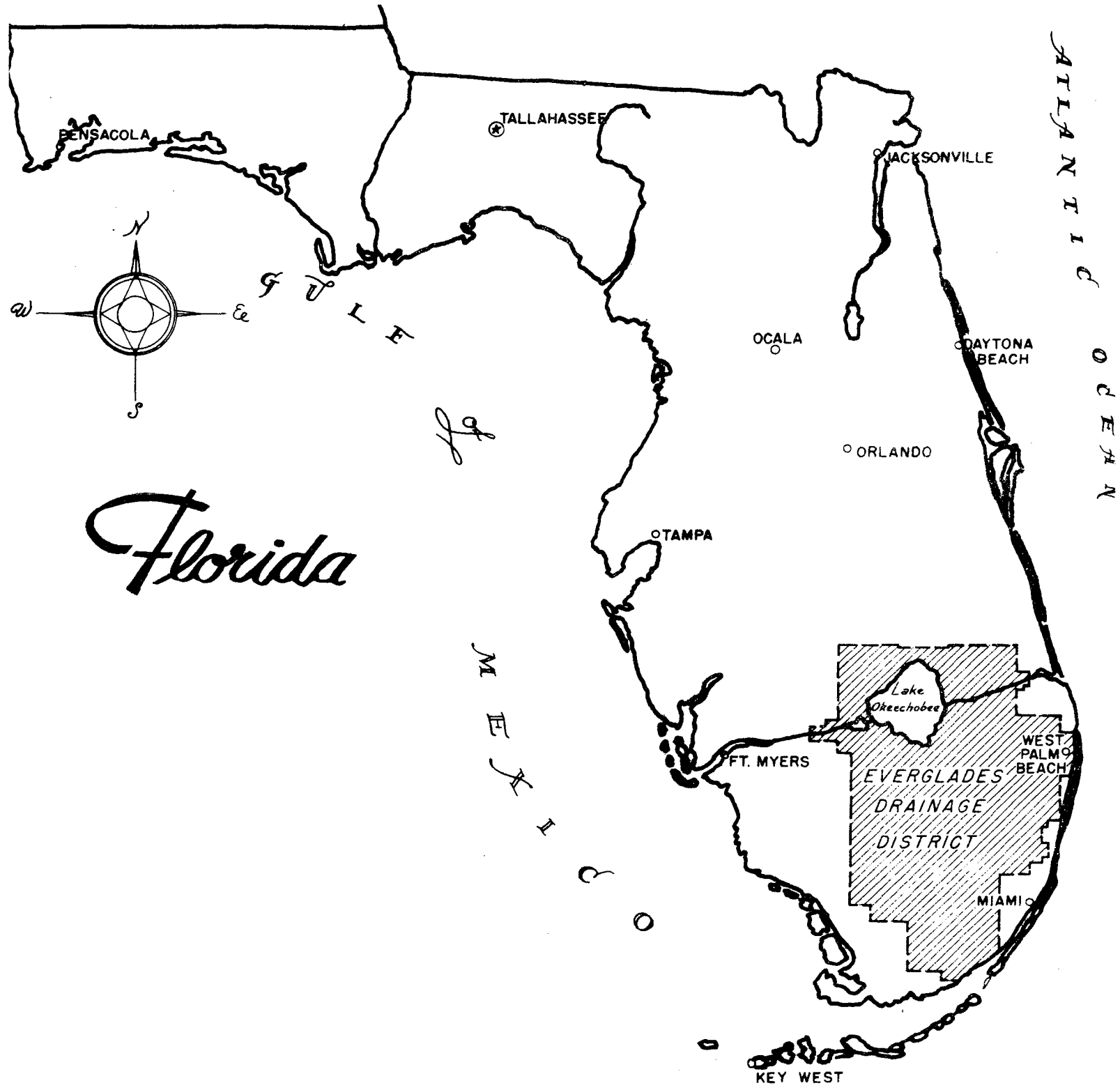
Warren D. Church
Sept. 17 - '47

TENTATIVE
REPORT
OF
FLOOD
DAMAGE

FLORIDA
EVERGLADES
DRAINAGE
DISTRICT

1947

551.57



PENSACOLA

TALLAHASSEE

JACKSONVILLE

OCALA

DAYTONA BEACH

ORLANDO

TAMPA

FT. MYERS

WEST PALM BEACH

MIAMI

KEY WEST

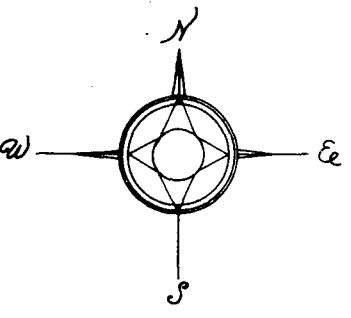
Lake Okeechobee

EVERGLADES DRAINAGE DISTRICT

Florida

ATLANTIC OCEAN

GULF OF MEXICO



TENTATIVE REPORT
SHOWING
ESTIMATED LOSSES TO AGRICULTURE,
HIGHWAYS AND DRAINAGE WORKS
IN
ELEVEN COUNTIES COMPRISING
EVERGLADES DRAINAGE DISTRICT
FLORIDA

Prepared By
EVERGLADES DRAINAGE DISTRICT

December 12, 1947

A C K N O W L E D G M E N T

To the Palm Beach County Resources
Development Board for assistance in
Compiling data and supplying some of
the pictures used herein.

FOREWORD

This report of losses covers only the eleven counties that comprise Everglades Drainage District. Information was obtained from County Agricultural Agents, County Officials, State Officials and Drainage District Officials.

Estimates of losses are not complete as flood conditions still exist in most places and damage is continuing to increase.

Losses reflected in this brief report are actual known losses to physical works and agriculture, or monies already spent in combating the present flood. Potential losses to business and in crop production cannot be determined at this time. It will be some time before the total loss can be evaluated.

The pictures attached to the report are only impressive to the extent that their full import can be visualized. The hardship, suffering and discouragement that accompanied the flood will leave bitterness in many minds. *The flood could have been averted if the drainage and levee systems had been adequate.* Most of the flood loss would have never occurred. Only when the Everglades has an adequate water control and protective system will the agricultural interests and coastal communities feel secure in their investments.

The ultimate total loss will exceed the cost of such a system. By the time potential crop losses, industrial losses, loss of labor, loss of use of homes, transportation losses and general loss to business in decreased purchasing power are evaluated, the price paid during the present flood would justify any reasonable expenditure for flood control works in South Florida.

ESTIMATED LOSSES TO AGRICULTURE,
HIGHWAYS AND DRAINAGE WORKS
TO
December 10, 1947.

Figures submitted hereafter in summary form by counties, State Departments or quasi-public subdivisions of the State are approximations only. A full estimate of damages will take months in determining and preparing. Damages to municipalities, which were very heavy, are not included, but will be compiled and furnished you as additional data to be added to this brochure. These estimates do not include hurricane damage - only damage from flood waters.

AGRICULTURAL LOSSES

Broward County

Citrus	\$11,066,000
Vegetables	925,000
Beef cattle and related losses	534,500
Dairy cattle and related losses	958,200
Poultry	121,650
Miscellaneous (Damage to 2,000 farm buildings, nurseries, sod grass farms, etc.)	<u>2,872,000</u>
Total	\$16,477,350

Collier County

Crop loss	<u>\$ 2,000</u>
Total	\$ 2,000

Dade County

Citrus and tropical fruits	\$ 35,000
Vegetables and seed beds	125,000
Dairy cattle and related losses	5,049,200
Beef cattle and related losses	150,000
Poultry and related losses	<u>475,000</u>
Total	\$5,834,200

Glades County

Vegetables and seed beds	\$ 6,000
Livestock, dairy and poultry	725,000
Improved pasture	400,000
Sugar cane	200,000
Ramie	<u>15,000</u>
Total	\$1,346,000

Hendry County

Citrus	\$ 100,000
Vegetable	30,000
Sugar Cane	374,400
Livestock and related losses	<u>175,000</u>
Total	\$ 679,400

Highlands County

Citrus	\$ 775,000
Vegetables, seed beds, etc.	500,000
Livestock	5,000
Improved pasture	570,000
Dikes, etc.	<u>110,000</u>
Total	\$1,960,000

Martin County

Citrus	\$ 170,000
Vegetables	1,198,400
Livestock and poultry	555,000
Dikes, etc.	<u>300,000</u>
Total	\$2,223,400

Monroe County

(No estimate available)

Okeechobee County

Cattle, pastures and related losses	\$4,000,000
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Palm Beach County

Citrus and tropical fruits	\$ 130,000
Vegetables and seed beds	2,820,000
Sugar Cane	1,250,000
Ramie	390,500
Dairy cattle and related losses	60,000
Beef cattle and related losses	<u>267,000</u>
Total	\$4,917,500

St. Lucie County

Citrus	\$ 382,000
Vegetables	3,960,000
Livestock and related losses	<u>2,610,000</u>
Total	6,952,000

GRAND TOTAL AGRICULTURAL LOSSES
IN ELEVEN COUNTIES

\$44,391,850

LOSSES TO COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM

<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Broward	\$ 705,961
Collier	10,800
Dade	2,200,000
Glades	200,000
Hendry	50,000
Highlands	75,000
Martin	315,000
Monroe	380,000
Okeechobee	18,000
Palm Beach	527,500
St. Lucie	30,400
	<hr/>
Total	\$ 4,512,661

LOSSES TO STATE ROAD SYSTEM

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Broward	\$ 61,000
Collier	412,000
Dade	29,000
Glades	25,000
Hendry	10,000
Highlands	----
Martin	300
Monroe	----
Okeechobee	----
Palm Beach	409,000
St. Lucie	<u>288,000</u>
Total	\$ 1,234,300

DAMAGE TO DRAINAGE FACILITIES

<u>District</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Everglades Drainage District	\$ 885,000
Sub-drainage Districts near Lake Okeechobee Area	1,500,000
Palm Beach County - Coastal	42,000
Broward County Sub-drainage Districts	172,710
Dade County (Expended to date)	125,000
Martin County	<u>25,000</u>
Total	2,749,710

Note: - In addition to the above the Federal Government has spent approximately \$400,000 since the middle of October in flood emergency work of repair to damaged drainage facilities and levees, and the Lake Okeechobee area sub-drainage districts estimate an operating deficit of Three-Fourth Million Dollars for the current fiscal year.

SUMMARY OF LOSSES

(To December 10, 1947)

<u>County</u>	<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>County Roads</u>	<u>State Roads</u>	<u>Drainage Districts</u>	<u>Total</u>
Broward	\$ 16,477,350	\$ 705,961	\$ 61,000	\$ 172,710	\$ 17,417,021
Collier	2,000	10,800	412,000	----	424,800
Dade	5,834,200	2,200,000	29,000	125,000	8,188,200
Glades	1,346,000	200,000	25,000	----	1,571,000
Hendry	679,400	50,000	10,000	----	739,400
Highlands	1,960,000	75,000	----	----	2,035,000
Martin	2,223,400	315,000	300	25,000	2,563,700
Monroe	----	380,000	----	----	380,000
Okeechobee	4,000,000	18,000	----	----	4,018,000
Palm Beach	4,917,500	527,500	409,000	1,542,000	7,396,000
St. Lucie	6,952,000	30,400	288,000	----	7,270,400
Ever. Drain, Dist.	----	----	----	885,000	885,000
Totals	\$ 44,391,850	\$ 4,512,661	\$ 1,234,300	\$ 2,749,710	\$ 52,858,521

PROSPECT FOR NEXT YEAR

The outlook for South Florida during the coming year is not a bright one. Even with only normal rainfall to contend with, much of the Everglades will again suffer flood effects next year.

Prognostication of probable rainfall, runoff and evaporation values to June 1, 1948, indicate that there will be an approximate average of 0.5 foot of water over the Everglades at that date. This is the date of normal beginning of the rainy season, after which rainfall may be expected to exceed greatly combined evaporation and runoff. With no ground storage available and water above the land surface to an average of 0.5 foot, the present canal system cannot prevent a flood next year.

Much of the 'Glades economy has suffered to the extent this year that another flood year such as this could prove disastrous to some sub-districts and individuals. During the present flood many sub-drainage districts depleted their operating reserve and are now operating on funds borrowed in anticipation of taxes. Statutory limitations control the amount that may be borrowed and a continuation of flood conditions another year may force cessation of operation by some of these sub-districts. Individuals are in a worse position; many of them will not recover the use of their lands in time for a winter crop.

Unless flood conditions can be averted next year, Everglades economy is due for a shock that will not only reduce the present rate of capital investment seriously but curtail greatly food production, employment and payrolls.

RESUME

The flood has not taken its full toll in the eleven counties of Everglades Drainage District, but the amount of damages to agriculture, roads and drainage facilities exceed \$50,000,000 to December 10, 1947. This includes no hurricane loss - *flood loss only is itemized.*

The area covered annually produces \$25,000,000 in value of vegetables shipped by rail alone; nearly \$9,000,000 in citrus fruits; \$15,000,000 in **s**ugar cane; and nearly \$12,000,000 in cattle, poultry and dairy products. The agricultural production of these eleven counties alone would justify a considerable expenditure for flood control.

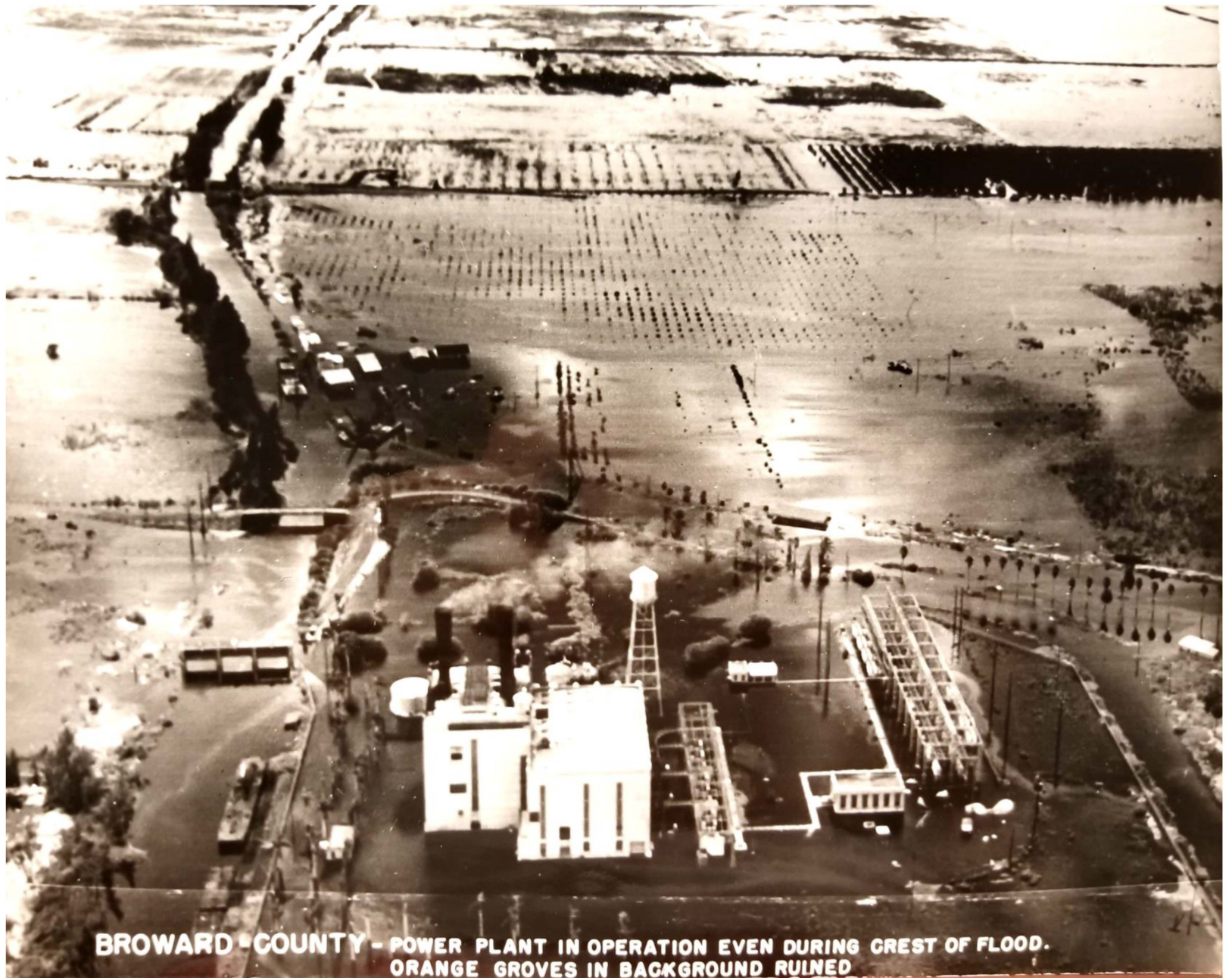
The area has received a shock during the present flood that may well affect its entire future economy. Another year of flood would be truly disastrous. With only normal rainfall for the next six months, the present flood will not be entirely dissipated by the beginning of the next rainy season. Normal rainfall next year may be expected to create flood conditions again unless means are found to provide increased drainage facilities and protective levees immediately.



BROWARD COUNTY - FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA FLOODED STREETS AND HOMES CREATE ENORMOUS DAMAGE MAKING HEAVY BURDENS ON TAXPAYERS



BROWARD COUNTY - WHERE SOME OF SOUTH FLORIDA'S MOST VALUABLE ORANGE GROVES ARE LOCATED, THESE FINE TREES DIED DUE TO FLOODS



**BROWARD COUNTY - POWER PLANT IN OPERATION EVEN DURING CREST OF FLOOD.
ORANGE GROVES IN BACKGROUND RUINED**



COLLIER COUNTY - GRAZING IS SCARCE AND WET IN MANY GLADES PASTURES



DADE COUNTY - MIALEAH RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS DISTRICTS UNDER WATER.
MIAMI SPRINGS IN THE BACKGROUND



DADE COUNTY - HIALEAH RACE TRACK. A WET TRACK AND NO CUSTOMERS



DADE COUNTY - CLOSEUP OF RESIDENTIAL SECTION OF MIAMI SPRINGS



DADE COUNTY - NAVAL AIR STATION , MIAMI IN BACKGROUND



GLADES COUNTY - WATER OVER ROAD TO BRIGHTON INDIAN RESERVATION.
THE INDIAN PRAIRIE CANAL IS FULL TO OVERFLOWING



GLADES COUNTY - HIGHWAY ON WEST SIDE OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE.
THIS IS THE MAIN ROAD IN THIS LOCALITY



HENDRY COUNTY - WASHOUTS AT BRIDGES WERE AMONG THE SMALLER DAMAGES BUT IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO THIS RANCHER AS HIS ROAD WAS OUT UNTIL REPAIRED



HIGHLANDS COUNTY - RANCH ENTRANCE. THE TWO EGRETS ON THE HIGH GROUND IN THE CENTER OF THE PICTURE ARE THE ONLY OCCUPANTS



MARTIN COUNTY - TOMATO TRUCK FARM NEAR PALM CITY, POST IN FOREGROUND WAS UNDER WATER



**MARTIN COUNTY - THIS IS THE MAIN HIGHWAY TO FLORIDA'S
WINTER PLAYGROUND - U.S. HIGHWAY NO. 1**



ONROE COUNTY - THE GATE TO THIS PASTURE WAS LEFT OPEN WHEN THE CATTLE WERE MOVED OUT



OKEECHOBEE COUNTY - CATTLE IN THIS PICTURE SEEKING HIGH GROUND NEAR THE ROAD



OKEECHOBEE COUNTY - KISSIMMEE RIVER USING ALL OF ITS MANY CHANNELS. CONTROL OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE IMPOSSIBLE WITH PRESENT FACILITIES. HIGHWAY TO WEST OF OKEECHOBEE CITY



PALM BEACH COUNTY - RAMIE FIELDS FLOODED. NEW RAMIE PLANT DAMAGED BUT WILL NOT BE NEEDED FOR SOME TIME BECAUSE OF LOSS OF CROPS



PALM BEACH COUNTY - FLORIDA COMMISSION CO. BATTLES FOR WEEKS TO STEM WATERS
ADVANCING FROM NORTHERN HIGHLANDS. CATTLE AND PERSONNEL
EVACUATED



PALM BEACH COUNTY - EQUIPMENT SHOWN HERE, USED IN PRODUCING FOOD, WILL BE IDLE FOR MANY MONTHS. HIGHWAY IN FOREGROUND UNDER WATER



PALM BEACH COUNTY - THIS IS NO PLACE TO STORE FARM EQUIPMENT BUT IT IS AS USEFUL HERE AS ANYWHERE NOW



BALM BEACH COUNTY - DROWNED CATTLE TRAPPED WHEN FARM LEVEES FAILED.
CATTLE AND PASTURE LOSSES HEAVY.



**PALM BEACH COUNTY - U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CANE BREEDING STATION
SHOWS RESULTS OF FLOOD. CANAL POINT IN BACKGROUND**



LM BEACH COUNTY - APPROXIMATELY \$6,000,000 ROAD DAMAGE RESULTED FROM FLOODS.
SANDBAGGING ON SHOULDER HOLDING BACK 18 INCHES OF CANAL OVERFLOW



PALM BEACH COUNTY - FLOODING OF SAND CUT MIGRATORY LABOR CAMP NORTH OF CANAL POINT NECESSITATED EVACUATION OF THE RESIDENTS. THESE FARM WORKERS WITHOUT HOME OR JOB



PALM BEACH COUNTY - GARDEN AVENUE RESIDENTIAL SECTION OF WEST PALM BEACH WHERE HUNDREDS OF HOMES WERE FLOODED, INCLUDING MANY NEW GI HOMES



PALM BEACH COUNTY - HERE ARE TWO OF THE MANY VEGETABLE FARMS THAT WILL NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE NATION'S WINTER VEGETABLE SUPPLY



April 26, 1948

Trans

File with
your
photograph
book

179

Mr. Lamar Johnson
Everglades Drainage District
Comeau Building
West Palm Beach, Florida

Dear Lamar:

I spent all day Sunday reading the poetry about
the cow. Now that "The Plan" is in the hands
of the poets I believe it is time for the preachers
to take it up in the pulpits. I would like to see
what the Baptist and Methodist have to say about
The Plan.

Sincerely yours,



R. Y. Patterson

RYP/el

C
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P
Y

Lonely Bovine Adrift In Floods Draws A Lament From 'Poetaster'

By **BUD HARVEY**
Post-Times Staff

Under that stout slide-rule beats a sentimental heart—in iambic pentameter.

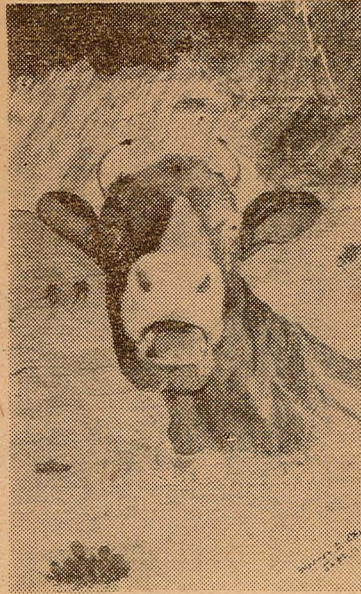
Hitherto regarded only as one who walks upon the waters and bares his greying head to the slings and arrows of outraged farmers, Engineer Lamar Johnson of the Everglades Drainage District today unmask. And, lo!—he is a poetaster, as we say in local poem-tasting circles.

Below appears, in its carefully unabridged form, Poetaster Johnson's "Lament for a Lachrymose Bovine." And, of course, there's a story goes with it:

The ode stems from a thoughtful and sympathetic study of Warren D. Church's now-fairly-famous sketch of a drifting cow, bawling piteously as it floats about a flooded pasture last fall. The sketch, after drifting around much in the manner of its central subject, eventually washed up on the desk of Ralph J. Blank, cigar-waving dynamo of the Palm Beach County Resources Development Board, who adapted it as the cover-piece for the board's photographic brochure on flood ravages which was distributed far and wide in Washington Congressional circles last winter.

It was in the Capitol that the sketch won its measure of fame, being picked up and published on the front page of the Washington Post. All of which brings us down to the present and Lamar Johnson's uncontested bid for the empty title of poet laureate of 20-Mile Bend and points west.

Last Sunday morning, as Johnson lay abed, debating the advisability of getting up at all, his eyes



"THE COW"

fell on a large painting of the crying cow presented to him recently by the artist, Church. As he brooded on the unhappy plight of the cow, Poet Johnson (on the rack, he confessed Thursday to being a contributor of poetry and fiction to some of the magazines) detected the fluttering wings of his muse.

And, before you could say "Hyacinths" in the West Palm Beach Canal!" Lamar had composed what he calls:

CRYING COW OF THE EVERGLADES

By **LAMAR JOHNSON**

Everglades Drainage District Engineer

Oh, mournful creature, why the tearful bawling?
Could it be expression of a sudden pain?
Or, is to you the lightning so appalling?
Surely you don't fear accustomed rain.
Neither could you suffer thirst with water about you,
Nor starve when verdant hyacinths past you swirl,
Perchance your calf has wondered on without you
And left you in your lonely water-world.

You could not mourn the sand-bagged levees broken,
Or of money, sweat and labor spent in vain.
The fight to save the parts, only a token
Of the longer fight through years of struggling gain.
Could your lament be for crops now inundated?
For once green pastures drowned whereon you stand?
You can not see the herds emaciated,
Or visualize the waste of flood-swept lands.

What care you for waste of food potentiality
When lives of millions hang upon their need?
You do not know that Communism's actuality
Is only one short step from need to greed.
You wonder not at engineering ponderosity,
Weighing relatively of blessing or of ban;
Nor heed the endless political verbosity
That somehow seems the basis of The Plan.

Come, Crying Cow, and tell us why you sorrow.
Could it be the grief of immediate need you bear?
Or, are you saddened because of tomorrow?
Is it hoofbeats of Four Horsemen that you hear?
I cannot help but wonder that in your face
And in the sadness of your pose is found
Prophetic answer to problems for the space
—Or is it merely that your calf is drowned?