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By Don Roberts

Florida Wildlife
November, 1951
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INVINCIBLE SEMINOLES

By BLANCHE McKNIGHT

The starting point of this narrative is Miami, but it takes in the vast, untamed Everglades—wildland of swamp and savanna, cypress head and hammock jungle, which Miamians jestingly style their city's 4 1/2 million-acre backyard.

From Miami's gold coast of pleasure, the famed Tamiami Trail runs west across the waist of the Everglades. Within 30 miles of the City Hall, one encounters an astounding anachronism, symbol of a vanishing civilization. In the canal, bordering the Trail, floats a hand-hewn cypress dugout; in the stern stands an Indian, a poised spear in hand. He wears neither hat nor shoes; nor any item of clothing worn in the city, but 40 minutes distant. His only garment is a one-piece, ankle-length, tubed shirt, belted at the waist. Like Joseph's coat, it is of many colors, bright, vivid, marking the wearer as a man apart from metropolitan Miami, which has mushroomed like magic at the edge of his wilderness.

A primitive fisherman, 45 miles from a center of swirling civilization, where airplanes purr, ocean-going liners dock, and a hundred thousand pleasure seekers bask in the sun! The Seminole still is almost as untamed as the Everglades itself.

Proud, unheedling, these colorful Indians (now numbering around 750) are the descendants of that determined, brave band of uncaptured die-hards, who refused to go west; who sought sanctuary at the close of the Seminole Wars, in 1842, in the Everglades and the Big Cypress Swamp.

Today, after a century of voluntary seclusion many of these Indians are slowly, reluctantly leaving their hammock homes for the white man's world of commerce and civilization. Drainage of the Everglades, timbering operations, forest fires, and the resultant depletion of the game, are largely responsible for this exodus, achieving what government efforts at persuasion failed to accomplish.

Today, approximately one-third of the Seminoles live on the 175,000 acres set aside for their use, on one State and three Federal reservations. The remainder still live in independent camps in the fastness of the Everglades, along the Tamiami Trail, and in the Big Cypress Swamp area.

Although the Seminoles are beginning to realize that to survive as a people they must learn new ways to earn a living, they still cling to old tribal customs, and still depend primarily on the forests and streams as a means of obtaining a livelihood. This is especially true of the Indians of the hinterlands.

To the scientist all forms of wildlife are of prime importance. To the Seminole only such flora and fauna as he can use—things he can eat, utilize for shelter, sell, or that menaces him, are important.

Like most Indians, the Seminoles are great meat-eaters. For years venison stew, together with sofkee, a thin, cornmeal gruel was a staple of their diet. The sofkee kettle still hangs hospitably over the camp fire during hunting season to be dipped into whenever anyone is hungry. But now venison stew has become a rarity. Strict game laws and necessary conservation measures have brought about this change.

The Seminole considers turtle of every variety a delicacy. The hard-shelled turtle, a native of lakes and ponds, as well as the soft-shelled type are prized. The gopher, or land turtle, however, is considered the "piece de resistance." The Seminole first locates his gopher with a prong, then digs him out, or pulls him out with a special forked pole.

He also kills and eats, in season, wild turkey, quail, dove and squirrel. These are often supplemented by luxurious morsels of marsh barn, ducks, geese and coot. Back in the 1920's and 30's when alligators were abundant he often fished on a gator tail.

But due to the scarcity of game.

(Continued on Page 22)
THE GATES are OPENING

By DON ROBERTS

A FIVE-DOLLAR PUBLIC AREA STAMP WILL GIVE YOU A PASSPORT TO MORE THAN A MILLION ACRES OF HUNTING HEAVEN

1. Apalachicola Wildlife Management Area 100,000 acres
2. Osceola Wildlife Management Area 65,000 acres
3. Steinhatchee Wildlife Management Area 195,000 acres
4. Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area 100,000 acres
5. Ocala Wildlife Management Area 185,000 acres
6. Tomoka Wildlife Management Area 50,000 acres
7. Fermont Wildlife Management Area 50,000 acres
8. Aya Park Wildlife Management Area 40,000 acres
9. Charlotte Wildlife Management Area 57,000 acres
10. Indian Trail Wildlife Management Area 45,000 acres
11. Collier Wildlife Management Area 350,000 acres
12. Hendry Wildlife Management Area 85,000 acres
13. "Eglin Military Reservation 350,000 acres

Although most Florida hunters don’t realize it as yet, the gates to good hunting are gradually being opened for them. Without the knowledge of the Department of Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, almost one and a half million acres of hunting territory have been opened up for him within the past three short years. This means, on the average, that hunting lands have been opened for each and every licensed hunter in the state as a result of a long-range program spearheaded by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Hunter-landowner relations have long been a major problem in most states in this country. Many good and true men have practically “beaten their brains out” in an effort to find a simple solution, but no acceptable, all-around answer has yet been developed.

Basically, the nation’s hunters have been faced with a situation where more and more public hunting lands have gone into private ownership, with a consequent posting and fencing of lands. Each year, the hunter has seen additional hunting areas closed to him, until it is now that there were just no more places to hunt.

On the other side of the fence, powerful landowners offered a beating at the hands of some hunters—fences cut or ripped, livestock shot, fences started, and crops trampled into the ground. In some cases, it was done in the best of good faith instances, no one could actually blame landowners for closing their land to hunters, even though some might do it selfishly.

Essentially, there was both fault and merit on each side. Both landowners and hunters had ground for legitimate complaints. Both looked and worked for a common meeting ground, but the double-edged problem seemed unsolvable.

Although the complete solution hasn’t been found as yet, the Florida Game Commission has made some remarkable progress in the right direction. The sportsmen and citizens should recognize this, for it is only with their assistance and backing that the program can continue.

We doubt that more than five per cent of the sportsmen, the sportsmen who are constantly complaining about this problem, realize that they have approximately 1,250,000 more acres of land, on which they are being guaranteed hunting privileges, than they did four years ago.

Such a sizeable piece of country, added to the remaining unposted lands in Florida, means, of course, that probably twice as many hunters will be able to bag game this season as would have been the case if the Commission hadn’t been “on the ball” for the last three years.

And the sportsmen, particularly the hunters, should also recognize the fact that their Commission has, under cooperative management agreements, opened at present closed to hunting, approximately 700,000 additional acres that are being used in conjunction with hunting leases to produce more of all types. In addition, there are approximately 760,000 acres of Service lands now eligible for management and open to uncontrolled public hunting.

Then it must be remembered that there are another 460,000 acres managed by the U. S. Air Force for Florida public hunting. The whole point is that there are more than 3,000,000 acres of land in Florida now under management of one type or another for public hunting purposes. And the program is being expanded as fast as possible.

In addition to the tremendous acreage managed by the Commission, there are 750,000 acres of really top-notch deer territory in Northwest Florida’s Eglin Field, which the U. S. Air Force has made available for public hunting. The Air Force in this case actually manages the hunts, but the Commission cooperates in both law enforcement and conservation practices.

Eglin Field, incidentally, produces the best public deer hunting to be found in the entire southeastern portion of the United States. Hunting may be had by purchasing the special Air Force permit, costing $2.00. Much of this area now has all the deer that it can support, and the average kill each season is one deer for every 10 hunters.

In undertaking this tremendous program of providing public hunting lands for the average hunter, the Commission has worked more or less quietly. Standard practice has been to contact private landowners and work out agreements whereby the Commission offers the owner certain rights and economic assistance in return for rights to public hunting in the area.

The Commission usually assigns a representative to the area involved in order to help the landowner in preventing cattle and timber theft, wood burning, and trespass.

(Continued on Page 33)
Guns of every type and period of firearms history were displayed on long tables—hundreds of them—ancient match and subsequent wheellocks, the varieties of flintlocks and snaphaunce; a long list of percussion-type arms; famous Colt and Smith & Wesson handguns; deliberate counterfeits of these same weapons, as made by disputable concerns of other generations; pocket derringers and so-called "gambler's guns" galore; and such oddities as a palm gun, built like a circular steel tape case and fired by squeezing the disc in the palm; and a double-barreled, percussion-type pistol, with a knife sandwiched between the barrels—to knife an enemy if need be! Modern guns and military arms of the United States, its allies and enemies of the 20th Century, helped complete the display.

An Ohio collector, Franklin B. Simmons, of Steubenville, displayed a collection of early Italian, French English, and guns of other countries, which were beautifully and ingeniously inlaid with gold and carved ivory. The matchlock, snaphaunce, wheellock, flintlock and percussion types were all represented, in many forms and fancies. Included in the collection, which Mr. Simmons arranged most artistically for public display, were two beautifully matched duelling pistols, along with two pistols presented to Lord Nelson by Lady Hamilton; and one bearing the nameplate of Louis Bonaparte, evidently a personal weapon of this historical French personality. Simmons' collection of guns is valued at a mere $300,000 on the current market.

Exactly when gunpowder was first discovered is a frequently debated point, but historians generally agree that the ancient populations of China, India, Arabia and Greece had chemical mixtures both fiery and explosive. Gunpowder was used in Europe as early as 846 A. D., for Roger Bacon, an English monk, mentioned it in his writings in 1264 as being a discovery prior to his own century. Again, in 1280, Bishop Albertus Magnus wrote that gunpowder was used during the siege of Seville, Spain, in the year 1277.

First powder burning weapons were basically crude hand cannons, fired by touching a lighted brand to the muskets, and later improved.

(Continued on Page 27)
Phltl .. la MeN M'tM'

The tide was in, and the people were using all sorts of fishing equipment—cone poles, deep-sea gear, and bait-casting rods—and all up and down the bridge they were reeling in good catches. Snook, ladyfish, jack's, pompano, sea trout, almost every species imaginable. For the incoming tide water brought all sorts and sizes of waterlife.

This started our story on Manatee County, and succeeding nights spent on that bridge and on trestles, piers, and other bridges gave us an insight into just one phase of angling opportunities of this county situated in the heart of the growing Gulf Coast region of Florida.

Major emphasis on fishing activities in Manatee County is given to the salt water areas: the still fishing off the bridges, surf fishing along all beaches of the county, particularly off Anna Maria Island. Longboat Key and Bradenton Beach; angling in the bay areas where there are thousands of acres of shallow salt water, many of which are used for spawning grounds because of protection from the open ocean; and last, and perhaps one of the best, of deep-sea fishing, going out 15 or 20 miles into the Gulf for a whirlwind of angling surprises.

Bill Schambert, who is prominently known in the state as the Florida ‘Fisherman,” because of his radio program each morning and evening on radio station WDHL, told us that the charter-boat fleet for fishing the bay areas and also out in the Gulf is a prime enterprise.

Many of the charter boat captains offer a sage bit of advice to the would-be angler in these areas: "Don't drop a hook in these waters if you're not prepared for sudden wind and wave surprises!"

In all salt water fishing, a real treat is in store for any "Florida Fisherman," because our county has it all. Our bridges are long enough to be considered proper "pier fishing," and our harbors are deep enough for scouting for bottom fish. Many of the fish we had encountered were in these areas; and the surf fishing along all beaches of the county, particularly off Anna Maria Island, Longboat Key, and Bradenton Beach; and lastly, our forays into deep-sea fishing, out 15 or 20 miles into the Gulf, were also productive.

An unusual aspect of fishing in Manatee County's salt waters seems to be the lack of fish in the area. We were told by a local who has fished these waters for many years that the fish are "just not there anymore." This may be due to the increase in pollution and the destruction of the environment.

However, we were able to catch a few fish, including redfish, snook, and sea trout. The fishing was good, and we were able to enjoy the scenery and the outdoors.

In summary, fishing in Manatee County is a great experience. The variety of fish and the opportunities for different types of fishing make it a worthwhile destination for anglers. Whether you enjoy surf fishing, pier fishing, or deep-sea fishing, you are sure to find something to your liking in this area.
Your per or sheepshead. All these and road of fishermen or a they play one can deny the importance of claim these. To add, to BrlDs to· many to FLORIDA WILDLIFE

Bridges in the Sunshine State'.

•• to bridge fishermen. The price of one kle and equipment needed to put a bridge fisherman in business for charter will buy all the fishing tac· son. The price of one

needs no charts to needs only buy home, him home, for FLORIDA WILDLIFE...

a yellow feather and a calçetta pole to take them all. The concentration of fish under the bridges is readily understood when you remember the bridges offer the two most important things in a fish's life—food and shelter.

... How many an old-timer he fishes at night. It's a special kind of sport with special thrills and special hazards, as many an old-timer can verify who opened his mouth to yell while leaning over the rail, adding his pearly dentures to the treasure chest of the sea.

The story of Florida's famous deep sea fishing has been told so well that every sportman in the country must by now be familiar with the Gulf Stream trolling waters and the mighty battles fought there. The wave of salt water fly fishing that has engulfed Florida in the past five years is a matter of well documented record. Bonefishing with a fly is holding its place in the sun because of the sheer artistry of its methods. Anyone who has felt the incredible power and seen the sizzling speed of a bonefish hooked on a fly will not soon forget it. Spin fishing with line of three to five pound test is now becoming popular. Surf and reef fishermen, using this light tackle, are making astonishing catches. Plug casters, using bass tackle, are hooking and landing tarpon weighing 100 pounds and over—all of which makes hardly a tremor among the legion of bridge fishermen.

Florida's bridges boast an army of fishermen—and with good reason. The price of one day's deep sea charter will buy all the fishing tacle and equipment needed to put a bridge fisherman in business for FLORIDA WILDLIFE.

There's a lot of fun on Jensen Beach's bridge across the Indian River.

While the boat fisherman uses cut or ground fish as chum to attract his quarry, the bridge man's chum grows naturally on the pilings and supports of the structure. Barnacles, small oysters and muscles multiply layer upon layer on the underwater parts of the bridge and the fish that feed on these delicacies take up a permanent abode. These include the sheephead, drum, rabbitfish and tripletail. Many small fish such as grunts and sailor's choice feed on the scraps from the table while the game fish feed on the small fry and each other. This cycle repeats itself endlessly, with the bridge fisherman taking his regular cut while contributing bait, odd bits of tackle, minnow buckets and such to the general pool.

Unlike mad dogs and Englishmen, all fish have an aversion to the noonday sun. In fact, they show a decided preference for the shade at all times. This makes good fishing for the bridge addict during those parts of the day when most other types have slow going. An old trick of the snapper fisherman is to prepare a large bait, lean over the bridge rail, and carefully toss it into the darkest spot of shade available, allowing it to sink to the bottom on a slack line. What oftentimes happens is a hair raising experience. Ten pounds of spotted seat trout caught on 10 open worth of tackle.

An honest-to-goodness flying fish taken in a dip net. A real rarity.
By FRED W. JONES

Although this writer has long since been a grandfather, every now and then we have an experience that makes us feel like a kid again. The first week in October, for instance, we went on our first managed deer hunt in the Apalachicola National Forest, and the "chief" of the hunting party was 84 year old "Uncle Burt" Summer. We being one of those guys who get more enjoyment out of the hounds than out of any actual killing of game, stayed with Uncle Burt a good bit since he worked the dogs.

Even our grandfatherly years paled to insignificance when compared with Uncle Burt's 84 years, and the amazing activity he showed gave us hope that, too, might be able to spend many more happy years in the woods with the hounds. However, following Uncle Burt also demonstrated to us that at actual number of years a man carries on his shoulders isn't so important after all. Old age evidently depends on other factors too. We found that following the old man was no man's job by any means. He can walk many a young man "plumb into the ground" as one man put it over the period of years at something over 800 and told us that he had walked like this during his 80s. Now, that sounds like a tremendous kill, and might even look doubtful at first glance. But one must bear in mind that Uncle Burt started his hunting probably some 60 or 70 years ago. And one can well imagine that game was very plentiful in those days. Also we might divest that heEarly big kill into Uncle Burt's many years and we'd get the sort-of-average kill of twelve or fifteen a year.

Then too, we must remember that back in Uncle Burt's prime, many folks depended on their game kill for their meat. Deer and bear were Ballard the year round. They both lived comparatively few people in this area when Uncle Burt came here and lots of deer and bear. It is, of course, a certainty that a man who has spent all these years in the woods would have had a lot of unusual experiences. Uncle Burt tells of the time he shot all the shells out of his shotgun with him at a big old bear. Bear and finally had to take to his heels with the bear not far behind.

However, within a few feet the bear dropped dead— from "shock" Uncle Burt says. He adds that he shot the hound on the bear like hail while they were skimming it. Most of the shot had lodged in the hide and the remainder had barely pene rate it. He says that not a single shot that had actually entered the carcass. He says that the force of the shot must have caused the bear to death, and stoutly denies that the shells in those days lacked power. He claims that the bear were just naturally more rugged than they are nowadays. (Or at least, that's the impression we got. We also got the impression that he considers the men of that time more rugged than we "youngsters". Of modern times). But of one thing there was no doubt—Uncle Burt knows his game and their ways. His accuracy in analyzing the trails we found and the courses the bear would take after dogs were on the trail, could not be excelled. It is likely that the good luck enjoyed by the party was in part at least, due to this ability. On this particular hunt, one bear was bagged the first day, and a second on the second. Last year only one bear was bagged on all four of the managed hunts.

Uncle Burt also told us of another peculiar experience he once had while deer hunting. He spotted the tracks of a large buck entering a hay one morning while riding through the woods. He tied his horse in a small clump of bushes, put his dog on the trail and waited. In about an hour, as he had expected, the deer burst from cover and took off across the ridge. However, rather than running in the open as Uncle Burt had thought he would, the buck ducked through all the trees, and he could not find it. The old man shot the deer as it went through one clump.

"To his surprise, he found the deer dead within a few feet of his horse. But this didn't make him mad since he was just as surprised as to how the deer could find the old man shot the deer as it went through one clump.

"To his surprise, he found the deer dead within a few feet of his horse. But this didn't make him mad since he was just as surprised as to how the deer could find the old man shot the deer as it went through one clump.

"I'm certain that more than a few GIs are thinking about the deer outside the tropics, and now that the curtain has been raised on the hunting season, that intricate little mechanism called the mind will cross the barrier of the years and bring back memories of never-to-be-forgotten jaunts in the woods and fields of yesterday.

"Do you think the soldiers and sailors will forget the trips to their old fishin' holes on various lakes, rivers, or streams throughout the country? You can bet your boots they won't. The memories, natives of this and other countries of the world have traveled the forests and fields, lakes and rivers, swamps and lowlands in search of the game, both as a source of food and as sport and relaxation of the mind and body.

"From here to eternity, this same process will take place as newcomers discover the strange but exciting feeling that one finds in following the trail of an offer found, invariably leads to wonderful and enjoyable escapes that will always be remembered.

"There's no air so fresh as that which comes from the country, and there's no feeling more prevalent, but sometimes hidden, than that of a person on his own, out in the woods communing with nature. Hunting and fishing is a way of life that is far and away more satisfying than the methods of exercising the prerogative that all of us may exercise when we want, to get off by ourselves away from the earthly things of life.

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Lockers, Home Freezer Preparing, Wholesale Prices
411 10th Ave., Palmetto, Fla.

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TAMANI CLEANING & LAUNDRY
Dressmaking, Alterations, Men's and Ladies' Clothing
933 8th Ave., Palmetto, Fla.

1951-52 HUNTING
RULES AND REGULATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Open Season</th>
<th>Day's Bag</th>
<th>Season's Bag</th>
<th>Possession Limit</th>
<th>Daily Showing Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marsh Hens (Rays)</td>
<td>Sept. 15-Nov. 13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>One-half hour before sunrise to 1 hour before sunset.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ducks</td>
<td>Nov. 22-Jan. 5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 Canada</td>
<td>3 Blue</td>
<td>One-half hour before sunrise to 1 hour before sunset.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geese</td>
<td>Nov. 22-Jan. 5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2 Canada</td>
<td>3 Blue</td>
<td>One-half hour before sunrise to 1 hour before sunset.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coots</td>
<td>Nov. 22-Jan. 5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>One-half hour before sunrise to 1 hour before sunset.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dove</td>
<td>Dec. 15-Jan. 13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>One-half hour before sunrise to 1 hour before sunset.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer (Bucks Only)</td>
<td>Nov. 20-Jan. 6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>One-half hour before sunrise to 1 hour before sunset.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squirrel</td>
<td>Nov. 20-Feb. 1</td>
<td>10 Grey</td>
<td>3 Fox</td>
<td>20 Grey 6 Fox</td>
<td>One-half hour before sunrise to 1 hour before sunset.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey (Gobblers Only)</td>
<td>Nov. 20-Feb. 1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>One-half hour before sunrise to 1 hour before sunset.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panther</td>
<td>Nov. 20-Jan. 6</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>One-half hour before sunrise to 1 hour before sunset.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>Nov. 20-Jan. 6</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>One-half hour before sunrise to 1 hour before sunset.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quail</td>
<td>Nov. 20-Feb. 1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>One-half hour before sunrise to 1 hour before sunset.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Duck Stamp required for taking ducks and geese.**
Use of all rifles prohibited when taking migratory birds. Use of .22 rim fire rifles prohibited when taking deer.

Shot guns must be plugged to 3-shell capacity.

*Only one sound duck permitted.
EXCEPT in Dodge, Broward and Manatee Counties where the season is Oct. 1 to Oct. 30th.
NOTES: Except for first 6 days, hunting in First, Second, Fourth and Sixth Districts is prohibited for deer, turkey, quail, squirrel, bear and panther on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Opening Day, Closing Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day open to hunting.

GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
TEAR OUT AND SAVE
NOVEMBER, 1951
The start of this hunting trip may well be the end. These hunters are guilty of (a) grabbing the gun with the barrel foremost, (b) taking gun out of jeep barrel-first, and (c) leaning on the lethal end of a gun.

Wouldn’t you hate to be one of the fellows in the front if that rear hunter’s gun went off? The first two men are carrying their guns correctly, with the barrels toward the sky.

Don’t shoot until you see the game. Here a hunter prepares to shoot into a thick brushy area where he’s certain he heard a turkey. It’s just another hunter using a turkey call.

Don’t drink before going on trips of any kind. Alcohol can be and often has been the cause of fatal accidents.

FUN OR FUNERAL?

By Tom Stevens

It all depends upon you this hunting season. Your hunting and forest fires will result in a lot of fun. Least several hundred hunters will others be injured.

Here, in these posed pictures, which herald advance notice of the members of various hunting parties in the past—mistakes ending in misadventure. Here, is a gun that will damper your enthusiasm yard.

Firearm safety is as old as the hills for America’s nightmares have turned deaths and injuries.

The cardinal rule of gun safety is:

Firearm safety is as old as the hills.

Other rules not to be taken lightly:

- Never carry empty guns with the action open while traveling in your vehicle. Gun safety means controlling the direction of the gun. Each”, and being sure of your target before pulling the trigger. Safe handling is the key to your favorite sport.

Water safety on hunting trips may be emphasized in Florida. For migratory bird hunting in some sections of the state involving boat travel away from the shoreline, boats are required to carry inner tubes and oars. A crowded boat or a boat with no equipment aboard is a definite liability while hunting is out on the water. The excitement of the hunt or the thrill of a kill may make for careless handling of the boat. Rain may also be an unlucky hand in the lives of those aboard, particularly those who cannot swim.

Remember this safety message: life depends upon it. How of carrying empty guns with the action open while traveling in your vehicle. Gun safety means controlling the direction of the gun. Each”, and being sure of your target before pulling the trigger. Safe handling is the key to your favorite sport.

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Remember this safety message: life depends upon it.

Will your hunting trip be fun, or end in a funeral?

There’s trouble afoot for this handy crew with no safety equipment in a small boat. Turbulent waters or excited hunters can overturn the boat and was is the hunter with heavy clothing on in a case like this.

A definite wrong in safety is shown as an overcrowded boat leaves the dock for a trip. An aerated jump from one of the children can send all passengers into the water for an unscheduled swim...if they can swim.

Watch where you aim your gun! This youthful hunter can easily blast his buddy’s head off as he tightens his trigger finger on an vicious waterfowl on one of Florida’s lakes.
FLY ALL THE WAY

Yes, why not fly all the way to your fishing lodge door? Let us meet you in an amphibian of the airboat and deliver you to your pleasure bound destination. Pick your own school of fish from the air—make a date. Then keep your date with a hook and line in the very shortest time.

Serving Southwest Florida’s Resort Islands Hotels

Gulf Airways, Inc.

WINGS OF THE TROPICS

AMPHIBIOUS CHARTER SERVICE

Phone 5-7271 — Night 2-J561
M. S. BOYD
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

November, 1951

FLORIDA’S FOREMOST ATTRACTION

On U.S. Highway 1, In South Daytona

Famous Dancing, Popoposes
Live Fish, Snakes, Barrels, Alligators
Guided Tours

BANCO’S SNUBBY-SNACK BAR

OPEN W8-A30 DAILY & SUN.
FRUITS, such as wild sour oranges and limes, an inheritance from the Spanish, buckthorn, wild grapes and plums, bananas, guavas, and papayas are plentiful and relished by the Seminoles.

The Seminoles grow excellent papayas on the ancient Indian shell mounds, scattered throughout the Glades. They also grow small gourds. These are not eaten, but when dried and hollowed out make splendid gourds and pipe bowls.

There is also a red wild pepper growing in the Glades, much prized by the Seminoles. According to Jessie jumper, now a Medicine man of the Big Cypress, "It is so hot that it will actually cause a blister on tongue and lip." This ambitious Indian, able to speak English, is also authoritative for the statement that wild potatoes have been dug from some of the remote hammocks, near Immokalee.

If all the wild, edible flora, previously mentioned, were completely harvested, the Seminole could still subsist on the delicious meat and rich sweet milk of the coconut.

Many of the finer indigenous to the jungle have been brought under cultivation by the Seminole. Perhaps the most important, from the Indian's viewpoint, is Indian corn or maize. Scientists today are generally agreed that maize originated from wild forms of ground corn. Today practically every Seminole has his little patch of corn, and it is not an uncommon sight to see women of the Big Cypress pouring corn into meal, with a cypress paddle in one mortar, hollowed out of a live oak log.

For shelter the Seminole LIKES turns to Mother Nature. The ordinary dwelling, or chickee, consists of six upright cypress poles, three on each side, a raised, hand-built platform and a gable roof of palmetto thatch.

The Seminole can erect a shelter in three days that will last three years, with an occasional renewal of thatch. The unincident but can also withstand the most violent hurricane and rain storm.

The palmetto roof, which in itself is a work of art, is efficiently practical. The palmetto fronds are easy to gather, and the roof is quickly made. It hangs low; keeps out rain, allows free-circulation of air, protects possessions, such as conch shell.

(Continued on page 36)

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(Continued on page 36)
THEY LOVE GUNS

(Continued From Page 9)

by the addition of a touch-hole near breech.

The matchlock, which utilized a burning wick, appeared in Europe about 1450. It was a cumbersome weapon at best, being slow to load, far from accurate and altogether useless in damp weather.

The wheellock, action, the first major improvement in firearms af-

fter the appearance of the matchlock, came about 1515.

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Walter Warren
Succeeds Peek
as Commissioner

Walter Warren, 50-year-old Loveland at
ton, has been named to the State Game
and Fresh Water Fish Commission by Gov-
ernor Warren. He succeeds Dr. E. C. Gurl
of Ocoa, whose resignation was accepted
by the Governor.

The new commissioner will represent the
Fifth District, and his appointment will
be effective July 1. Warren was born in
and educated in Palatka, later going to
the University of Florida. He is not related to
Dr. Peek.

Warren was born of these Smith & Wesson
revolving rifles were manufactured and, of
total, Smith & Wesson factories employ over
the story that most of them were bought by a
group of Irish revolutionists, the
Brabant Beach couple have the best idea yet. Mr. and
Mrs. Ray Glennon think they have a

specialists in their particular field of
ner— one may collect only
one make of gun, another only a cer-
taxe firearm as made by several
ous firms or individual gun-
makers; a third may specialize in the
collecting of familiar-engraved or
presentation pieces — but with the
matera of collecting any rare or
usual gun that happens to be
available. One thing is certain, how-
however: the members of the FGCA
all love guns. You can see such love
in their eyes when they talk with you
about weapons in their own, or other,
collections; it is reflected in the
amount and manner in which they
pick up a gun and hand it to you
for personal scrutiny, and equally
as obviously by their habit of wiping
off acid-forming fingerprints when
they hand it back. One finds such
display characteristics and idiosyn-
cracies only among persons who
love and appreciate gunpowder
burners, pieces of wood, and, in some
forma.

Meetings of the FGCA are held
quarterly, with the next joint meet-
ing held in Miami. Interested readers
should address Secretary Hammer, 150 Second
Street, North, Petersburg, for
detailed information.

The only thing that could make the
FGCA exhibits more interesting
would be for the original owners
to display guns, wearing the
styles of their respective periods and
occasions, to walk in and repose
their favorite firearms!
BROWN'S KENNELS
Brokers of
FIELD TRIAL AND SHOOTING DOGS
Dogs Boarded & Trained
High-Class Shooting Dogs For Sale
13 miles north of Bradenton on HWY 41
P. O. Box 974 Ph. 3-8216
Bradenton, Fla.

Braden, are considered salt water
domains, filled with finny little
fighters who return time and time
again, with the incoming tides. At
times, the two rivers become so
crowded with runs of snook and mullet
and redfish, that a person could alm-
ost walk on them. During these
times, 25-30-pound rooms are excellent
for bringing in snook weighing up to
25 pounds and many reds ranging
from 15-20 pounds.

Fishing in these fresh waterways is
like casting a line in a beautiful
countryside, in a tropical wonderland, for
the palm trees and the balmy breezes
and, the Spanish moss swings from
tree to tree as you navigate the
crooked river to your fishing spot.
All the fresh waters are loaded with
big bass and thousands of blue-
gills and shellcrackers. These places
thrive, but certainly not too many to
deter good fishing. Blue catfish are
also found in the Manatee, while
channel catfish are seen in great num-
bers in the Myakka River.

Hundreds of little bayous stretch
out, like many little fingers from a
huge arm, and more than one fish-
man has smacked his lips in anticipa-
tion as he notices the black bass striking
at the surface of the water. Many
days, the 20 to 30 feet, offer top
notch entertainment all during the
winter months for the man with a
fly-cord, red pole, spinning rod, or
just an old cane-pole.

Gamble Creek, near Parrish, and a
series of such places, in east Manatee
County, comprising about 25 acres
altogether, are noted for limit bass
runs. Many saltwater anglers
often spend their afternoons at the
pits, while the tide is out in the Gulf,
for the sake of sneaky and fishing.

Since the hunting season was still
closed at the time of this writing, we
regard ourselves, to tell us a little
about what field and forest wildlife
opportunities were present in Man-
atee County. Deer and turkey are pro-
tected in this county, but, without a
doubt, many hunters offers some of the
good quail and dove hunting in the enti-
tire state. Both Wildlife Officers of
the section, R. C. Cook and H. O.
Whittle, corroborate this statement.
Cook said he saw quail coves "con-
taining up to 21 birds in many areas.
Large flocks of dove visit Manatee's
farmlands annually, and shooting
doves seems to be one of the better
ways residents spend leisure hours
during hunting season.

Last year the State Game and Fresh
Water Fish Commission restocked
Myakka State Park with a few wild
turkeys and deer. Just recently, wild-
life officers counted 44 turkeys in one
bunch, 36 in another flock, and 160
others throughout the park area. They
also counted about 75 deer which have
multiplied from the original 29 stock-
et there in November, 1950.

Both Cook and Whittle were out-
spoken in their praise of what a good
turkey and deer hunting area the
county will be in 1955, when the hunt on
turkey and deer is expected to be
lifted.

X of the hunters in this county are
average sportmen, who try to get
in most of their hunting on weekend
trips, and targets for their guns in-
clude such animals as opossum, rac-
coon, squirrel, wild hogs and rabbits.
The county has its fair share. Wildcat
and panther hunting seems to be
fairly good in the swamplands and
thick, rough country around the
Myakka River.

Migratory bird hunting, ducks, partic-
ularly, is done on the flatwater
ponds and many bayous of the Myakka
and Braden Rivers. Last season,
quite a few mallards, blue-winged teals
and wood ducks were bagged by hunters.

Public hunting grounds in the
county itself include open lands on
both sides of the Braden River, a
15,000-acre plot south of the Arcadia
Road, several small plots north of
Myakka City, and some areas east
of U.S. Highway 1. Deer and turkey
hunters make regular trips each year
to the Everglades in Collier County,
and to Gulf Hammock in Levy County,
and to Lee and Taylor counties.

Yes, the hunting is good, partic-
ularly, for quail and dove, but the
fishing by far is the greatest activity
for sportmen in this area, with
thousands of acres of both salt and
fresh water in which a fellow may spend a pleasant afternoon, enjoy the
cool breezes, eat yams with domes of
others and match wits with the best
discouraged population at the offer.

ATTENTION PLANT CITY
If you live in or near Plant City, you
can listen to Florida Wildlife On The Air.
The show airs at noon over WPFA-The
Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's
informative hunting and fishing program
brought to you on WPFA by your Western
Auto Associate Store, S. Drane and Collins,
Plant City.

STICKS AND STONES
(Continued from page 32)

THAT SMALL LAKE QUESTION
As you probably know, a suit is pending in this county testing the right of the public
to fish in so-called privately owned pri-
vately owned lakes in excess of 150 acres.
I get so many requests for information from sportmen who have read the ques-
tion and answer section by Professor Smartie, page 15, of the January, 1951, issue of
FLORIDA WILDLIFE Magazine that I am wondering if it would not be to your
advantage to make some statement in the next issue clarifying the position of the
State with reference to lakes in excess of 150 acres.
My thought is that this simply the matter and save all of us a lot of corre-
spondence if someone would put in a state-
ment referring to that previous opinion by Professor Smartie to the effect that "Florida
Statutes provide that lakes with an area of
more than 150 acres are automatically
State property," and, "there is no hard and
fast ruling preventing land owners from
barring the public from such lakes, since
individual cases vary and must be settled
through court action."
I suggest a statement to the effect that it is now suit and a court
decision will clarify the situation in
the future.

Attorney for Osceola County,
LAWRENCE ROGERS,
Kissimmee.

COMPLIMENT FROM ILLINOIS
Please accept my compliments for your
five found in the FLORIDA WIL-
DLIFE.
I was particularly impressed with the
striking cover piece, the hound and corn,
and would greatly appreciate your furnish-
ing with copies of the same for use
in the November issue of our publication
OUTDOORS IN ILLINOIS.
We will, of course, give full credit for the photo to FLORIDA WILDLIFE.
W. P. MOLONEY, Supervisor, Public Relations, Illinois Dept. of Conservation,
Springfield, Ill.

Ocala

SILVER SPRINGS
AAA APPROVED

GORGEOUS MOTOR COURT
1014 E. OCKLAHAWA AVE.
(Silver Springs Blvd.)
• Air Conditioned
• Hot Air Heat
NEAR FINE RESTAURANTS

WELL STOCKED INLAND LAKES OR RIVERS FOR FRESH WATER
ANGLERS! THE ATLANTIC OCEAN FOR OLD SALTS!

VOLUSIA COUNTY

WINTER SPRING

Windy Hill Ranch

Tom Flowers Fishing Guide

Carved Wood Fishing by appointment only, on the St. Johns River
Fla. Inland 1006

Frank Lepke Fishing Camp

Oak Bch. Fl. 78
New Smyrna Beach 357-5

Erred Lopez Fishing Camp

Oak Bch. Fl. 78
New Smyrna Beach 357-5-1

Chardon Boat "DOC" 49
New Smyrna Beach 357-5-3

Captain Bo "Skippy" New Smyrna Beach 357-5-4

Pen Beach 357-5-5

Mary's Fishing Camp

New Smyrna Beach, Fl.

Ted and John's Fishing Camp

New Smyrna Beach, Fl.

Bass, Barrier, Rainbow Trout

Golf

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

THE GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

distributed on the strength of
Sporting Goods & Sports Equipment

1 A LARGE STOCK TO SELECT FROM

WHEN IN Ocala VISIT US!

Marion

Hardware Co.

"If it's Hardware—We Have It!"

Ocala Phone 1581 FLA.
Hunters Are Urged To Be On The Alert For Marsh Fish Bonds

All East coast hunters are urged to stand the leg bands from the clapper rails, or “marsh hens,” they shoot this season to either the Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, D. C., or to their nearest Federal or State conservation official.

Scho cooperation, according to Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director James Silver of Atlanta, will aid in insuring the future of good hunting for this species by providing more information on which to base hunting regulations aimed toward the maximum harvesting of these birds without endangering the breeding stock.

Mr. Silver stated that Fish and Wildlife Service biologists have had particular success this summer in marking more than 500 of these elusive birds with numbered bands of aluminum. Banding operations were centered in the marshes at Chincoteague, Va., one of the most productive breeding grounds of clapper rails on the Atlantic coast.

If hunters spot such birds, he said Mr. Silver, the Service will be able to determine what proportion of these rails are bagged before they leave the area in which they nested, as well as the extent to which the birds move away from their breeding areas and thus supply shooting in the marshes farther south.

Service experts believe that the supply of marsh rails this year will be adequate for a successful shooting season.

GATES ARE OPENING
(Continued from Page 7)

Commission may also furnish other services such as fencing. The landowner, of course, also benefits by increased public good will that results from common knowledge that his property has been opened to public hunting under supervision of the Game Commission.

Recent opening of 45,000 acres of private lands in Palm Beach county to public hunting is a good example of how this system works. Through cooperative efforts of Henry L. Cohn, president of the Indian Trail Ranch, Inc. and personnel of the Commission’s Division of Game Management, a 15-year lease was signed. Under the lease, the Commission gained full control of all wildlife management rights to the tract of land. In return, the Agreement cited to do a certain amount of fencing and also furnish a permanent wildlife officer to help prevent trespass and other offenses.

As a result of this effort, the hunters of Florida gained 45,000 acres of public hunting lands offering good deer, turkey and quail shooting. The Indian Trail area is to be opened to a public hunt for the first time beginning with the 1950-51 hunting season.

Probably the single most outstanding example of this work undertaken by the Commission is the Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management area. Covering 100,000 acres of public hunting lands in Levy county on the west coast of Florida, Gulf Hammock offers some fairly good hunting this season. Deer stocks are fair to good here and the scattered hunters should do considerably better than last year. Waterfowl hunting will be good, while quail hunting will be only fair to poor, and turkey hunting will be none too good because of serious damage sustained during last year’s hurricane. These estimates, however, are made by O. Earle Pye, chief game biologist of the Commission.

The Gulf Hammock project is especially notable since it was the first privately-owned Commission-managed area in the state, and, as such a basic model for other managed areas that have followed.

Realized on the list is the Steinheisch Wildlife Management area that encloses 190,000 acres of good deer hunting, as well as fair hunting for turkeys, ducks, and quail.

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on all other game species except quail.
Another well-known area is the Collier County Wildlife Management area. Formerly a breeding ground for mourning doves, it now supports 50,000, or a 40 percent decrease. It was a fair deer hunting and some of the best turkey hunting found within the state.

Bird hunters have been offered an outstanding deal in the Charlotte County Management area. This 62,000-acre area has 57,000 acres open only to quail hunting. It actually offers some of the finest quail hunting in the state.

The Charlotte area is the only land on which a special quail hunting permit is required. The bird management program is so expensive for the Commission that funds to continue operation must be derived from the special licenses.

All other areas opened to public hunting this fall, the Commission, incidentally, may be hunted by any hunter who buys the $5.00 public hunting stamp available when the hunting license is purchased. This stamp is good in any area where the hunting license is valid. For his $5.00, the Florida hunter holding a state license plus stamp gets the right to hunt on any or all of these management areas, except the quail license stamp.

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for all other species except turkey, which are protected.

Another "hundred yard" area is the Apalachicola Management area, where 116,000 acres are open for hunting. The gates to public hunting lands will be opened to deer hunters for the first time. This National Forest area, in Liberty county, contains a pretty good stock of deer this season.

Other hunting lands open to the public this season under Commission management include the Osceola National Forest area in Baker and Columbia counties. Osceola, this year, will be the scene of an unusual experiment for Florida hunting—the area will be open to deer hunting without dogs. This trial run of non-dog deer hunting may help settle the running battle of words that has long taken place between dog lovers and haters.

Hunters in Volusia County area may take advantage of two wildlife areas management areas, the Tomoka and Ponceau areas, each of which contains approximately 50,000 acres of Commission controlled land.

The final area overseen by the Commission, insofar as public hunting is concerned, is the Avon Park Bombing Range in Highlands County. About 35,000 acres are open to weekend hunting this year, as well as some good quail and deer opportunities for Florida hunters. The area will not open to turkey hunting this season.

All of the areas so far mentioned do not even take into consideration the hundreds of thousands of acres of unposted lands, nor the immense acreage that hunters may hunt upon if they only ask the landowner for permission.

To sum it all up, Florida hunters have a pretty fair opportunity to bag their favorite game this year. They are not being neglected.

Next year, deer will undoubtedly be more and more acreage opened to public hunting. There seems to be no limit to the acreage that the Commission will eventually be able to open for Florida hunters without the limits of finance and manpower. To continue the program, the Commission will undoubtedly need the assistance of the sportmen themselves.

Contrary to what you may hear, the Florida hunter has no trouble hunting lands this season than he had in the past any years. For the gates to public hunting lands are steadily being opened by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

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**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

NOVEMBER, 1951

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and herbs, hung on the rafters, and provides a surprising amount of privacy. These platforms, which are bed at night, put workshops and living room by day. There are no tables, chairs, or other furniture. Privacy is desired the Seminoles hang a cotton cloth or skin on a thatcher. Seminole camps usually consist of four or five family chiefs, clustered on about an acre of cleared, dry land, with the cooks, or camp, fire, in the center. In the black muddy waters surrounding the cleared area, the poster and the deadly water moccasin which contrast strangely with the hair of egrets’ wings taking sudden flight over the Cypress swamps. These dismal swamps where the Seminoles choose to live are also the home of the brilliant roseate spoonbill, the snappy black and white ibis, the little blue heron, the “swallowing” dragonfly, whooping cranes and other birds relatively harmless, but with the establishment of the Everglades National Park in December 1947, and with game laws becoming more protective each year, these gay creatures which brighten the monotony of these dreary wastes are no longer in danger of extinction.

The Seminoles’ biggest event of the year is the Green Corn Dance. It marks the beginning of a new year, and it is an occasion for festa dancing, dancing, shopping, purifying and rejoicing. Green corn may be eaten until now, so the time when the world, or chief, drunck the “Black Drink,” or tea, is coming.

In this drink acts as an emetic, and is said to cause one to enter participation in the ceremony. The Green Corn Dance also marks the time when the Five Wise Coun selors, or tribal leaders, who govern in and other.”

INVINCIBLE SPOONBILLS (Scientific name: Platalea ajaja)

INVINCIBLE SPOONBILLS (Scientific name: Platalea ajaja)

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