

NARRATIVE REPORT

PEA ISLAND MIGRATORY WILDFOWL REFUGE

MANTEO, N. C.

YEAR 1940

P E R S O N N E L

Army:-

Mr. Julian H. Foster, Commanding - - CCC Commander
Mr. Allan R. Minor, Jr. Officer - - CCC Subaltern
Dr. J. C. Weeks, M.D. - - - - - -- - Contract Surgeon
Mr. David R. McCain - - - - - -- - Educational Advisor

Technical
Service:-

Mr. Harry A. White, - - - - - -- - Chief Foreman Constr. & Maint.,
Mr. Charles S. Richardson - - - - - -- - Under Clerk
Mr. James M. Vannote - - - - - -- - Jr. Foreman Constr. & Maint.,
Mr. William Lloyd Warren - - - - - -- - Squad Foreman
Mr. Oliver D. Bailey - - - - - -- - Truck & Tractor Mechanic
Mr. Harry T. Hayman - - - - - -- - Drag-line Operator
Mr. Horace G. Hayman - - - - - -- - Drag-line Operator
Mr. Earl R. Keller - - - - - -- - Drag-line Operator
Mr. Joseph C. Blume - - - - - -- - Machine Operator
Mr. St. Clair Midgett - - - - - -- - Unskilled Laborer (Drag-line Oil)

GENERAL COMMENTS

EDUCATION

The educational program at this camp has not played as active part in the life of the enrollees as we would like to have, There have been several instances which I would like to mention in this report.

All Technical Service personnel taught classes in the evening with the exception of the drag-line operators and oiler. It has been impossible to place them in the educational program due to the hours of work.

Two enrollees have been able to get enough start in the poultry class to enter the poultry business for themselves after being discharged from the camp.

Two have been able to secure work as an electrician's helper through the work in the "house-wiring" class. These men have been able to secure a promotion after being employed as a helper.

The carpentry class has enabled one man to secure work as a carpenter with a local contractor.

One truck and buss driver has been turned out in the Truck Driving class. This man is making a good record for himself and I have been informed that he is up for promotion at an early date.

Job training in the field has also played quite a part in securing work for the enrollees after they are discharged from the camp.

Three men have been discharged from the gasoline and tool department during the year to accept positions. One of these men was able to secure a very good position as assistant parts room attendant and two were employed at filling stations.

Three truck drivers were employed in each of two periods during the year. These men received training in the field in the care of their truck and safe methods of truck management.

The best tool sharpener the camp has ever had secured a very good job at a saw-mill as saw filer. While the Technical Service lost a good man we were very happy to be able to enable the man to better himself through job training in the blacksmith shop.

Other workers in the field have gone out into the field of private employment and find that training received in camp has a great effect in their field work.

Two periods per week of one half hour each are devoted by all crews in training for the job at hand. As the sections change regular work it enables each to cover quite a variety of subjects.

SAFETY

There is not so very much to say about our safety program for the past year other than to mention that it has worked very satisfactorily in every respect. Two one half hour periods per week are devoted in the field in addition to the safety meetings in the camp. At these field meetings points noted by members, sub-leaders, leaders, foremen and the

camp superintendent on regular routine field trips are brought out and given a round table discussion with the special discussions being made by the members and sub-leaders. The leaders and foremen merely lead the discussion and bring out the points - I have adopted this method because I believe that it causes the members, who are the ones usually in the most dangerous positions and cause injury to one another, to become more safety minded. An effort has been made to make each man feel that he is responsible for others as well as himself. To this I believe that we may have succeeded.

I am very happy to report that no lost time accidents and no minor accidents have been reported during the fiscal year. There have been also no motor vehicle accidents during the year.

I believe this record is caused by an attempt to keep each man, regardless of his station on the work project, ever watching for dangerous points and feeling that it is his duty to call attention to them.

WORK PROGRAM 1940

I would like to state in the beginning that I believe that very good success has been made on all work projects under way during the period.

Two ramps have been completed on the dykes. In the past before these ramps were completed the public, traveling from Oregon Inlet to points south of the refuge, were accustomed to going over the area without regard for any form of migratory wildfowl. The dyke after being thrown up created a serious menace to this travel because it was almost impossible to cross them without sticking, but since these bridges were completed the public remain on the established trail and cross the dyke without trouble on the bridges. This permits the usual flow of traffic without scaring the wildfowl as was the case before the bridges were constructed.

There has been 285,140 cubic yards of sand thrown up on the second dyke, which is located north of the one completed last fiscal year. While this dyke is far from being completed at the present time it marks the beginning of a second fresh water pond for use by the various types of wildfowl which stop over on their annual flights. The dyke at the end of the period was approximately 6380 lineal feet long.

To prevent wind erosion of the sand after being thrown up by the drag-line the dyke was planted at 12" spacing with grass to act as a windbreak.

During the year the following trees were planted at the toe of the dykes and upon the lower edge to provide shade and anchor the sand in place:

1. Mimosa - 8,100
2. Live Oak - 900
3. Myrtle - 500
4. Locust - 4,600
5. Loblolly pine - 5,000

Total - 19,100

218 pound of seed were collected by the enrollees of this camp. While this amount was practically all shipped to other refuges throughout the country it will aid in food cover planting in other areas of the country.

204 acres of ground was sodded with food grasses on the areas denuded by the snow geese two winters ago. The grass was getting a good start again and had practically covered the ground in a solid sod at the time the snow geese arrived last winter. I regret to say that again they denuded the area and all the work we spent on this project was undone in a short time by the snow geese.

236 days were spent fighting forest fires. While this was not on the Pea Island Migratory Wildfowl Refuge, it greatly affected the program in as much as the work was done in protection of the materials which will be carried to the refuge at a later time in the development of the refuge program.

One of the main projects of this camp for the past year has been the creation of a foredune along the eastern boundary of the

refuge by means of a sand fence. This fence is not so very uniform in size throughout the length of the refuge and varies from approximately eight feet in height and twenty feet in width to over twenty feet in height and one hundred seventy five feet in width. A stress has been made to increase the height in front of the fresh water ponds, so that in event of extremely high tides or a storm along the Atlantic Coast we would have greater protection for the fresh water ponds and dykes than at the northern and southern ends of the refuge. Before the program is completed we hope to be able to have a very uniform foredune in size throughout the length of the area.

3,000 concrete fence post were constructed during the year for use at this and other refuges. The construction of these post will enable the various refuge managers in controlling the movement of the public and aid in law enforcement on the refuges where these post are used.

Several various types of wildlife improvement and check upon the migratory wildfowl has been carried on under Other Wildlife Activities which are too numerous to mention. Among the most prominent are banding of wildfowl with the refuge manager, pulling of undesirable plants from the fresh water ponds, burning undesirable grasses and weeds on areas to be planted in food cover, and items of a similiar nature.

I believe this completes the "high lights" in regards to the development of the refuge. I would like to mention that during the year this camp made quite a place in the community of Manteo by it's aid in combatting the fire on September 11, 1939 which threatened to wipe the entire buisness area as well as the major portion of the residential area.

It was estimated that at least nine stores, two garages, and five dwellings were saved by the efforts of the enrollees not including the dwellings which were vacated and use of first aid equipment in event of injuries. Fortunately no one was seriously injured in the fire and no enrollee received an accident of any nature what-so-ever.