

FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION DIRECTOR'S MEETING - ZEPHYRHILLS, FLA.

July 10th - 11th, 1954

DeWitt Upthegrove and Alfred Henschel arrived in Zephyrhills from West Palm Beach at 11:30 a.m.

We checked up on the Wolverine Motorette for the Purleu and hotel accommodations, also the Florida Power & Light Co. office where the meeting was to open Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Attended the Chicken Purleu supper at the Wolverine Motorette Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m., and had a very nice time. Met lots of people from all part of the state and got our bearings for the following day. About 100 were in attendance including ladies.

We met with Dr. H. R. Wilber, President of the Federation, Mr. Don Southwell, treasurer and Fred Gill, Secretary of the Federation also treasurer of Pasco County Fish and Game Club; Mr. Charlie Pace, Director of Florida Fresh Water Fish and Game Dept.; Mr. Johnson from Crystal River Game Club and several others, at the Zephyr Hotel about 7:30 p.m.

We had a good discussion on what was going on and heard lots of various persons opinions, including the fact that there was a feeling within the group and from parts of Florida that Air Boats should be outlawed. We think we succeeded in convincing them that the Air Boat owner and operator were good sportsmen and not as bad as they thought. They then seemed willing to work with us for a control of Air Boats which would be agreeable to all. The meeting broke up at 11:30 p.m. and we retired to our cottage.

FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT CO. OFFICE'S SUNDAY, JULY 11, ZEPHYRHILLS, FLA.

Dr. H. R. Wilber called the meeting of the delegates of the Florida Wildlife Federation to order at 9:30 a.m. He made an inter-

esting talk on the past activities and accomplishments of the Federation and informed us that the Federation works with and supports the Florida Fish and Game Commission, also the National Wildlife Fish and Game Federation of which the Florida Federation is a member.

A report on the destructive effects of the Red Tide in the Gulf on the fish was given and we were told that biologists were studying the situation and trying to stop it, stating methods used.

Several good speakers from various parts of Florida were heard with discussion on what was happening to the natural resources of Florida.

Mr. Charlie Pace, Director of the Fish and Game Commission, spoke on licenses and the need for more funds for his commission to carry out their program. He asked for support on the licensing of cane pole fisherman for \$1.00, with all in favor of it.

DeWitt spoke on behalf of Air Boats and asked for their good will. He stated that the Air Boat was here to stay, that it was growing into another great attraction to tourists and that it was also being used for commercial purposes. We were informed by President Dr. Wilber, that the Federation would support us if the Air Boat clubs of Palm Beach County would get together with Broward County (whose delegate was present) and the Dade County Club (which was not represented) and work up a bill agreeable to all. Mr. Pace informed us he would be glad to meet with us and help all he could, that his his commission would cooperate as much as possible. He said that the Fresh Water Fish and Game Commission would meet in Miami, Monday, July 19th at 9:30 a.m., and invited all who could to attend.

Alfred Henschel spoke on the use of Air Boats by sportsmen, the fascination of those who have ridden in them and said that the Air Boat had no equal as a means of transportation in certain parts

of Florida.

DeWitt Upthegrove also explained the use of Air Boats by farmers, cattlemen, construction contractors, U. S. Government Armed Forces in its rescue work, the Game Commission and several others.

Our Air Boat talks received a friendly reception, but we were informed that it was up to us to keep our members in line and to see that they did not use the boats to the detriment of game and fish; also the citizens of Florida. If this was done, we would have their continued sympathy and support.

•Dr. Wilber and others asked for invitations to attend the Barbecue and Air Boat races when we held it.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. and we left shortly thereafter for West Palm Beach, arriving at 7:00 p.m. We will report in detail at our Club meetings.

DeWitt Upthegrove

Alfred Henschel