Airboats Make It Easy to Glide Across the 'Glades

By LEE MUELLER
NEA Sports Writer

OCHOPEE Fla —(NEA)— Seminole Indians livid with war paint and peering between mangrove trees once paddled canoes amid the labyrinth of the Everglades searching for paleface soldiers.

Splash splash splash. It was a tiresome way to catch a paleface.

The Everglades a 100 mile by 50 mile clod of swampland in southwestern Florida did not lend itself to easy navigation. Tour guides say it still contains landscape unseen by civilized eyes — insinuating, of course, that maybe some Seminoles are still in there searching.

If there are the Indians probably have soggy moccasins. Even Edgar Rice Burroughs' jungles seem inhabitable beside the Everglades. Miles and miles of marsh, cypress growth, creeping vegetation, muck and occasional alligators are a real estate salesman's nightmare.

She's got a lot of pretty birds and nice scenery, the guide says, but that's about all you can do to the Glades. Look at it. Not good for much else.

This isn't quite true.

From 8,000 feet, a man aboard an airplane flying from Naples to Miami can look down and see what appears to be fine tracks streaked across the swamp-water. These tracks are instead the wake of the Everglades' most popular sport (and transportation), airboating.

Do not confuse airboats with sea planes. Airboats do not have wings. They look like, and are, old fashioned flat bottomed vessels with a used airplane engine and propeller mounted on the rear.

A seat for the pilot is provided in front of the prop which pushes the boat across open glades at speeds up to 35 miles an hour.

The airboat replaced canoes and motor boats here 20 years ago, enabling men to explore the Everglades with speed and safety never before attainable. (It would be a quick snake that could board a speeding airboat.)



MOST POPULAR means of travel and transportation in the Florida Everglades are airboats, which are capable of traveling at speeds up to 35 miles per hour.

According to Everglades National Park district ranger Pete Robinson, the boats' old engines generate anywhere from 65 to 240 horsepower. "They're primarily shallow water craft," he says, "but they're very maneuverable and will run on almost anything wet, including dew. Some of the steel-bottomed boats have been steered across paved roads."

Rangers find the boats useful in catching alligator and frog poachers. Sportsmen enjoy the ride. Neither, however, have been able to do anything about the noise.

Near Ochopee a red-haired man named Luther will for $5, take tourists for an airboat ride — back through a maze of small islands and glades, back through a flock of long-legged birds, back all the way to the inevitable old Indian village."

It is here, in the midst of this serene natural beauty that a man learns the true meaning of noise. Roar is not enough of a word. It is like being chased across a lake by a P-38. The inclination is to not look back because it might be gaining on you.

Luther weaves the boat into tiny channels, sputtering, narrowly missing overhanging tree limbs, and then explodes—deafeningly — into an open glade. The impulse to scream passes and the tourist says, instead, "Make a great cab driver, this guy." No one hears.

Returning from the Indian village where several thatched roof huts without walls ("These weren't shy people.") were observed, Luther again blasted into a clearing and performed several ear-shattering U-turns at top speed.

"Do almost anything with these boats," Luther shouted. "I wonder," the tourist thinks, "if Gentle Ben is deaf?"

(Newspaper Enterprise Assn.)

4-15-69

New Houseboating Wrinkle: Central Booking Service

By JIM CROSSLEY

"Houseboating is like being able to pull up the anchor on your motel room and cruise around all over the place. No wonder it is getting so popular."

This is Russ Chittenden talking, operator of Port Ken-Bar on Lake Barkley, Ky., and pioneer houseboat enthusiast.

"Houseboating offers the very best of resort cottaging, yachting, trailering and motor touring. It takes a little from each and comes up with a unique experience.

"With the newest development, a central reservation office for the country," he says, "houseboating has overcome one of its early drawbacks — the potential client's tough assignment of tracking down a boat to rent located and timed to fit his vacation.

"This year Rent-A-Cruise of America with an office in Florence, Ala., co-ordinates all queries and charters for nearly 100 localities from Maine to California and the Lakes to the Gulf. Interested families just select an area for vacationing and Rent-A-Cruise makes all the arrangements. This even includes having disposable galleyware like plastic dishes, glasses and knives, forks and spoons and a kit of disposable sheets and pillowcases ready on board at departure time.

"The whole thing is so futuristic it shakes you up. There's nothing new about houseboating really. Since people began settling along the Mississippi and the Ohio houseboats were familiar sights.

"Cincinnati, Ohio, for instance, long before air-conditioning, drew part of its character from the river scene on hot summer evenings. Families were escaping the heat on their little houseboats chugging up toward Coney Island, eating supper on the open-air front porch. It was as much a part of the city as cable cars in San Francisco.

Boats were built by the owners then. Not in factories. Many a Star auto lived a long afterlife when its engine was salvaged from a junk yard to propel a boat.

In some ways this change is really rich. Houseboating along the Mississippi was just the opposite to the prestige builder it is today. The shanty boat dwellers of days gone by were pretty low on the social stairstep."

The trim craft that make up the Port Ken-Bar fleet are a typical 32 feet in length. They are designed to look boatish" but also "motelish. Most of the customers are resort hotel people rather than boaters.

Bunks and convertible furniture stretch sleeping accommodations. The kitchen icebox, shower and lavatory are miniatures but adequate. Carpeting and vinyl floors heighten the motel room look. Every nook is a storage area.

These little floating cottages are increasing by the hundreds each year," says Chittenden. Operating them is no problem. Controls are simplified. There's a brief manual for guidance.

For reassurance as much as anything else, the Rent-A-Cruise client is covered by insurance as part of his rental. And if he cares to, he can hike the liability from $50,000 to $350,000 with a per-trip policy that isn't expensive."

(Newspaper Enterprise Assn.)



STATE SECRETS or just community gossip? "Bobo," a 6-month-old wombat, seems to be whispering a host of fascinating things into the ear of "Red," a baby kangaroo. Both animals are residents of a children's zoo in Melbourne, Australia.

2 FOR 1 SHOE SALE

Buy One Pair-Second Pair FREE

E & S BOOTERY and LIVINGSTON SHOES

The buck Ends here . . . .

By Ivan D.E. Beaumont

The Personal Touch

Jim Witherspoon, Omaha, is a retailer who likes to work.

And Mr Witherspoon has selected Nebraska City as one of the many communities to expand his talents. He is the owner of the Gibson Store in Nebraska City.

And he also owns a great number of other stores. Stock from his company is on the market and last week was selling over $25 a share.

+ + +

I met Mr Witherspoon at his headquarters at Nuway Drug in Omaha last week.

I was introduced to him by Arthur Sackles who was making a buying trip and asked me to ride along. I'm glad I did.

Mr Witherspoon, a well-groomed man who chewed on a cigar, met me on the carpeted steps to his office and extended his hand.

He likes Nebraska City. He feels that the town is a good retail town and said that sales at his store are bearing out that impression.

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Gibson's of Nebraska City, and several other stores, were sold to Mr Witherspoon by Phil Stettinger, Lincoln. The Omaha retailer is well known by many buyers and his business know-how and success are well respected in many circles.

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There were a number of hot and heavy rumors a few weeks ago about Gibson's going to relocate from its Tenth and Central location, to a site west on Central.

Mr Witherspoon said "no", to that.

He said Gibson's in Nebraska City has a good location. He also feels much as many other business people, that moving to another location is expensive.

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I couldn't help but be excited with the moon landing by the Apollo 11 crew. I stayed glued to the TV tube so many hours that I can blame the astronauts for an Excedrin headache.

But it really was something. And I'm very proud that it happened during my lifetime.

I went to the office earlier that evening and picked up a camera and some film. Virg Pitstick has a habit of leaving some of his photographic equipment with The News-Press when he leaves for Washington each year, so I used his very fine Lihof 4x5 camera. (4x5 means the film is four inches by five inches in size).

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I mounted the camera on a stool about 30 inches from the TV screen, focused and fixed the lens and shutter speed settings, then taped the camera to the stool.

Arthur Sweet had also taken pictures of the moon landing with a Rollei (it uses 120 size film), so I picked up his film and developed it that same night along with mine.

The result were the pictures you saw on the front page the next day.

For the information of you photo bugs, the 120 Tri-X professional film was developed three and three-quarters minutes in HC110 at 68 to 70 degrees. The 4x5 Royal Pan film was developed five minutes in the same solution at the same temperature.

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I'm like the man Johnny Carson interviewed the other night. We've been to the moon. Fine. Next is Mars and not for any "grapefruit" pictures. "I want to see the towns," he said.

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There is also some jargon we've all got to get with on this moon exploration.

It seems strange to say "moonquake" instead of earthquake.

And we've known about Asian and Hong Kong Flu.

But oh, no, please! Not Moon flu!

Q -In the folksong, "Follow the Drinking Gourd," to what does the drinking gourd refer?

A This was the name escaping slaves were told to use on the underground railway when referring to the North Star of the Big Dipper.

COURTHOUSE NEWS

DISTRICT COURT

Judge Walter Smith will be in Nebraska City Wednesday, July 30, to hear cases.

NEW CARS LICENSED AND TITLED

Peter H or Mabel Klaasmeyer, Burr, Volkswagon, Jim McDonald, Lincoln; Fred F or Betty Stoll, Oldsmobile, Randolph Oldsmobile, Lincoln.

Kenneth Arthur, Buick, Novak; George or Lillian Zeiner, Dodge, Rowe; M.K. or Dorothea Sehroeder, Syracuse, Chyrsler, Gamboni; Norman L or Shirley A Barrett, Dodge, Rowe; Lloyd H or Louise A Wymore, Motor Bike motorcycle, Steiner; Fred V Stehlik, Buick, Novak.

Franklin J or Shirley Royal, Syracuse, Pontiac, Novak; Richard D Billings, Ford truck, Lexington Motors, Lexington, Missouri; Charles J or Gladys P Pfeiffer, Mercury, Holmes; Lee Delbert or Colleen Witt, Syracuse, International truck, Syracuse Farm Equipment; James L or Leona L Brinson, Palmyra, Hauschild Motor.

Sterling or Myrna Hespen, Syracuse, Ford truck, Hauschild; Charlotte Wellensiek, Syracuse, Chevrolet, Strong.

Leon or Nina Arthur, Pontiac, Novak; Dale or Bernice Stubbendick, Avoca, Dodge, Rowe; Nebraska City Public Schools, Ford, Holmes.

Pla Mor Sporting Goods, Forester trailer, Bando; Clemmy Holmes Leasing, Ford truck, Holmes; Clemmy Holmes Motor, Ford, Dixon Motor, Lennox, Iowa; Ben Kohout Jr., Chevrolet, Haley; Hauschild Leasing, two Ford trucks, Hauschild; Edward H or Ann A Gregory, Offutt AFB, Oldsmobile, Novak; Bill Blacker, Syracuse, Chevrolet, Strong.



SERGEANT'S SERGEANT. Sgt. Maj. Joseph W. Dailey, seen here in combat dress in Vietnam, has been appointed sergeant major of the Marine Corps, the Marines' senior enlisted man. He holds the Navy Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart medals.



SPEEDY HOUSEBOATS give mobility but shelter, cooking and sleeping facilities are always right there.

LEGAL NOTICE

VILLAGE OF UNADILLA, OTOE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
MINUTE RECORD
BUDGET ESTIMATE
FISCAL YEAR AUG. 1, 1969 TO AUG. 1, 1970
July 2, 1969
ESTIMATED ITEMS

Purpose	Amount
Streets and alleys	$ 5,900.00
Fire Fighting Apparatus & Equipment	100.00
Recreation	1,500.00
Water	4,000.00
General Fund	1,500.00
Salaries	2,500.00
Sewer & Extensions	500.00
Sewer Maintenance	400.00
Sewer Bonds & Interest	500.00
St. Lights	1,200.00
Special Street	2,300.00
TOTAL	$20,100.00

ENTIRE REVENUE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR

Source	Amount
General Taxation (all funds)	$11,274.16
Roads Gas & License Taxes	2,032.74
Water rents	4,423.37
Misc. receipts	267.41
Special Street Fund (State)	862.32
TOTAL	$18,860.00

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES SEWER DISTRICT NO. 1

Bond Interest, due May 15, 1970	$ 440.00
Pay bonds	3,000.00
TOTAL	$ 3,440.00

ENTIRE REVENUE PREVIOUS YEAR SEWER DISTRICT NO. 1

Received from special assessments and use fees	$ 2,416.18
Received from taxes (general levy) carried to	500.00
Received from County Treasurer	270.01
TOTAL	$ 3,186.19

ESTIMATED REVENUE CURRENT YEAR SEWER DISTRICT NO. 1

Use fees	$ 2,250.00
Hookups	350.00
Special Assessments	100.00
General Levy	500.00
TOTAL	$ 3,200.00

ESTIMATED REVENUE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, GENERAL

Gas & Licenses, Taxes and Fees	$ 2,500.00
General Taxes Levied	11,000.00
Water Rents	3,500.00
Misc. Receipts	675.00
State (income & sales tax share)	2,425.00
TOTAL	$20,100.00

MONEY TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION

Streets and Alleys	$ 5,500.00
Fire Fighting Apparatus & Equipment	100.00
Water	500.00
Salaries	2,500.00
General Fund	1,500.00
Sewer Maintenance	400.00
Sewer Bond and Interest	500.00
TOTAL	$11,000.00

Adopted July 2, 1969 by a vote of 4 for and 0 against.

Attest: Wm. B. Brandt Village Clerk — Adolph Boettcher, Chairman, Board of Trustees

Seal

809—July 6, 13, 20 and 27, 1969

Corduroy slacks and jeans

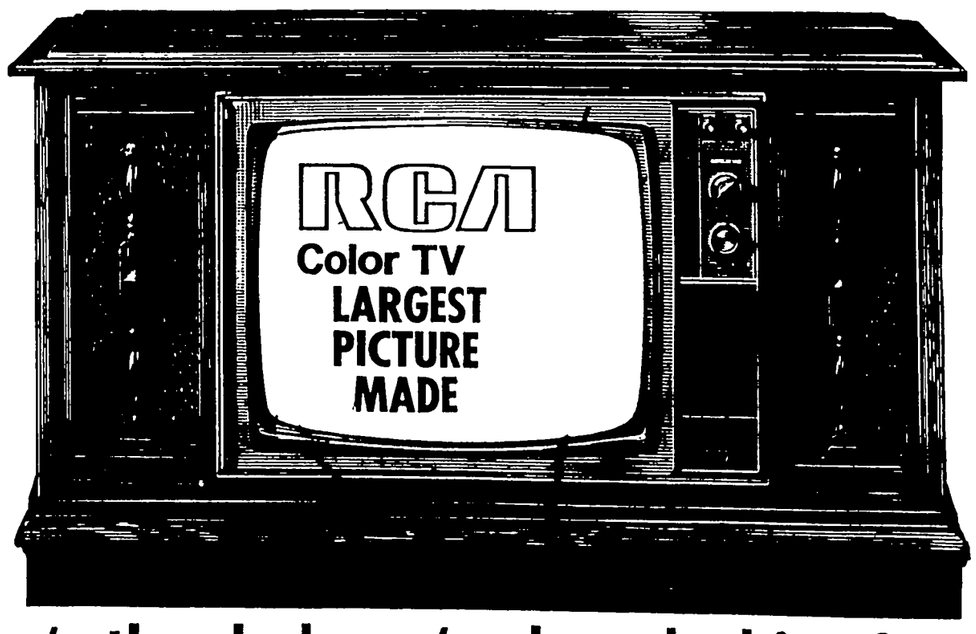
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