FINDING AID FOR:
The 1926 Miami Hurricane Photograph Collection

Prepared By:
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2020-10-30
This collection is comprised of 44 black and white photographs taken in September 1926 after a major hurricane hit Miami. Images depict hurricane damage at Vizcaya, downtown Miami (the former Royal Palm Park and Bayfront Park), Coconut Grove, Hibiscus Island, Silver Bluff (south Brickell Avenue shoreline), and the W. J. Matheson residence.

The Great Miami Hurricane of 1926 was of classic Cape Verde origin, and was first known to the U. S. Weather Bureau on September 11, after ships in the central tropical Atlantic Ocean reported it. The storm passed north of the Leeward Islands and Puerto Rico from September 14 to 16, which allowed it to avoid the usual information channels in the Caribbean and remain somewhat of a mystery to U. S. weather forecasters. As late at September 17, no warnings had been issued.

About 11pm on September 17, the barometer began a precipitous fall, as winds and rains increased. The eye passed over Miami and Coconut Grove about 6:30am on September 18th. The lull from the eye lasted about 35 minutes, during which time the streets became crowded with people who did not realize that the storm was only half over.

The storm made a second landfall near Pensacola, Florida on September 20 and then continued to coastal Mississippi and Louisiana on September 21 as a much-weakened storm.

The American Red Cross reported 372 deaths in the Miami area and over 6,000 injuries. Damages in 1926 dollars were $105 million. There was a 10-foot storm surge at Miami Beach, and the storm is considered to have been a Category 4. A historical marker of the storm stands at the northwest corner of NE 1st Avenue and 1st Street in downtown Miami.

The Monthly Meteorological Notes and Monthly Weather Reviews are compelling reading and are available online at www.weather.gov/mfl/miami_hurricane.

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Hurricanes--lcsh --1926 events--1926--lcsh
Vizcaya Museum and Gardens (Miami, Fla.)--lcsh --Florida--Miami--Bayfront park --Florida--Biscayne Bay --Florida--Miami-Dade county--lcsh --Florida--Miami--Coconut
Personal: Matheson, William John--1856-1930 --Danielson, James Deering

Corporate:

Arrangement: One folder is a mixture of photographic prints and negatives in plastic sleeves. Two folders are of photographic prints mounted on paper, with typed captions/descriptions, in plastic sleeves.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Nbr: Hurricane10001</th>
<th>Title: View north from the Rose Garden [now Fountain Garden].</th>
<th>Dates: circa 1926</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Item Nbr: Hurricane1001</td>
<td>Title: What was the beautiful, thick planting in front of the manager's [superintendent's] house.</td>
<td>Dates: circa 1926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item Nbr: Hurricane11001</td>
<td>Title: Toward House from Rose Garden [now Fountain Garden], maze was ruined</td>
<td>Dates: circa 1926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item Nbr: Hurricane12001</td>
<td>Title: General view of Rose Garden [now Fountain Garden].</td>
<td>Dates: circa 1926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item Nbr: Hurricane13001</td>
<td>Title: Lawn west of Mound, showing large rubber trees down and some oaks on the Mound.</td>
<td>Dates: circa 1926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item Nbr: Hurricane14001</td>
<td>Title: Large trees down on the Mound, 8 big ones</td>
<td>Dates: circa 1926</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Item Nbr: Hurricane15001  
Title: East Vista, showing all rubber trees down  
Dates: circa 1926  
Creator:  
Phys Desc: 

Item Nbr: Hurricane16001  
Title: Waterway, north from service drive  
Dates: circa 1926  
Creator:  
Phys Desc: 

Item Nbr: Hurricane17001  
Title: Waterway, looking north from natural bridge  
Dates: circa 1926  
Creator:  
Phys Desc: 

Item Nbr: Hurricane18001  
Title: Entrance to road, north loop, near main gate. Statue of Mezzo Giorno marks right hand side of the road  
Dates: circa 1926  
Creator:  
Phys Desc: 

Item Nbr: Hurricane19001  
Title: Down to house, drive has been cleared where bougainvillea pergolas collapsed  
Dates: circa 1926  
Creator:  
Phys Desc: 

Item Nbr: Hurricane20001  
Title: Looking down to house after drive was cleared  
Dates: circa 1926  
Creator:  
Phys Desc: 

Item Nbr: Hurricane2001  
Title: View toward Miami Avenue across lawn near [main] gate  
Dates: circa 1926  
Creator:  
Phys Desc:
Item Nbr: Hurricane21001
Title: From house up drive after it was cleared
Dates: circa 1926
Creator: 
Phys Desc: 

Item Nbr: Hurricane22001
Title: Forecourt after cleaning up and pruning
Dates: circa 1926
Creator: 
Phys Desc: 

Item Nbr: Hurricane23001
Title: Service entrance, pergolas demolished
Dates: circa 1926
Creator: 
Phys Desc: 

Item Nbr: Hurricane24001
Title: Pine arches ruined, the balustrade gone from boat landing bridge, locker at foot of flagpole is gone too
Dates: circa 1926
Creator: 
Phys Desc: 

Item Nbr: Hurricane25001
Title: Pine arches ruined, the balustrade gone from boat landing bridge, locker at foot of flagpole is gone too
Dates: circa 1926
Creator: 
Phys Desc: 

Item Nbr: Hurricane26001
Title: Pine arches entirely ruined, the scow did terrible damage to stone boat as it plunged across it, and here where it broke off the heavy granite mooring fronts and the coping, and demolished the wall at the rear
Dates: circa 1926
Creator: 
Phys Desc:
Item Nbr: Hurricane27001  
Title: Stone boat, all lower balustrades, four statues and four obelisks broken off. Psyche in foreground. Water solid with seaweed.  
Dates: circa 1926  
Creator:  
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane28001  
Title: North side of house after path had been cleared. A good idea of the bareness of the hammock.  
Dates: circa 1926  
Creator:  
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane29001  
Title: Looking into hammock, north of house  
Dates: circa 1926  
Creator:  
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane30001  
Title: In Royal Palm Park  
Dates: circa 1926  
Creator:  
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane3001  
Title: Little lawn north of house. Notice the electric boat in foreground, it was hung up in boathouse.  
Dates: circa 1926  
Creator:  
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane31001  
Title: Boats high and dry on Bayshore Drive  
Dates: circa 1926  
Creator:  
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane32001  
Title: In the new Bayfront Park  
Dates: circa 1926  
Creator:  
Phys Desc:
Item Nbr: Hurricane33001
Title: Hammock, from a drive
Dates: circa 1926
Creator:
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane34001
Title: Front yard at Coconut Grove
Dates: circa 1926
Creator:
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane35001
Title: Along road just south of Vizcaya, typical
Dates: circa 1926
Creator:
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane36001
Title: Mr. W. J. Matheson's front lawn, Coconut Grove a frightful sight
Dates: circa 1926
Creator:
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane37001
Title: This dredge was filling Hibiscus Island. It partially demolished two other houses on its career of two blocks before striking this one.
Dates: circa 1926
Creator:
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane38001
Title: Royals at Coconut Grove place
Dates: circa 1926
Creator:
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane39001
Title: Coconut Grove, remains of boathouse and other debris near pool
Dates: circa 1926
Creator:
Phys Desc:
Item Nbr: Hurricane40001
Title: Monkey Island, in South Pond just south of Casino
Dates: circa 1926
Creator:
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane4001
Title: Walk north of Main House, looking toward the Bay
Dates: circa 1926
Creator:
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane41001
Title: View down north loop road. Vase marks left side of road. All roads looked like this.
Dates: circa 1926
Creator:
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane42001
Title: Lawn near gate with poinciana down
Dates: circa 1926
Creator:
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane43001
Title: A typical front yard in Silver Bluff
Dates: circa 1926
Creator:
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane44001
Title: Southeast bridge of south property, now lying against cross canal
Dates: circa 1926
Creator:
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane45001
Title: A drive at Vizcaya, a mass of limbs shows dimly at left
Dates: circa 1926
Creator:
Phys Desc:
Item Nbr: Hurricane5001
Title: North walk, near the Bay
Dates: circa 1926
Creator:
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane6001
Title: Toward the Bay, between Upper East Terrace and Orchid Garden [now Secret Garden].
Dates: circa 1926
Creator:
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane7001
Title: Showing lawn and low hedges not much hurt. Oaks all leaning, about a third of them down
Dates: circa 1926
Creator:
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane8001
Title: All columns down but one. Havoc in trees, maze hedges, etc. at right is so complete it hides itself in the picture.
Dates: circa 1926
Creator:
Phys Desc:

Item Nbr: Hurricane9001
Title: West Terrace, all columns down, pine hedges ruined, deep holes in terrace
Dates: circa 1926
Creator:
Phys Desc: