

# Florida Keys Sea Heritage Journal

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## The Log of the *Evangeline*

*The Log of the Evangeline is courtesy of KWMHS member Rich Loud of St. Augustine. In the Spring of 1940 the Evangeline sailed from the Florida east coast across the state via the St. Lucie canal to Fort Meyers and then south to Key West. Following is the part of the log from Johnson's Key to Key West until they sail past American Shoals Lighthouse leaving Key West. The Captain and owner of the Evangeline was Gordon C. Prince from Maine (Called Capt., Gordon or G.C.P.). The log was kept by his wife Anna the cook. The members of the crew were Harold Peters and Jack Parkinson who joined in Key West. The name of the dinghy was Cassidy which is confusing in some parts as it seems there is another person*

Thursday, February 29, 1940

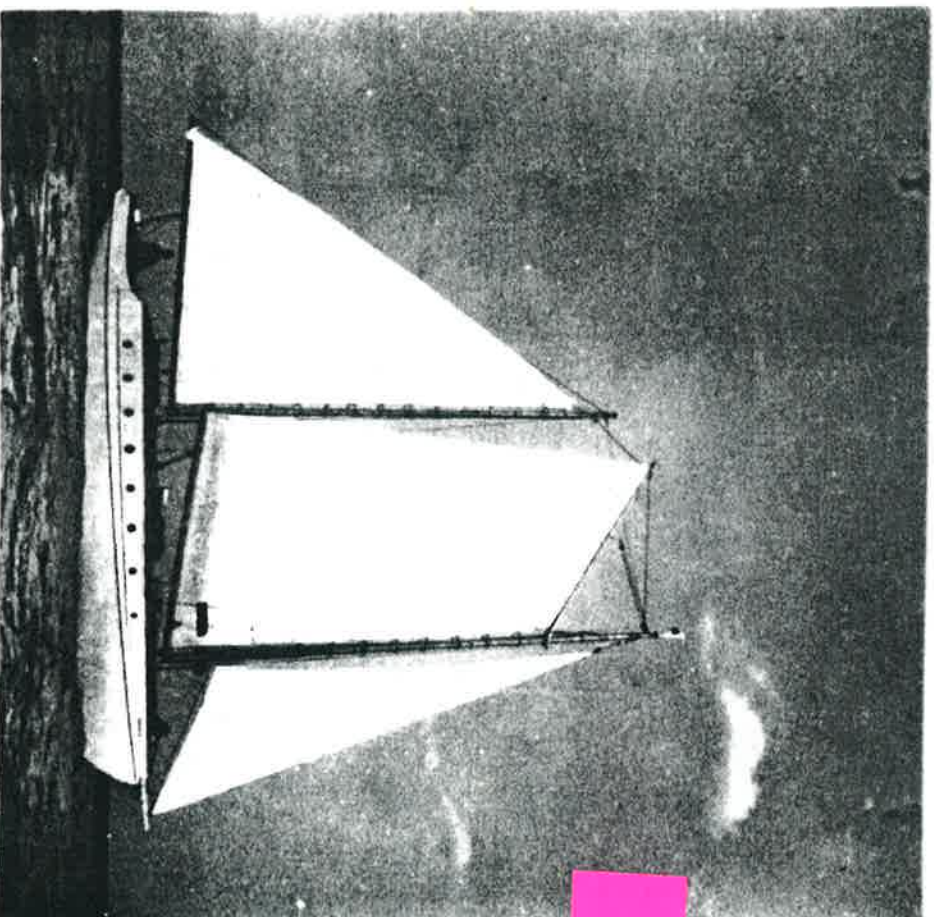
Johnson's Key, Key West

No alarm but made a decent start about 8:45 after swim, breakfast and shave. Light southwest breeze dead ahead. Felt our way out through the shoals under engine and continued the same on a west southwest course for the buoys off Key West.

Turned into the Calda Channel at noon and at 12:30 caught our first fish, a lovely mackerel just the right size for a meal. Its about time we've trailed a line all the way from Miami.

Chugged around the harbor looking at all the vessels. The James E. Jouett the same little pilot boat we saw 14 years ago is still here. Also Dr. Johnson's old Jaloma now called the *Valhalla* and with a new jib. Tied up here is Morrison's boat *Captania* in which he endeavored to prove that Columbus did do it.

After lunch went ashore to find someone to repair the foresail. Investigation disclosed two possible sailmakers. The first



*Evangeline underway off the Shark River in March 1940. Photo credit: Rich Loud.*

of these was run to earth in a particularly squalid back alley which contained a considerable amount of garbage. He proved to be genial character with a wooden leg. He said he would like to repair our sail, but that a certain Mr. Lawson might have a sewing machine on which the sail could be repaired very much quicker. The pursuit of Mr. Lawson trended in northerly direction for about ½ hours smart walk and considerable questioning and ended

in a region know locally as North Beach. Fifteen minutes spent Mr. Lawson's porch with a January newspaper having produced nobody, we eventually reached a small wharf from the end of which Lawson's small cat boat, pointed out to us by six W.P.A. workers could be observed slowly returning from the sponging grounds. Finally the gentlemen in ques-

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