

STATEMENT OF P. JORDAN TO MISS ELIZABETH PIERCE
IN THE CASE UNDER INVESTIGATION RELATIVE TO THE
FLORIDA STORM OF SEPTEMBER 2, 1935.

Q. What is your name ?

A. P. Jordan.

Q. What was your Camp Number ?

A. One.

Q. Were you there during the storm ?

A. Yes.

Q. We are helping with the investion being made by Mr. Williams at Washington, in an effort to fix the responsibility, if any, for the disaster on Labor Day, and we are going to ask you to tell us all the facts you know about what took place there at the time of the storm, what you individually know, as to what person or persons were responsible, if any.

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A. I don't see why there would not be; the way I got it afterwards, see, our Captain

Q. Who is that ?

A. Mr. Hardaker. See, he told us to get our things together, pack up our suit cases. The train would be there to take us out at two o'clock. Naturally we did get our things together, but no train at two o'clock; then a little after five they told us the train was coming to take us out. This was on Monday, and we were all standing by waiting for the train to come take us out but it didn't come and when she did get there she was late and the storm was too much for her and she just turned up side

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down.

- Q. Were there any orders in Camp for you men to stay there, or were you free to leave if you wanted to ?
- A. They said wait for the train, and which we did.
- Q. But you were not compelled to do so ; you were simply told the train would come ?
- A. Yes, but so far as moving out, we could not go out, but they could have taken us out with the trucks. We had plenty of trucks and drivers all the time.
- Q. Do you know of anything that happened that would make you think any one person was responsible ?
- A. No. I blame it on Mr. Ghent. He is the head man.
- Q. Was he in Camp when the storm struck ? On Monday ?
- A. No. He was in Miami. He went to Miami on Monday.
- Q. What time Monday ?
- A. I could not tell just what time, but in the morning, he went to Miami. He had offices there in Miami. I don't see noway why the men should be left there to drown --- just carelessness or negligence on his part or the Railroad.
- Q. But you don't blame him ?
- A. No, I would not like to blame everything on him. The Captain and everybody else knew that there was something wrong. The Engineer said they had orders to wait, that they had been wait-up there for orders.
- Q. Who told you that ?

- A. Some of the men here in the Camp, but I don't know who, but they do say that the Engineer told them that they waited at Homestead forty minutes before they came down on the Keys; and they waited at Miami for the orders from Mr. Ghent to tell them to go out. He had charge of all these Camps in Florida. It was "up to him" to tell them what to do.
- Q. Did you personally identify any of the dead ?
- A. Yes, I knew a few of them.
- Q. Do you want to give us their names ?
- A. Jack Foster and Sam ---, I know he was there but I can't remember his right name; and the electrician, man by the name of Boyd. I knowed him.
- Q. That is all that you personally identified ?
- A. That is as far as I went.
- Q. Do you want to make any further statement about this ?
- A. No. I don't think I should. I don't think he was doing us justice, putting us down there and giving us no chance to get off with our lives. Some says that he could and some says that he could not, but if I was an officer I would had the train there in time to take us off.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the statement of the above named Veteran.

Mary J. Bonharric

Stenographer.

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