



Hurricane Easy Dumps on Yankeetown

Fact Sheet

Event date: September 1-7, 1950

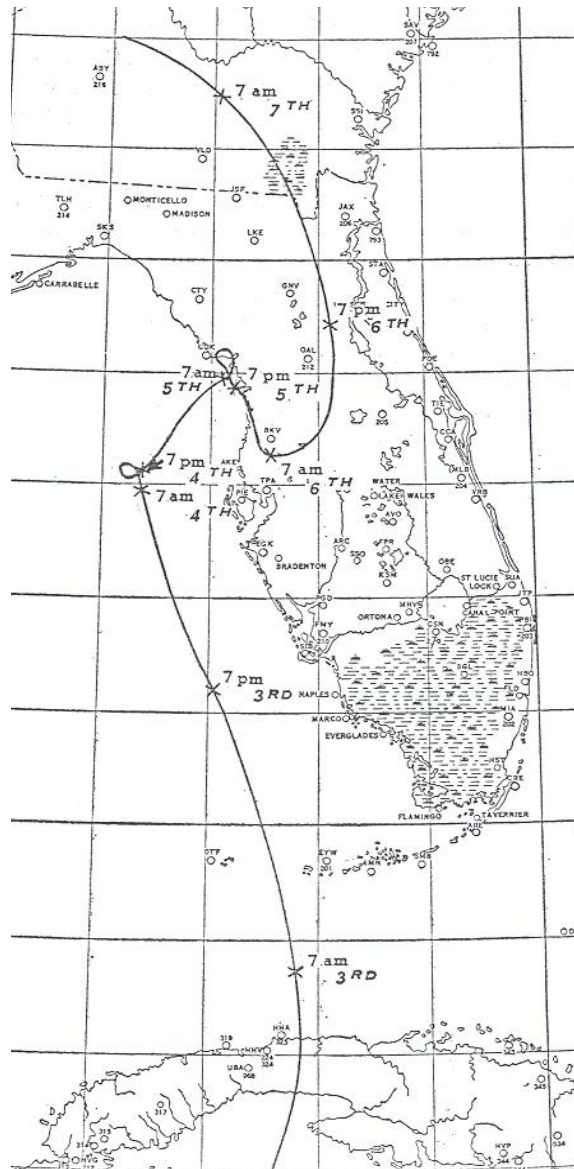
Maximum Rainfall: 45.20" in Cedar Key

Minimum pressure: 958 mb

Landfall pressure: ???

Maximum winds: ???

Landfall winds: ???



Erratic path of hurricane Easy, September 1-7, 1950. Hourly readings two radar sets confirm this track [1].

Figure 1. Hurricane Easy's path.

Summary of event: Hurricane Easy was an erratic and unpredictable hurricane that lingered over the Tampa Bay area for days, dropping torrential rains and causing damage especially in Cedar Key, FL where the hurricane eventually made landfall. Hurricane Easy made a loop just offshore of Cedar Key and this caused the residents to experience the same side of the hurricane twice, including the wrath of 125 mph winds. This storm dumped 38.7 inches of rain in 24 hours, a record for the U.S., and caused \$3.3 million in damage. The tide in Tampa Bay rose 6.5 feet, causing the waterworks dam on the Hillsborough River to wash away, flooding Sulphur Springs in north Tampa with two feet of water. Many people failed to leave Cedar Key when the hurricane warnings went up [...hours earlier] and were forced to gather in the area's middle and high school. Once the water and electricity were cut off, they used buckets to catch rainwater for drinking and bathing. About 150 of Cedar Key's 200 buildings were unroofed. The hurricane claimed three lives in Florida, all three by electrocution from touching live fallen wires.

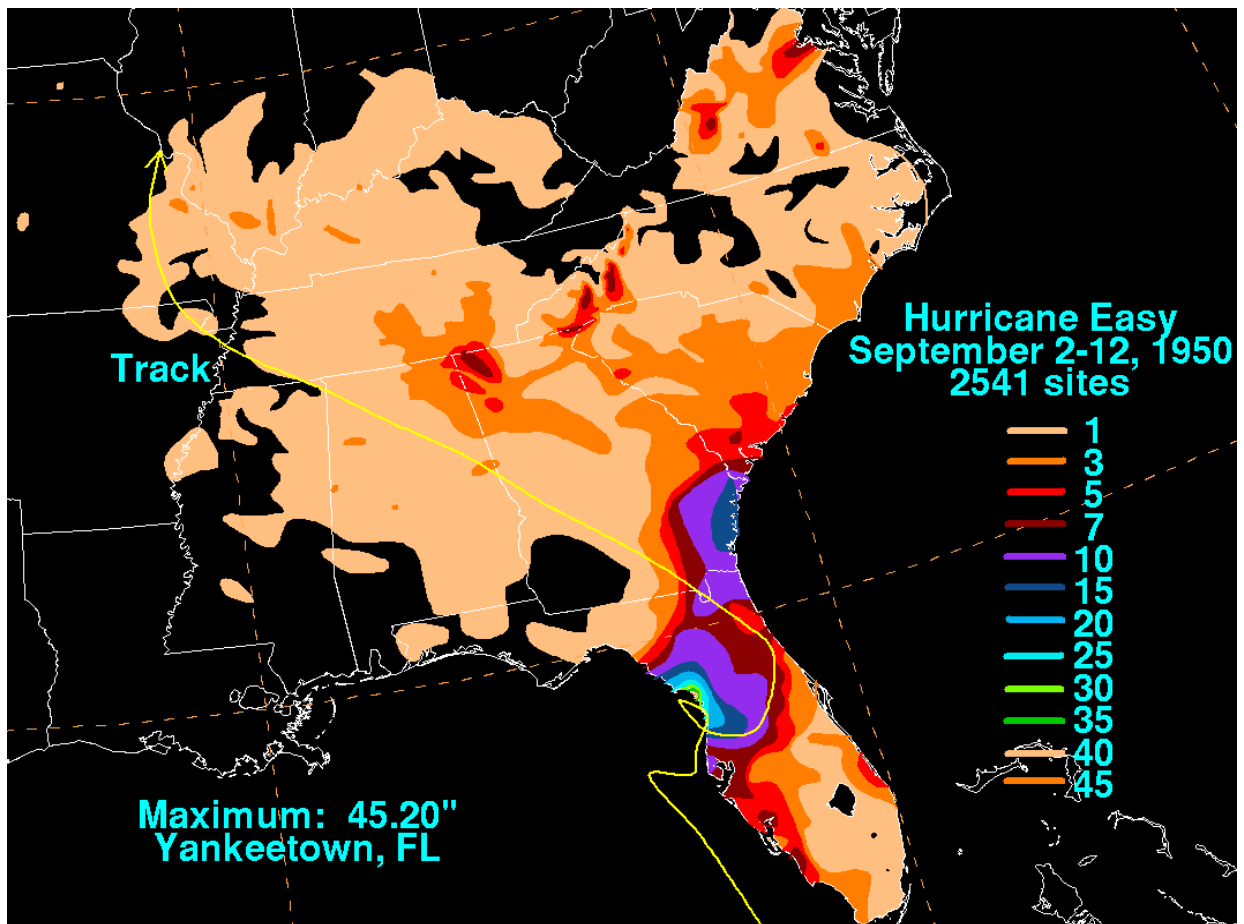


Figure 2. Hurricane Easy's destructive flooding.

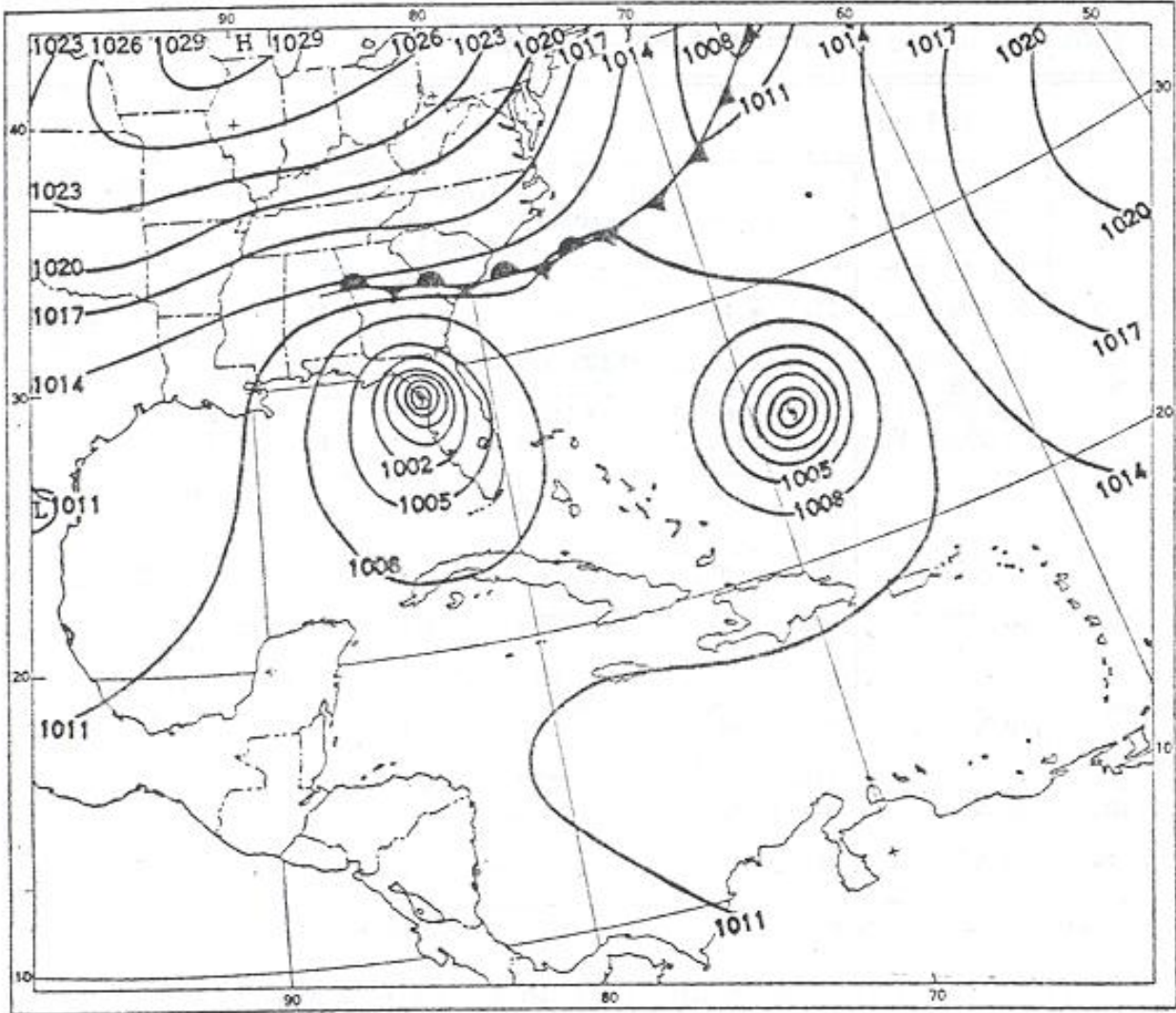


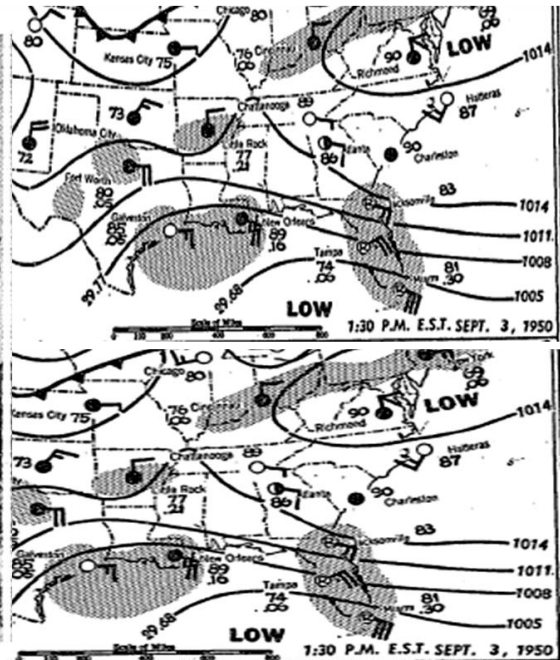
Figure 3. —Chart showing sea level isobars and fronts, 1330 EST, September 5, 1950.



EVACUATING RESIDENTS OF FLORIDA COAST



Red Cross and Coast Guard workers bringing persons to the mainland at St. Petersburg



GAINESVILLE, Fla., Sept. 5
 (UP)—A small, severe hurricane isolated the fishing village of Cedar Key today and hammered it with 125-mile-an-hour winds, then began to drift southward along the Florida West Coast.
 Chief Storm Forecaster Grady Norton said at Miami the storm center had moved southward about fourteen miles and at 9:30 P. M. was located near Homosassa Springs, about forty air-line miles north of Tampa. Earlier movement had indicated a northeastward route.

The hurricane already had claimed at least two lives in Florida. E. J. (Ned) Cosgrove, 32 years old, oil company official, was electrocuted when he attempted to remove a downed wire from a fence at his home in Tampa.
 Mrs. Hattie Kersey, 25-year-old mother of three children, was electrocuted at Jacksonville while helping her husband anchor their house trailer against the winds.
 Cedar Key was pounded by hurricane winds since the storm

moved on the coastal area around 7 A. M. Highest winds recorded there were 125-miles an hour before a tree fell on the anemometer.
 Water was over the four-mile causeway leading to the island on which Cedar Key is located isolating the town. Three trucks loaded with Red Cross emergency supplies reached the village after a fifty-two-mile drive from Gainesville. Three hundred persons sought shelter in two school buildings on the island.



Figure 4. Hurricane Easy evacuees and other newspaper clippings.

Acknowledgments: Monthly Weather Review, 1950. The New York Times, 1950, Hydrometeorological Prediction Center.