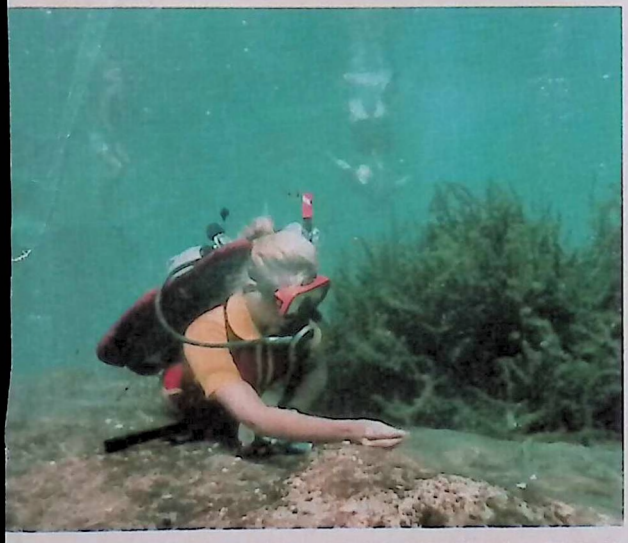






CITRUS River

Photos by Charles Talley

Wondrous Kings Bay

Winter wonderland that's different. This is one way to describe Kings Bay and Crystal River on the Gulf Coast of Florida some 70 miles north of Tampa. Others call it mysterious and wondrous,one of the half dozen or so natural phenomena of Florida.

Kings Bay-- even the name is intriguing. Does it mean a bay that's "fit for a king," or was it named for an Indian chief who ruled his tribe like a king from some location on the bay? Neither of these is true. Apparently, the name comes from a Dr. Edward King who owned a cotton plantation in the area and is reported to have been buried on the bay that bears his name.

Kings Bay is mysterious and wondrous because it is a wondrously clear, fresh-water lake only seven miles from the Gulf of Mexico and it seems--mysteriously--to attract a large herd of Manatees or sea cows to its waters for the colder months of the year.

Maybe these sea cows are the original Florida tourists who sought a warmer winter environment long before the Indians gathered at Kings Bay to enjoy the richness of its hunting and fishing.

Actually, there is little mystery about the sea cows' gathering at Kings Bay because the water there remains a constant 72 degrees all year round and they can escape the colder waters of the Gulf during the winter. The fact that the Gulf is salty and Kings Bay fresh does not appear to deter the sea cows in the least. In fact, they are quite content in the fresh water where they find an ample supply of hydrilla and other aquatic plant life.

Protected by the federal government and the state of Florida, the 1,000 to 1,600 pound sea cows are quite docile and love to have their tummies scratched by the thousands of scuba divers and snorkelers who are attracted to the silver-blue waters of this underwater kingdom.

Kings Bay has other wonders and mysteries.

It feeds Crystal River from hundreds of springs that are as small as six inches across to one that has a diameter of 75 feet. The deepest of these is one near Banana Island that has a depth of 65 feet. In this spring most of the sea cows congregate.

Aerial photographs taken with infra red film reveal up to 1,500 springs gushing from the bottom of Kings Bay and producing some two million gallons of water per minute for the flow down Crystal River to the Gulf.

The Bay is about a mile and a quarter wide at its widest point and contains seven islands clustered together in one area. Some of these are under water at high tide since the level of the bay is affected by the tides from the Gulf.

Kings Bay is a great place for discovering things.

A scuba diver who lives and works in the area was heard to remark, "I'd spend most of my life down there if I could. It's a completely new world, a place of escape, of beauty, of mystery, of quiet and peace."

From time to time divers bring up Indian artifacts that attest to the presence of Indians thousands of years ago.

Today, Kings Bay and the entire Crystal River area are a new

(Continued on page 6)



SWAMP CABBAGE

By Ralph Mallery

To be an American you have to eat apple pie. That's the rule. To be a Southerner you must have hog jowls and black-eyed peas on your New Year's Day table, or suffer ill fortune in the coming year. And you have to have eaten Swamp Cabbage at one time or another, or you can have no true claim to being a Floridian.

The terminal bud of the Cabbage Palm has been a part of Florida cuisine since the time of the aboriginal Indians. Its ivory-colored tender protions have been stewed, fried, baked, and roasted. But, as its common name might suggest, more often than not, like a cabbage, it was boiled. And as it boiled, the meat course was usually "bogged down" right in it -- gopher tortoise, salt pork, squirrel or what have you. For hundreds of years, if a Floridian had no other possession except an ax, he could always put palm heart into the pot. It was one source of groceries that was dependable; it was the one crop that never failed. Hence the tradition.

Whoever first gave the Sabal Palm its street name of "Swamp Cabbage" got his feet wet unnecessarily, for there were more than enough of the trees growing high and dry. In fact, the Sabals are found almost everywhere in Florida. Small wonder that the ubiquitous native was chosen to be Florida's state tree.

In 1868, when the present Florida State Seal was adopted, a Sabal Palm was pictured as part of it. If the poor white "cracker" or the newly freed black had had any say in the choice of the stately native Sabal Palm to be so honored, the vote might have been for a different tree entirely. To their way of thinking, the plentiful palm had long ago achieved weed status. It was a pain in the neck.

Of course, to the would-be farmer confronted with virgin acreage to be converted into farmland, all trees were weeds. He had no time to moon over the beauty of the gnarled oaks or the arrow-straight pines. Beauty, for him was in rows of cotton and corn, beans, sugar cane, and "garden truck." No one sees beauty on an empty stomach. The trees had to go.

But at least the hardwoods and softwoods, once removed, could be turned to good account. The settlers had no other sourse of fuel except wood, and no better building material existed. Palms, however, make disgustingly poor fuel, are virtually useless as building materials, and, because of their high water content, are hard to destroy by burning. Beyond the Swamp Cabbage's occasional usefulness in supplementing his unbalanced diet, the Floridian of the past had little need for the Sabal Palm.

Today, the tree is no longer a detriment. We can afford beauty now, and in these times of hurry-up shopping centers and right-now branch banks, the palm has come into its own as a "plug-in" landscaping tool. Easily transplanted, tall, and highly likely to survive the shock of being moved, a few Sabals can give a parking lot with still-shining blacktop the appearance of being much older...well, they help, anyway.

Whenever the subject of Swamp Cabbage comes up in the presence of an outlander, invariably he asks the question: "But doesn't it kill the tree?" Of course it does. Therefore, if the prospective diner on Swamp Cabbage wants to avoid committing palmicide he can do one of two things: either he can go to a restaurant where the cabbage is served, usually as part of a salad, or he may search out a building site that has recently felt the kiss of the bulldozer. After getting permission, of course, he can extract the cabbage from the fallen trees.

Three things are required to remove a palm cabbage: an ax, a machete, and an experienced Floridian who is sound in wind and limb. If the last item has the skill, he'll be glad to demonstrate it (we're notorious show-offs). Then sit right down to a plateful of Florida tradition.



Kings Bay

(Continued from page 4)

mecca for divers and snorkelers. They come to the area, possibly a couple of hundred thousand a year, to enjoy the warm spring waters in the winter and to enjoy the cool spring waters in the summer.

They come as individuals and they come as families.

Charles Talley, at Talley's Pro Dive in Crystal River, says the big thing for the area years ago was the fishing. "They come here today to dive," he says. "It's a family sport now. Back a few years ago, in the early days of diving, we were just a bunch of kids playing around. Today it's different."

The day I talked with him in early December, he had just finished scuba diving in Kings Bay with a family from Ohio.

"They come from all over the nation," he said, "to experience the special kind of diving we have here."

In Talley's school for scuba divers he teaches more than 500 persons a year. He teaches them to dive--all ages--in three days.

What Vail, Colorado, is to skiers, Kings Bay and Crystal River have become to the divers.

If you figure 200,000 divers per year and if each one spent $250 during his stay in the area, the annual return would be something like 50 million dollars-- some boost to the economy!

The Plantation Inn Marina and Talleys Pro Dive offer everything you need for either scuba diving or snorkeling.

You can rent boats, everything from 18-foot aluminum boats with outboards to canoes with paddles, by the hour, half day or full day and the price will vary from as low as $5 an hour to between $50 and $60 a day, depending on whether you need a large boat or a canoe.

You can rent all kinds of underwater cameras, movie and still; underwater metal detectors, if you want to go exploring for hidden metal objects in the white sand. You can rent compasses, fins, masks and snorkels for snorkeling, a sport you can learn quickly in the shallow areas of the Bay and river.

You can rent wet suits, jackets and/or pants, underwater lights, weight belts, diving flags, depth gauges, etc., everything you'll need.

Scuba diving is a protected sport, however. To rent air tanks, regulators and air fills for your own tanks you must be a certified diver or be accompanied by an instructor.

The rental "day" usually goes from about 8 a.m. until six p.m. daily.

And , of course, if you rent your boat to go fishing for the day, you can also rent fishing gear and have your fish cleaned when you return to the dock.

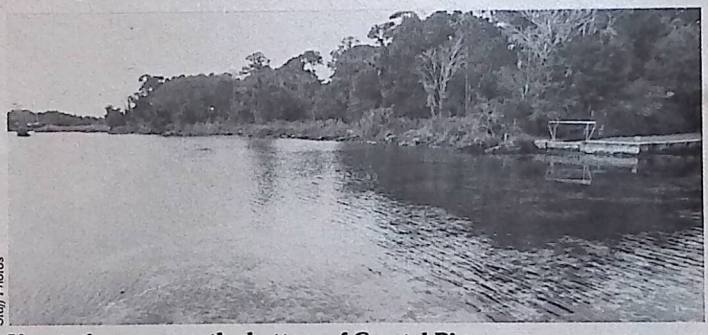
For more information on all of this write the Plantation Inn Marina, P.O. Box 1093, Crystal River, FL 32629, or telephone (904) 795-5797; or Talleys Pro Dive, P.O. Box 124, Crystal River, FL 32629 or telephone (904) 795-2776.



Divers heading out into Kings Bay.



Looking west from Hunters Spring.



Staff Photos

Vegetation seen on the bottom of Crystal River.

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The Family That Dives
Together Survives Together

Our Business is Going Under



Talley's Pro Dive
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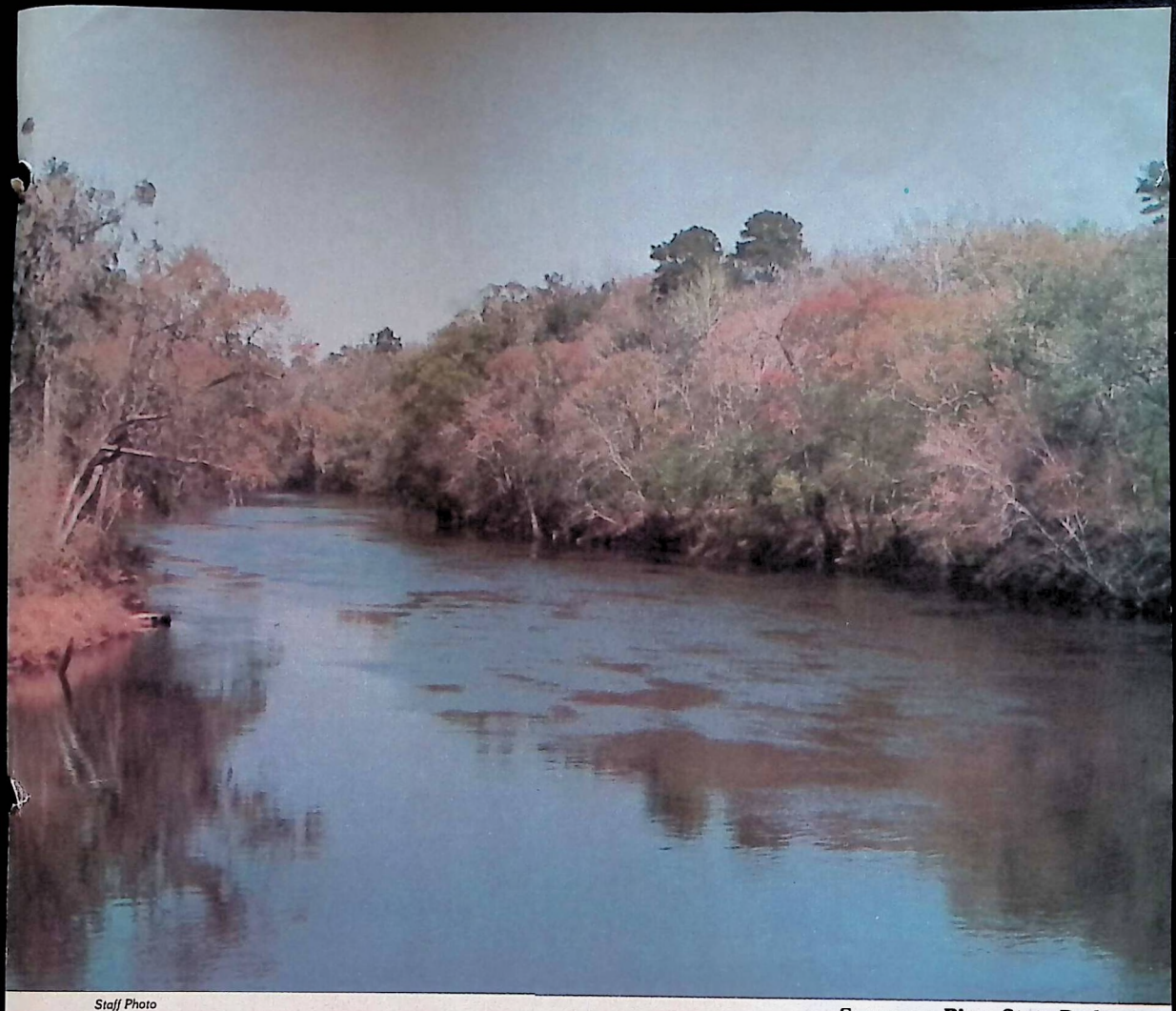

Staff Photo

Suwannee River State Park

Suwannee River

I scramble up the bank's incline, half afraid to look. What if it isn't there? Of course, my niece, in her eighth year of worldly wisdom has wearily assured me (in a somewhat patronizing tone), "It's always there." Ah, the eternal optimism of youth.

A cautious peek confirms the child's prophecy; it is there. My river, our river - dark, swift, mysterious, at the same time terrifying and peaceful. Like a powerful burnished arm, beckoning me on, it sweeps around the curve of white sandy beach and disappears in a blur of limestone, treefalls, and blue-green horizon.

I can't go just now. It will be enough to sit here on my moss-covered bluff, back against a kindred pine and drink my fill of you.

Our youth has gone. Eyes no longer crystal clear. Internal works clogged by man's contributions. The joyous exuberance of youth tamed, yea, chained, by progress, all in the interest of civilization, of course.

But we know. Never mind appearances. In the channel the current runs deep and true. Pockets of life-sustaining environs can still be found here and there. Water remains water, still or flowing, nurturing life, offering hope for the continuity of existence.

Uneasy souls of generations to come may not know my river as I do. Perhaps only an old song will remain, if that. But at least we're together now, like a simple trusting child escorted through perilous years by the guiding hand of a wise and brave grandfather, saddened, but proud of simply being.

Shadows tell me its time to go but I'm loathe to leave my perch. Is it a promise? Will you be here next time? And the next?

As the answer rises from the quiet beauty of the Suwannee, I, too, rise and with a nod of affirmation, turn and retrace my steps homeward.

Judith G. Hunter, Live Oak, Fla.

Your Column

I was so pleased with the Nov./Dec. issue of GNFL that I decided to subscribe at once. The article on Gainesville Historic homes was exceedingly interesting to me because I live in the northeast Historic District in the midst of them. Being a Gainesville resident for a little under two years, and interested in historic homes, I appreciate the pictures and the background you gave.

Helen C. Snyder
Gainesville, Fla.

I especially enjoyed your article about Helen, Georgia. We had visited there. I would like to read more about interesting places to visit in the mountains. I also enjoy your recipes and keeping us up to date on festivals, etc. I just enjoy the whole book. Keep up the good work.

Mrs. E. Middaugh
Tampa, Fla.

May I bring to your attention (again) the gold mine that is available in the personage of Dr. E.F. Montgomery, Sr., of Lake City, Fla. He has lived in N.E. Florida for all of his 92 years, with the exception of his years in college, seminary and graduate study, etc. He has total recall of events, people, places, stories, etc. His time is short--he has terminal cancer--but he has yet to retire from living. This week he is the devotional leader at a canoe adventure camp on the Suwannee River, near Mayo, Fla.

Eleanor Center
Orange Park, Fla.

Ed. Note: We waited too long to get an interview with Dr. Montgomery. His recent death left a void in the history of North Florida that will be impossible to fill. But, fortunately, there are some tapes of interviews with him that we intend to explore. We are also grateful to Mrs. Center for reminding us that the Penney Retirement Community at Penney Farms, Fla. would make a good story, and we intend to follow that lead.

We were particularly interested in your article, "Gem City of the St. Johns." Our business is the only one still carrying the name Gem City. At one time there were 5 others carrying the name Gem City. As far as we know we are the oldest business in town still operated by the same family, having been established in 1917.

W.A. Walker
Palatka, Fla.

So happy to know you are changing your name--at last!! One hardly needs a guide to live the good life in North Florida!!! To which I may add, we will be returning soon for the rest of our days!!

Nedra P. Siert
Des Moines, Iowa

Have you heard of a Georgia town just above Tallahassee area that honors the MULE one Saturday every September. I saw it mentioned in the *Chicago Times* Travel Section some years back but mi laid the information. My husband wa an Army pack outfit that utliized mul W.W. II and he would appreciate information, if possible.

Mrs. T.R. Warren
Waldo, Fla.

Ed. Note: Any reader who has information on this town where the mule is honored, please drop us a note about it to pass along to Mrs. Warren.

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McBride Tells The Crystal River Story

By Charles McBride

I was a resident of Citrus County for thirty-seven years and lived at Crystal River, a small village on the west side of the county and at the head of the beautiful stream also called Crystal River.

This river is made up by and with flowing springs; small springs - larger and much larger springs, and has been flowing for centuries.

Most of the springs are located in the vicinity of what is called the head of the river and the sights that you can see down below are unbelievable. As for sight seeing if you are in a small boat, commonly known as a skiff boat, and pass over any of these springs and you have an umbrella on a bright and clear day you can hold the umbrella over your head and you can see sights of wonder.

Glass bottom boats are being used for the occasion in the last few years, as they have what we would call a top or cabin over the boat and the glass is of the thickness, I would say, one fourth of an inch.

The glass is so arranged and is put in the bottom and in the middle of the boat and sight-seers can sit on each side of the glass and look down and see sights of wonder, and in winter time on cold days fish will gather to these springs because the water is warm.

You won't often find another river just like Crystal River. You can start at the head when the tide is going out and you can cast for fish on one side and will drift along with the tide for six miles down, and by then the tide is ready to turn back and you can cast every foot on the other side and soon you will be back where you started at in the morning.

Of course water was plentiful, of its kind, around the island; but not so good for general use, so he decided to dig a well or hole so as to have water for clothes washing, if nothing else.

So as he was digging away and not so very deep he dug up some bones and he soon found out that they were human bones, so he backed off and said none of this for me, it looks like a cemetery, and he gathered his belongings up and moved off. Well, the news soon got scattered around and some boys heard about what Flannigan had found so they went over to this island to do a little exploring; but not much success, and it got my curiosity stirred up a little and I went over with my hoe and shovel and I soon came in contact with some or what appeared to me as the arm bones, so I kept digging and soon found three skulls and all were in very good shape considering time, for they must have been there for hundreds of years.

The upper and lower jaws all had a full set of teeth and were very hard, and I would say hard as flint. All the teeth were worn down quite a bit and showed signs of age, not a tooth missing; but when the skulls would dry out you could take a tooth and lift it out of its cavity.

It was always a mystery to me what race of people they were and why they were buried there on this island. The skulls showed signs of them being of a small race of people, small features in every respect. One thing sure they were not Indians' skulls.

History tells me that the Indians were the ones that built the Mounds, such as shell mounds or other mounds small and large, as you will find them north and south side of Citrus County.

But the Indians deny this. They say that the mounds were built by a race of people ahead of them and were known as the Mound Builders. So I have come to the conclusion that these skulls that I had dug on this island known as Buzzards Island must have been of the early race of people that were before the Indian time.

Now we have heard and know a lot about the Indian wars back in the eighteenth century, early part and later in 1840 and so on. I might make mention of two shell mounds down the river and all on the right hand side, and this place for landing is commonly known as Spanish Mound by the natives that live in the vicinity of Crystal River.

Now there are two mounds worth looking at. There are large oak trees growing up on the top of them, and one of the mounds I feel safe to say must be 25 or 30 feet high, so as you look the situation over you know that it is useless to say that live oak trees are a hundred years old and if you say three to four hundred years old I think you would come closer to guessing the age.

Now in this vicinity not so far from these two mounds there is a sand mound, and it has proven to be a burial ground for the Indians.

The Smithsonian Institute of Washington, D. C., perhaps back in 1910 or 1912 went there and dug up a lot of things and units that belong to the Indian tribe, so that it is a settled fact.

Now the question is and it has always been a mystery to me where did the Indians get this white sand from. The closest you will find any white sand is about a mile away, so as it looks to me the Indians were very particular as to the color of the dirt that their dead would be buried under.

Now in this part of the country I am well acquainted with, day and night. I know more about the general lay out of country around this place known as Spanish Mound than the natives do who have lived here all of their lives, some of them 70 to 80 years old; but what I want to know who can give me some knowledge or can enlighten me on the subject as to where the Indians got this white sand from for their burial ground.

To be continued

Now to make it a bit stronger and plain, it is the only river in Citrus County or in the state or perhaps the United States that you can fish down and fish back for six miles by the run of the tide.

The tide is backed up by the Gulf of Mexico. It runs in for six hours and runs out for six hours, and is an hour or a bit more later every run in.

And here in this river you can catch sea trout, bass, red fish, sheepshead and bream, also plenty of tarpon in the Spring of the year (moon light nights). For deep sea fishing you can catch grouper, snapper the year round and when king fish are running it is a great sport. I have seen as many as 25 boats out enjoying the sport.

As for Crystal River the question has often been asked, How did Crystal River get its name? History has been told to me the Indians gave it the name because the water was so clear.

As a guess for depth you would say it is about six or eight feet deep, but if you measured it by a pole or something you would find the depth to be 12 to 15 feet deep.

The water was very clear and deceiving to the eye, and the question has often been asked why is it the river isn't as clear now as it used to be, well that is something else. The white man ran the Indian off and also he ran the sea cows off and as history has been told to me the sea cows would live and eat on the grass back in those days and back in those days when sea cows were just as plentiful as a school of mullet are today.

The sea cows kept the grass eaten down. So when you see a sea cow in Crystal River, give it the green light. I have not heard of one doing any harm.

In leaving Crystal River and going down the river you can see an island perhaps a quarter of a mile to your left. This island is known as Buzzard Island and the size is about ten acres, low and high land and never was developed to any extent.

Occasionally a fisherman would build a small shack there to live in while fishing with a net.

Back in the early twenties there was a fellow by the name of Flannigan Tolly who built one-room shack and moved his wife and children in.



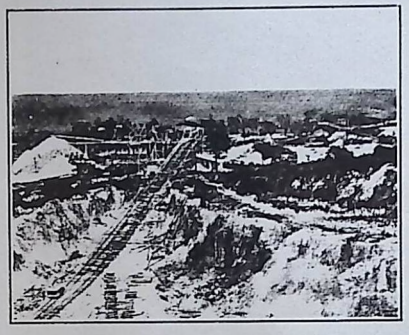
CRYSTAL RIVER IS GROWING

In the spring of 1926 thirty new buildings were in process of construction at one time, in Crystal River.

We have a new moving picture theatre, several new stores and a number of new homes. A new weekly newspaper has begun publication in its own building erected here this year which gives the town two weekly publications. We have also a newly established lumber yard, an ice plant, two restaurants, three filling stations, a ladies ready-to-wear shop, and a furniture store, all of which are prospering as are of course the well established businesses of the town.

Several new homes were built here this year in the section of Crystal River where winter residents own homes adjacent to the boating and fishing privilidges of the river. This desirable section has increased rapidly in the past year and now contains over 35 houses and cottages.

Our bank reports that deposits and clearings are double the amount of last year while a similar report from the post office indicates that twice the business is being done than twelve months ago by a conservative estimate.



INDUSTRIES OF CRYSTAL RIVER

Crystal River is the shipping point for two fish and oyster houses which supply inland towns with the products of our streams. Both fresh and salt water fish and oysters of good quality are shipped in profitable quantities.

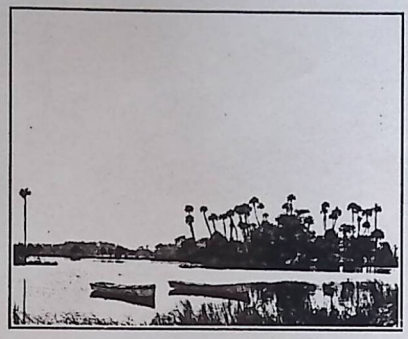
Near Crystal River the Crystal River Rock Company mines raw material for much of the building in the state and employs a number of men who trade here.

A few miles north of Crystal River the only large hydro-electric plant in Florida provides ample power for any industry. Nearby a new steam plant is being constructed and the two operated by one company will serve towns over a wide area of the State.

Crystal River has a saw mill in operation, two ice plants supplying most of the county, a creditable printing plant, and is planning other new industries.

Several farming communities are near Crystal River.

Adequate power, water transportation, and our strategic location at the approximate geographical center of the State are points which should not be overlooked.



CRYSTAL RIVER IS DIFFERENT

There are a number of things about Crystal River which makes this town nestling on the banks of a spring water river, different from any other town in Florida or elsewhere.

In this little folder we will try to tell you some of the things about Crystal River which are unique and which, we believe, tend to make Crystal River desirable as a home site, a place of business, or as a trading center for farmers, dairymen or truckers.

Crystal River is the product of hundreds of springs some of them mere bubbles in the sand while others are underground streams of large porportion which emerge through rock caverns. The State Department of Agriculture publishes the fact that Crystal River has the third largest spring in the State of Florida with a flow of 200,000 gallons of water a minute.

This river flows into the Gulf of Mexico seven miles away. For two or three miles the river is fresh and clear, then it merges with the water of the Gulf providing both fresh and salt water fish, oysters and other sea foods.



SCENIC BEAUTY AND SPORTS

Surrounding the river the majority of trees are palms with a good proportion of cedar, bay and magnolia lending a touch of unusual beauty to the river banks and the islands which dot all our streams, bays and inlets.

In the town of Crystal River there are some large oaks spreading their limbs over a wide area and on Crystal avenue their branches form a canopy over the street.

This town has for years been the mecca of sportsmen from northern states many of whom have been spending the winter season here year after year fishing or hunting.

Crystal River is a favorite spot for bass and trout fishing in the winter. Others come for the red snapper, sheap head, bream or other fish.

Not many miles from Crystal River the hunter may find deer, wild turkey and most all small game found in this section of the United States.

Boating has a new pleasure in Crystal River as the queer animal and vegetable life of the river bed may be studied in our clear water. Diving and swimming in clear spring water is unusually pleasant.


Annual Luncheon O
ral Riv
Womans Club,
Jan. 9, 1928
Photo
a.B. Ada

Office DEPOT.

Crystal River train depot to vie for National Registe

Michael Terry
mterry@chronicleonline.com
Chronicle

ll aboard!

he next stop for Crystal River's oric old railroad depot is the ional Register of Historic Places at is if members of the city council and the Crystal River Lions Club have it their way.

For the past 10 years, members of the Lions Club have worked to restore the city-owned building off Crystal Street, which had fallen into disrepair and was in danger of being lost forever.

With countless man hours and state grants, the Lions Club has been able to restore the depot's décor to the days of old.

With little discussion and great sense of accomplishment by all who've been involved in the project, council members voted unanimously Monday to have the city's community redevelopment agency (CRA) to do everything within its power to have the depot placed on the national register.

If the process were successful, the depot would join the old City Hall as the only two buildings in the city on the national register.

Councilman Russ Kreager said he was extremely proud of the all the work the Lions Club ha throughout the years to ge point they are today.

"They went to Tallahassee grants and then have don work," he said.

"And if the walls of the could talk, I'm sure they'd tell of history."

by Sea breezes from
it and the Atlantic
variation in climate
and summer) is less
any other section of

CITRUS COUNTY CHRO

DEVOTED TO THE CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC WELFARE OF CITRUS COUNTY. READ BY MORE

AL CITY AND COUNTY NEWSPAPER — INVERNESS, FLORIDA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1947

US WEST SIDE REPARES FOR BIG SEASON

successful meeting with
el owners in Homosassa
and Homosassa and guides
osassa river was held at the
of Oscar T. Johnson at his
a Springs hotel, last Tues-
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made of last season's fish-
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ought up and ironed out, and
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with new Marine motors, and
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and parapharnalia. The
Homosassa river have made
minds to really make peo-
that Homosassa river is the
fishing spot on the Flor-
coast.

ecided on the following rates:
full day's fishing of nine
22-foot open launches, the
be $15 per day for two per-
$20 per day for a party of
ates for a day's duck hunt-
season was fixed at $20 per
two persons, and $30 per day
persons.

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Cheney of Riverside Lodge.
be hardly any river on
t coast that will be
able to answer the
demand for bait of dif-
kinds as the Homosassa
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ttled, as was the matter of
ht to cancel reserved dates.
pulated that five days no-
d be given by a fisherman

GREAT SPRINGS AT CRYSTAL RIVER ARE NATURE'S WONDER

A Chronicle reporter paid a visit Sunday afternoon to the Great Springs of Crystal River. It was a most interesting trip.

We boarded Jessie M. Hatfield's glass-bottom sightseeing boat, and the wonders of nature began to be unfolded. The water was very clear, and before us were hundreds of varieties of underwater ferns—flowers, vegetation; many varieties of fish, turtles, snakes, tarpon, and as the boat hovered over the great springs (there are several) hundred of thousands of gallons of water could be seen surging from the bowels of the river floor, caves of tremendous size opened into walls.

The Great Springs of Crystal River differ from similar attractions because they are exactly as nature made them. It is impossible to install artificial setups in the big river with its tides. We recommend that every citizen of Citrus county make a trip over to Crystal River and see what our own county has to offer.

Another interesting feature of the Hatfield enterprise—are the Hatfields. You guessed it, they are the West Virginia Hatfields and belong to old Devil Anse's clan who was a fightin' and feudin' with the McCoys for generations. Three of Jessie's sons assist him in the boat business. They are:

Paul M., ex-Marine, wounded four times in action; has the Silver Star, three Gold Stars, Purple Heart, Presidential Citation.

James M., ex-Navy who served on the famous carried Cabot; has the Presidential Citation.

Lawrence L., ex-Marine, wounded in action several times, has two Purple Hearts and the Presidential Citation.

The Hatfields are splendid hosts and enjoy showing you the wonders of the Great Springs of Crystal River.

OVER 200 AT METHODIST HOMECOMING

The Homecoming Day services at

OPEN GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION OF CITRUS VOTING LISTS DEMANDED BY FLORAL CITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

By FRANCIS COATE
(President, Floral City Civic Assn.)

This organization was formed to advance and promote development of Floral City and adjacent territory.

It is a non-partisan organization, pledged to uphold and assist any duly elected officer of this county in the honest discharge of his duties, and to oppose with equal vigor any officer who violates his oath of office or who forgets he is a servant of the people.

Active membership is restricted to white male residents or property owners of Floral City or environs.

Floral City is an unincorporated village of friendly people, beautiful homes with unequalled climate in a setting of beautiful lakes and woodland unexcelled anywhere in Florida. Floral City is debt free, hence taxes are low. This association was organized to give it a board of governors, as it were, to map its course, to fight its battles, and to reinforce with our entire membership the law enforcement officers of this county and state.

An article in the Citrus County Chronicle of Sept. 4 credits the county commissioners of Citrus county with the adoption of a resolution charging J. M. Hendrix, supervisor of registration, of being too ignorant of the duties of his office to perform same, directing the chairman and clerk of the board to transmit a certified copy of their resolution to his Hon. Millard F. Caldwell, governor of the State of Florida, requesting that the same be investigated and proper action taken. The Chronicle of Sept. 18 states the commissioners at Monday's meeting reaffirmed their previous charges against Mr. Hendrix, charging incompetence and other things.

Mr. Hendrix states that he welcomes an investigation of his effort to purge the books of names of persons long since dead or moved to other counties or states.

The Floral City Civic Association has been advised from many sources, judicial and otherwise, that there has never been a reregistration in Citrus county; that due to the fact a great many names of persons now dead or moved remain on the books as qualified voters render it possible to defeat any petition for a special election not to the liking of the powers that be.

Such a condition is unhealthy in any community, county or state, and in adherence to our policy of fair play The Floral City Civic Association adopted a resolution directing its secretary to communicate with the Hon. Millard F. Caldwell, governor of the State of Florida, requesting this situation be speedily and thoroughly investigated.

Reply from the governor follows:

Mr. W. B. Keating, Secretary Floral City Civic Association, Floral City, Florida.

Dear Mr. Keating:

I have your letter advising me of the action taken by the Floral City Civic Association requesting a governmental investigation into the reregistraion of voters in Citrus county. Your suggestion will be followed. I am asknig the state attorney to bring this matter before the next session of the grand jury for a full and complete inquiry.

Sincerely,
M. F. CALDWELL, Governor.

Every club and society in this county, that believes in good government should request that the governor not only keep his promise of a grand jury investigation, but that it be held in the open.

The supervisor of registration, as well as the county commissioners, have asked for an investigation. Let us make it unanimous, so that there can be no question in the future ARE OUR DEAD ALLOWED TO SLEEP IN PEACE? and our erstwhile citizens need no longer be subject to investigation for fraudulant voting for once having lived in and voted in Citrus county.

TRUS COUNTY. READ BY MORE THAN 5,000 PEOPLE EACH WEEK

HURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1947 ESTABLISHED 1890

NVESTIGATION NG LISTS DEMANDED CITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

ANCIS COATE
oral City Civic Assn.)

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CATTLE, WATER, AUDIT, SEWERS, STREETS GET EYE OF CITY COUNCIL

The city council has been meeting almost nightly in special sessions to complete its tax equalization duties, and drafting, planning and starting a widespread program of city improvements.

As an indication of the results of these efforts, we report:

City water reservoir tank to be repaired and repainted.

An emergency pump to be installed at water plant. Present pump is said to be operating 24 hours daily. Emergency pump will operate from storage battery and be available should regular pump fail.

City sewers which have become clogged are to be cleaned out and put in operation.

City streets are to be repaired.

Citizens who are delinquent in payment of water bills will be cut off as of Nov. 1 and all back bills must be settled before water service will be resumed.

Audit of city accounts by a certified public accountant will start in a few days.

City budget is about completed.

City trailer park has been receiving considerable attention, and an important announcement may be expected in the near future.

A committee of council members, county commissioners and cattlemen have worked out an agreement which they say will keep cattle out of the city. Cattle gaps and fences are to be immediately repaired and rebuilt.

Other matters pertaining to garbage collection and a city zoning law have been discussed, although no decision have been made.

Yes sir, the midnight oil has been burning at the city hall, and the city fathers are busy.

FLA. TELEPHONE ASKS FOR RATE ADJUSTMENT

Max E. Wettstein, executive vice president of the Florida Telephone Corporation, and in charge of its financial operations in an announce-

5 CERTIFIED FOR CITRUS TRUSTEE RACE

There will be five candidates for the three-man county-wide board of trustees which will supervise Citrus county school affairs after Jan. 1. The county school board Tuesday ordered five names placed on the ballot, after checking nominating petitions on file in the county office.

The three trustees to be elected Nov. 4 will come from the following list: W. M. Wilder, Lecanto; John Ogden, Floral City; Mrs. W. J. Bunts, Crystal River; James DeWitt, Homosassa; Carey Smoak, Inverness.

Not more than one member of the new board can come from one commissioner district. The names will be listed alphabetically on the ballot. and the three high men will be declared elected, subject to the one-to-a-district proviso.

The county school board has recommended adoption of five mills for maintenance purposes, and this amount will be given on the ballot, along with a space in which different amounts may be written by voters disagreeing with the board's recommendation.

The Citrus county board of public instruction on September 22, named the following to serve as officers of election in their respective precincts:

Precinct No. 1, Citronelle— Babe Roddenberry, J. J. Houstma, Charlie Hatcher.

Precinct No. 2, North Crystal River—Mrs. Julia Falany, Mrs. George Silas, Mrs. Jimmie Jones.

Precinct No. 3, Homosassa—Mrs. Elta Whilden, Mrs. Albert Morton, Mrs. Charles Huggins.

Precinct No. 4, Ozello—John Brown, Mrs. James Stephens, Mrs. Herman DeBusk.

Precinct No. 5, Lecanto—Warnell Glisson, Mrs. Bennett King, Mrs. Dennis Allen.

Precinct No. 6, Oak Grove—Alec Rogers, Jesse Thomas, S. L. Mills.

Precinct No. 7, Pleasant Grove—Mrs. Ruth Cason, Mrs. Jewel Jones, J. A. Landrum.

Precinct No. 8, Floral City—Mrs. Levina Ross, Mrs. Stella Love, A. S. Bear.

McBride Tells Of:

Early Days On West Side

This is another in a series of articles on the history of the West Side of Citrus county. Some of the events recounted are remembered by the writer. Others were told to him by settlers of an earlier day.

By Charles McBride

I would like to mention a few words about Mr. Hunt and his daughter Miss Edith. Years and many years back they came down to Cedar Keys from Detroit, Michigan, and at that time the railroad was running in to Cedar Keys, Seaboard Air Line, and the Plant System or Atlantic Coast Line was running to Crystal River.

Mr. Hunt and daughter decided to come over to Crystal River by boat. Her health was not so good—being bothered with rheumatism—and to make the trip by train would require two days. By water the distance was forty miles, so they come over by water. That was easy riding. It took four hours to make the trip and at the fish house at Crystal River getting out or off the boat was a bit of a problem. So after everybody did a little talking pro and con they decided to put her in a fish basket and with a rope and pulley they pulled her up to the level of the fish house floor, and everything went along all right.

Mr. Hunt and daughter soon got located and settled down. They were well pleased with Crystal River and Miss Ediths health soon became much better, and for many year they spent the summer in Detroit, Michigan, and the winters in Crystal River of late she has been able to walk a little. (Am I right?)

I do not recall what year it was that the railroad was built into Crystal River and Homosaas, and as I have been told that Nick C. Barco was a strong man in an influential way and in poltics, also he was listed as a heavy land owner and was a great believer in the future of Crystal River, and he was quite a booster for the railroad in getting it built.

In the early days there was plenty doing, crate mill, turpentine, cedar business, cross tie cutting, fish and oyster business was extra good. Cattle were quite plentiful, beef was cheap, fifteen and twenty cents per pound, and the very best; I mean local range beef. Cane syrup, and sweet potatoes were quite plentiful but not today, (what a change).

I would like to say a word or two about Homosassa and of late years the village has been known as old Homosassa and any one going to the town or village just before you get down to the business section you will come to a sugar mill, or that is the name it has had for many years, and this sugar mill was used for making syrup and sugar as well.

It is a very well set up affair. It was operated and run by steam power, a large boiler was in use, and the power derived from same was used for the purpose of grinding the sugar cane and by-products from same were sugar and syrup.

There were five large vats or a saucer shaped kettle and, I would say, holding about two hundred gal

the West Indies Island, east of Florida. He was considered to be very wealthy. This plantation at Homosassa was worked by his slaves (colored). He had boats to carry the products he would raise to Cedar Keys and there he would load them on his train that he operated from Cedar Keys to Fernandina, Florida, on the East Coast, and there the freight would be transferred to another boat and would be taken to Savannah, Georgia, and there another change would be made and the freight would be loaded in railroad cars and shipped to Northern points.

In the latter days of the Civil War the North captured one of his boats with a heavy load while being taken to Cedar Keys which was a very big loss to him, so as History tells me that was the end of the plantation days. (Am I right?)

David Levy, as he was known for many years, and while a young man and in the prime of life became acquainted with the Kentucky Governor's daughter, and as History tells me he had a hard time winning her hand; but finally he did so.

So as the story goes the lady told him he must change his name to read some other way, so he did so and the change was from David Levy to read David Yulee, so every thing was all right and soon thereafter they were married.

One child was born to them, it being a girl. Not being able to quote data as to David Yulee's age, I have a light recollection of reading a bit

until death, so as it has been told to me the matter was referred to Gainesville University.

They sent a representative to Washington to contact Yulee's daughter and see if the papers bore any value. So the report was that they are very valuable and there were ten boxes and two trunks full. I am unable to say how large these containers were. So she gave the contents to Florida and same has been stored in Gainesville in the Yonge building on the University grounds. For your information you may contact the office there for the facts (right or wrong).

I want to mention about the material that the sugar mill was built from. The flue or smokestack is of lime rock blocks sawed from the grounds and perhaps a hundred years ago or more. The boiler was manufactured and also the cane rollers in the state of New York, the names are still to be seen on same. I naturally would say that the sugar and syrup kettle were made there also, but not for sure.

W. S. Paul has told me quite a few interesting stories about the sugar mill and he well remembered when it was in operation. The colored women would work at the mill and the men would work in the

and Mr. Hunt was quite a booster for Crystal River, and he was the cause of many visitors coming to Crystal River from Detroit.

Mr. Hunt has been dead for many years, Miss Edith of late years has lived in Crystal River the year round. The last account I had about her she was in Tampa at a home for elderly people. A very unfortunate accident happened to her. As I remember it, in the latter part of November 1951, she fell and broke her hip, and just

lons of cane juice. The juice would be boiled down to a thickness and would be known as syrup, and if you wanted sugar you would boil the substance a little longer and after taking the thick syrup out of the cooking boiler and put same in a container to cool off, the mixture would turn to sugar, and be known as brown sugar.

Now the owner of this sugar mill and plantation was known by the name of David Levy and was from

about his age but not positive; but I think he was born some time before 1820 and died in the latter part of the eightys at Washington, D. C.

His wife also died there and History tells me his daughter lived in Washington for several years and later she moved back to Gainesville, Florida, and lived there for a long time, and not so many knew of her connection as being the daughter of an early settler known as David Yulee.

This daughter lived to a ripe old age and I am not able to quote her name. I have papers at home telling what her married name is but not able to get her name for proof at this time.

As History tells me David Yulee kept all his papers, regardless of value at that time, and the accumulation of same was more than many, and as time and age came on Yulee and his wife passed on to the resting place.

David Yulee and wife spent the early days of life in Florida, and his daughter was well familiar with her father's business affairs and knew he always had a warm spot in his heart for Florida, and of late years the daughter lived in Gainesville.

I will say about fifteen years ago and she moved back to Washington where she spent the early days of life and on returning to Washington and knowing so much of the past history of Florida and her father's connections, she wrote to Tallahassee to some State officials and told them about the papers she had that her father kept from early days of life

field during harvesting time. If you should stop at this mill and look around you just can't figure it out. You say "Where is or was the plantation)? The growth of timber stands, trees of all kinds. This sugar mill belongs to the County Federation of Women's Clubs. I do not remember just how much land they own.

CRYSTAL RIVER SCHOOL NEWS

SCHOOL NEWS STAFF

Editor ..... Phrynette Stroupe
Associate Editor..... Ruth Burgess
News Editor ..... Mildred Williams
Assistant News Editor..Chas. Blanton
Sports Editors..... Nathan Abbott
Ruby Waddington
Assistant Sports Editors, Helen Heal and R. G. Gainey
Art Editors, Frances Quinn, Ernestine Hough, Sarah Howard, Carl Ellis
Home Room Reporters, Lillian Cribb, Frances Edwards, Elaine Barnes, Hellen Allen.

SOPHOMORE NEWS

The Sophomore class has been developing paragraph: by definition, details, specifice example, comparison and contrast, and cause and effect in English during the past week.

This week we are studying our literature books. We are taking up the study of Shakespearian plays. One of importance is "As You Like It." We are also tracing the origin of the stage. Our teacher has divided us into groups of twos and has instructed us to make toy stages, which will help us in studying these plays.

The home economics girls are studying calories and the amount that one should have daily. Some of the girls have decided that they eat too many calories, which accounts for their gain in weight and they are planning to reduce.

Mary Frances Edwards.

12TH GRADE NEWS

Test week is a very busy week in Crystal River high school, and especially so for the Seniors. A number of the Seniors are expecting to attend the Florida State Fair in Tampa one day this week or next.

Helen Allen.

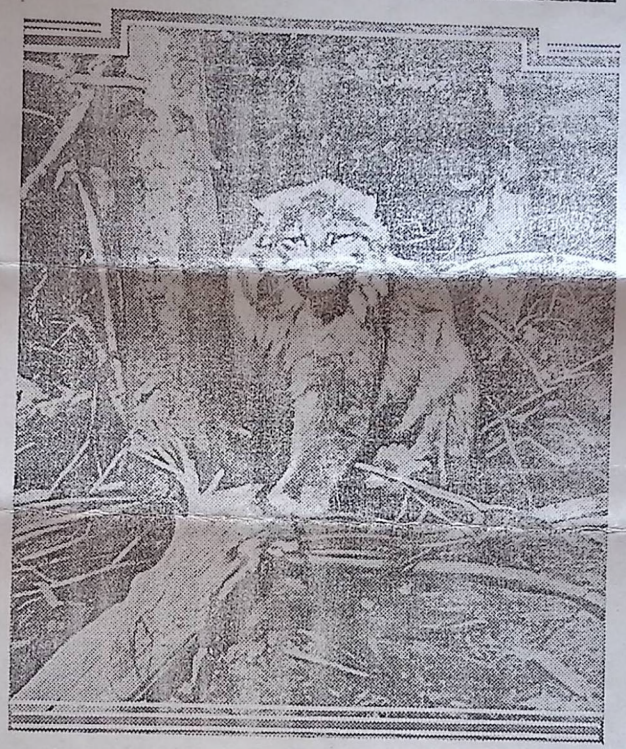
Each morning at ten o'clock we have a thirty minute physical education period. Every boy and girl is on the play ground at this time. The tiny folks play "wee folks" games. A group of small boys and small girls are playing basketball. The high school boys play football, and the high school girls play volley ball and baseball. These girls are divided into two groups: one group plays volley ball while the other group plays baseball. We are planning to have some tournaments during the next two weeks. Some reward will be given to the winning group.

WHO'S WHO

The most wide-awake boy in school —Elmo Reed.

Best looking boy in school—Art Cannon.

+ Do You Know? +



Photograph, Canadian National Railways

THAT although the Canada lynx is sometimes confused with the bobcat or bay lynx of the east, he is an entirely different creature? He is to be distinguished from his meaner relatives by his lighter gray color, tuft of long black hairs on the tips of his ears and his large, hairy paws. He feeds chiefly on rabbits though he also favors grouse and other game birds. It has also been reported that he sometimes kills deer and caribou. Above is the old aristocrat himself posing for one of the few pictures ever made of him outside of a zoo.

a pleasant visit here with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Roux, who accompanied them home and spent the day.

Mrs. Annie Williamson of Inverness was a caller at the M. M. Smoak home Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh P. Knowles and son Hugh, Jr., of Lakeland spent Saturday and Sunday here as guests of her mother, Mrs. G. P. Allen. Their young son, Allen, who had been visiting his grandmother accompanied them home.

Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Keating and Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Fisher were visitors in Tampa and St. Petersburg Monday of last week.

Mrs. Pearl Bartlett, Mrs. M. D. Perry and niece, Miss Emma Claire Watson, were visitors in Brooksville Sunday morning.

Crystal River

A Brief Historical Sketch of My Home Town

By MILDRED WILLIAMS

Oft-times we are looking for something interesting to do. What could be more interesting than to look back into the past history of our home town? To me the history of my home town is a romantic adventure and has an interesting story.

The earliest inhabitants or the first settlers of Crystal River were the Aborigines, who lived along the river around Spanish Mound. Pieces of pottery and ornaments found near the mound show that the inhabitants were Aborigines. Skeletons were

population to twelve hundred and Crystal River was known as the most prosperous little town on the west coast.

Up until 1903 Crystal River had the old style of village government. It then changed to town government. Twenty years later Crystal River adopted a city form of government.

About this time it was nothing unusual to see a horse and buggy going down the street. Then all of a sudden the buggy appeared to sink into a bit of quicksand, which in reality was mud.

The other day I learned that the large white house, that I always admired, is the oldest house in Crystal River. It is the home of Mr. J. K. Eubanks. In every civilized community where there are homes they have a church. The first church of this town was the Presbyterian, built by the Earnest Workers. Not long after the Baptist was built on the site of the present cemetery but afterwards moved to where it now stands.

A small frame building located near the hammock served the purpose of a school and church house. Mrs. Ada Bennett was the school teacher. She also taught trades and music in the evening at her home. By degrees the school has grown until today Crystal River is justly proud of her standard high school.

What a proud little town was Crystal River when she published her first newspaper "The Herald." Mr. C. A. Miller was the first person to receive a copy which he still cherishes.

For transportation in early days they used steamboats for freight and passengers. Many articles such as cotton and lumber were exported and supplies and building material were imported.

Since 1910 when it began to be known that there was an abundance of fish here about, many came here to enjoy fishing, hunting and climate. It was then that our sub-division, Michigan Town sprang up. From that time the chief industry of the town has been fishing.

Several large stores have been established near the present town but in the year 1920 a fire burned down the larger part of the business section. This was a fire never to be forgotten in Crystal River. The stores were again rebuilt. This time they were built a few blocks farther north. A bank, postoffice and several other buildings were built where they still stand.

Prosperity came and declined. The boom came and went. The industries have changed, the number of people decreased but still Crystal River is a growing little town. The inhabitants hope that it will continue to be as prosperous in the future as it has been in the past.

one of the few pictures ever made of him outside of a zoo.

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WHO'S WHO

The most wide-awake boy in school —Elmo Reed.

Best looking boy in school—Art Cannon.

The smallest girl in school—Rubye Waddington.

The boys who makes the brightest remarks—Verne Allen.

Wittiest boy in school—Horace Allen.

Friendliest boy in school—Nathan Abbott.

Most agreeable boy in school—Charlie Blanton.

Most studious girl in school—Mildred Williams.

Professional baseball player—Martha Baer.

Best looking girl in high school—Eddie Mae Harmon.

The girl who is always present and never tardy—Faira Williams.

Smartest girl in school—Sarah Howard.

Timidest girl in school—Ruth Hudson.

Teacher with the best husband—Miss Teed.

Star basketball player—Phrynette Stroup.

The one who has the most winning smile—Mr. Stimson.

The fattest girl in school—Louise Roddenbury.

The woman who detests chewing gum—Martha Bartlett.

The smallest boy in school—Ira Martin.

The girl who never giggles—Wilma Vance.

The weakest girl in school—Effie Levins.

The girl who hates basketball—Virginia Burgess.

The boy who knows more than any one else.—R. G. Gainey.

The woman hater—James Daniel.

Frances Quinn.

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Mrs. Pearl Bartlett, Mrs. M. D. Perry and niece, Miss Emma Claire Watson, were visitors in Brooksville Sunday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Smoak left Wednesday for Jacksonville where Mr. Smoak entered a hospital for treatment. Their son, Carey Smoak, and wife, who have been living in Holder, moved back here Monday so that he can look after his father's business.

Mrs. G. W. Allen was a visitor in Inverness Monday afternoon.

Mrs. B. T. Keating was shopping in Brooksville Monday afternoon.

J. M. Watts returned home after a business visit in Clearwater. Accompanying him home for a visit were his daughter-in-law, Mrs. George Watts and son, Robert.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Fisher motored to Clearwater Sunday for the day.

Fred Whitelaw who has been critically ill here at the home of his parents, is reported to be slowly improving.

Al Felde who has been a patient in the Brooksville Hospital for several days is reported to be much improved. His wife and daughter, Miss Florence, motor over every day to see him.

Miss Lula May Ward, 38, of Lakeland, after a few days' illness in a Lakeland hospital, died Friday and was buried here Saturday morning. Miss Ward formerly lived here with her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Ward, Jr., who were well known throughout this section of the county.

Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Zellner and two children of St. Petersburg spent Sunday here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Zellner. Mrs. Zellner, who has been confined to her bed for sometime, is improving slowly and sits up part of the time.

Crystal River

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The earliest inhabitants or the first settlers of Crystal River were the Aborigines, who lived along the river around Spanish Mound. Pieces of pottery and ornaments found near the mound show that the inhabitants were Aborigines. Skeletons were found buried under the sand and shells. Also ear ornaments coated with metalic iron were dug up. The skeletons and ornaments show that there were Indians and maybe Spaniards located near Crystal River.

At first the town was built down by the river and was called "The Head." Very few people lived here, at that time, and only two stores were located on Miller's Point. It was probably because of the clear, beautiful springs at the head of the river that the people decided to call their town "Crystal River."

During the Civil War in 1860 a battle took place on Shell Island. This island is about seven miles from Crystal River and at the mouth of the river. The battle between the Confederate and the Federal forces resulted in the death of three men and the capture of three others. One, a negro, captured during the battle, was afterwards hanged, shot and then buried in the Crystal River cemetery. Surely it was unusual for a negro to be buried in a white cemetery. The grave still remains.

After a few years came the cotton gin which was the only cotton gin in the state, at that time. The people traded cotton for their supplies. After the cotton was ginned it was shipped to Cedar Keys by boat.

The fishing industry was not then a large one. Cattle raising and farming were the chief industries at that time. The cattle were shipped to Cuba and paid for in Spanish doubloons. For a time Spanish coins were common in this section.

In 1888 the railroad was built. It was a spur track of the Silver

It was then that our sub-division, Michigan Town sprang up. From that time the chief industry of the town has been fishing.

Several large stores have been established near the present town but in the year 1920 a fire burned down the larger part of the business section. This was a fire never to be forgotten in Crystal River. The stores were again rebuilt. This time they were built a few blocks farther north. A bank, postoffice and several other buildings were built where they still stand.

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Political Announcements

NOTE — Political announcements are printed at the rate of $10 for each announcement, payable strictly in advance. No deviation will be made from this rule. Announcements run through the last issue of the Chronicle before the primary on June 7th, 1932.

For Clerk of the Circuit Court For Citrus County

I hereby offer myself as a candidate for re-election to the office of clerk of the circuit court for Citrus county, subject to the will of the Democratic primaries to be held in June, 1932. If re-elected I promise to give the office the same attention I have during the past, and will always strive to serve the best interests of the people, the county and the state. Your vote and active support will be greatly appreciated.

CLAUDE E. CONNOR.

FOR CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, CITRUS COUNTY

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of Clerk of the Circuit Court in and for Citrus county, subject to the will of the Democratic primary to be held June 7th, 1932. If honored with election, I promise an efficient administration to the affairs of this important office, and will give all my time and attention to this end. Your vote and active support will be greatly appreciated.

J. K. KELLEY.

FOR CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT Citrus County

This will announce my candidacy

FLORAL CITY

Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Sutton of Pickens, S. C., arrived Sunday afternoon and made a short visit here with her mother, Mrs. J. A. Pendarvis. They continued on to Bartow to visit his parents.

Mrs. Ernest Smith of Bushnell returned home Sunday afternoon after spending a few days here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Tooke. Miss Emma Claire Watson of Dunnellon is spending the week here as a guest at the home of her grandmother, Mrs. Clara Watson and family.

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Puckette and family attended the funeral services for T. J. Cannon at Red Level Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Frank Kirk and Mrs. R. E. Burritt and two daughters, June Louise and Marilyn Inez of Tampa, returned to their homes Sunday after

A Brave Man's Speech

Samuel H. Church, the head of the new Liberal party, said in New York the other day:

"To belong to our new party will take courage. But nothing can be done without courage. Remember what Pompey the Great said when he wanted to sail his grain ships to starving Rome and the sailors were afraid to raise anchor on account of the terrible storm.

"'It is necessary to go,' said Pompey. 'It is not necessary to live.'"

Why Not?

Charles Jr., barely four, was visiting the hospital to see a brand new baby brother. He very excitedly began telling the baby he was going to take him home to play, and was about to put his words into action when his mother remonstrated.

"Wait a minute, Charles, Jr., he can't walk yet!"

"Well, wh—what's the matter with his legs?" came the reply.

was a spur track of the Silver Springs, Ocala and Gulf railroad. Up until that time the mail had been brought from Brooksville by horse and buggy. The business of this road was aided by the discovery of phosphate on east side of the county. Captain Finch, was the superintendent of the railroad, shortly afterwards Mr. Plant bought it and called it the Atlantic Coast Line.

There have been two so-called tidal waves at Crystal River. One happened in 1896. It was such a high tide that the people had to use boats up and down the streets. Many fish were left on shore when the tide receded. People went out with baskets and gathered up the fish. In 1929 Crystal River had another tidal wave but this was little noticed.

As the town began to prosper several large mills were built. There were five mills in operation. These were Baum-Robinson Crate Mill, Lumber Mill, Blanton-Barco Sawmill, the Turpentine Still and the Cedar Mill. This helped to increase the

This will announce my candidacy for the office of Clerk of the Circuit Court of Citrus county subject to the Democraitc primary to be held in June, 1932. I am 40 years old; this is the first time I have ever been a candidate for any political office. Being now, and having been for more than 15 years, engaged in the abstract busness, I feel that I am qualified to perform the duties of the above named office, and, if honored with election, I promise and assure you that the affairs of the office will be honestly, competently and courteously attended to. I will greatly appreciate your vote and support.

FRANK D. SANDERS.

FOR TAX COLLECTOR
Citrus County

I wish to offer myself as a candidate for re-election to the office of Tax Collector for Citrus county, subject to the will of the Democratic primary to be held June 7th, 1932. Your vote and active support will be appreciated.

A. S. KING,
Tax Collector,
Citrus County.

1883 Crystal River - population 150

Crystal River is situated on the river of the same name about 10 miles from Gulf of Mexico and 35 miles of Cedar Key.

Jenkin's, J. C. - postmaster
Barco, Nic. - general store
Miller, J. L., - general mdse., cotton-gin and grist mill
Mann, A. S., - attorney
Paul & Willis, - general mdse.
Shands, Dr., - mdse.
Williams, I., - manager of Dixion cedar mill

From the Florida Star Gazetteer 1883

Old courthouse in Crystal River now houses Historical Society

By Joe Espin
Coast News Correspondent

The old Crystal River courthouse, at 532 Citrus Avenue, now houses the museum of the Citrus County Historical Society's Coastal Branch.

Built in 1939, this quaint, stone building boasts a veritable potpourri of treasures from days gone by.

The array of implements that grace the shelves and furniture of this exciting museum are a must-see for all persons interested in the past of Crystal River and Citrus County.

On the day we visited, Historical Society member Betty Bault was in charge of the museum. Mrs. Bault told a touching story of a young schoolboy who visited the museum and was so impressed with the displays that he went out and bought two antique-seeming miniatures and donated them to the museum.

Mrs. Bault says she was so touched by the young man's gesture that she filled out and filed an official donor's certificate for the young lad.

We were also very lucky to run into famed Homosassa artist Walter Huffman during our visit.

Mr. Huffman is not only an accomplished artiste on the canvas, he is an excellent model maker as well.

He and Delbert Lobmaster are the builders of the beautiful models of Crystal River as it appeared in 1927 that is a central display at the museum.

Hanging in the museum is Huffman's painting of a fishing guide, Frank Charles, who according to Huffman was known as the "Candy Man."

Huffman said the guide used to work out of Crystal Lodge. It seems that Frank Charles would go into the grocery store each day before school let out and, giving the clerk a dollar, would request that candy be given to the children passing by.

The children were never told who their benefactor was, but adults in the area knew Frank Charles as the "Candy Man."

The many exhibits at the museum range from dresses worn by Anna Virginia Bowman, wife of the first mayor of Crystal River, to the medical and dental instruments of the area's first physician.

The great variety of items also include Crystal River's first traffic signal (hooked up and working), globes from the old post office, a period wash pitcher and bowl, turpentine making equipment, bedding, typewriters, chest, photographs and a display of the processing of the cedar slats made at the Dixon Sawmill, (which operated between 1884 and 1950), that were shipped to the Joseph Dixon Crucible Company in Jersey City, N.J., where the slats were grooved, leaded and cut, to make high quality pencils.

We were especially impressed by the original jail cell of the Crystal River police department, which now serves as a showcase for the Historical Society's gift shop.

Featuring informative and historical books, along with old-fashioned child[illegible]

to man the museum on Saturdays, so that school children can visit.

At present, the museum's hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday and admission is free. Don't miss it!

QUALITY AUDITING
CPC
MARK OF INTEGRITY

day, December 14, 1988



ANOTHER LITTLE-KNOWN CITRUS MUSEUM
Betty Bault and Walter Huffman recently led writer Joe Espin on the latest of his tours through obscure historical sites, this time in Crystal River, where Joe found Crystal River's original jail cell. See story on Page 8.

West Side Beat Page 4

Mail late, pay more Page 20

A Sunpress publication P.O. Box 1000, Crystal River, FL 32629 (904) 795-7112

Coast News

QUALITY AUDITING CPAC MARK OF INTEGRITY

Volume 11, Issue 5 Wednesday, December 14, 1988



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We were especially impressed by the original jail cell of the Crystal River police department, which now serves as a showcase for the Historical Society's gift shop.

Featuring informative and historical books, along with old-fashioned children's toys, the tiny gift shop is an excellent example of the reason for the low crime rate at that time. It is approximately five feet wide by six feet tall and eight feet long. It is easy to understand why people would avoid trouble to stay out of there.

In parting, Mrs. Bault asked us to mention that volunteers are needed to man the museum on Saturdays, so that school children can visit.

At present, the museum's hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday and admission is free. Don't miss it!

Office DEPOT.

FLORIDA PLACE-NAMES OF INDIAN ORIGIN

AND

SEMINOLE PERSONAL NAMES

BY
WILLIAM A. READ, PH.D.
Professor of the English Language and Literature
IN
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS
BATON ROUGE
1934

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDIES

JAMES M. SMITH, PH.D.

PRESIDENT, LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Edited By

CHARLES W. PIPKIN, PH.D., LL.D.

DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL AND PROFESSOR OF COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT, LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL AND PROFESSOR OF COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT, LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Bernard Romans, in *A Concise Natural History of Florida*, 1775, p. 281, mentions a Creek town by the name of *New Eufaula*, which Swanton, *BAE*, Bul. 73: 403, believes to be identical with the one subsequently called *Red House* or *Red Town*. The name of the hammock was taken from that of the town, in which the houses were daubed with red clay.

CHULUOTA. A town with a population of 243 on the Florida East Coast Line, in Seminole County.

1892. CHULUOTA. Norton Map, p. 68.

Chuluota is probably composed of Sem. *chula*, "fox," and *huti*, "den." If, however, the name happens to be of Choctaw origin, it is composed of *chula*, "foxes," and *àtta*, "to live,"—that is, "a place where foxes are common."

The translation "beautiful view," as recorded by Gannett, is apparently due to an erroneous association of the first element of the name with Mexican Spanish *chulo(a)*, "pretty," "graceful," etc.[9]

CRYSTAL RIVER. A town with a population of 869 on the Atlantic Coast Line, in Citrus County; shown on the Colton Map, 1870.

The town takes its name from that of a stream recorded on the Taylor War Map, 1839, as *Weewa-hi-i-aca* or *Crystal River*. On the Davis Map, 1856, the Indian name has disappeared and *Crystal R.* alone is found. The *Sectional Map* of 1930 records the stream as *Crystal River*. Norton, p. 376, gives the Indian name in the form *Wewakiahakee* and translates it by "clear water."

The spelling of the name on the Taylor War Map furnishes the clue to the correct translation of the name: *Weewa-hi-i-aca* is derived from Sem.-Cr. *wiwa*, "water," and *haiyayàki*, "clear," "shining"—freely, then, "crystal water."

EAST MYAKKA. A station on the Seaboard Air Line, in Manatee County, just south of Myakka City; recorded by Rand McNally, 1931. Cf. *Port Mayaca, infra.*

[9] Henry Gannett, "The Origin of Certain Place Names in the United States," *U. S. Geological Survey*,[2] Bul. 258: 81.

ECHASHOTEE. A river that empties into the Gulf, just south of the Pithlochascotee, in Pasco County.

1839. ANCLOTE or ETHAS-HOTEE R. Taylor Map.
1856. ECHASHOTEE R. Davis Map.
1870. ECHASHOTEE R. Colton Map.

On the Taylor Map this stream is confused with the Anclote, which lies farther south in Pasco county.

Echashotee is derived from Sem.-Cr. *ichaswà*, "beaver," and *huti*, "house."

ECONFINE. 1. A river passing through the southeastern corner of Washington County, running through Bay County, and falling into North Bay, on the coast of Bay County. 2. A river flowing southward through Taylor County and emptying into the Gulf. 3. A station, Econfena, on the Live Oak, Perry and Gulf Railway, in Taylor County. 4. A village, Econfina, with 137 inhabitants, in Bay County, *mail* Bennett; referred to in Lanier's *Florida* (1876), p. 318, as a small settlement on Econfina River.

1839. ECONFINEE RIVER. (Taylor Co.) Taylor Map.
1856. ECONFENEE R. (Taylor Co.) Davis Map.
1856. ESCONFENEE C. (Wash. Co.) Davis Map.
1870. ECONFINA CR. (Wash. Co.) Colton Map.
1870. ECONFENEE R. (Taylor Co.) Colton Map.
1930. ECONFENA R. (Taylor Co.) Sectional Map.

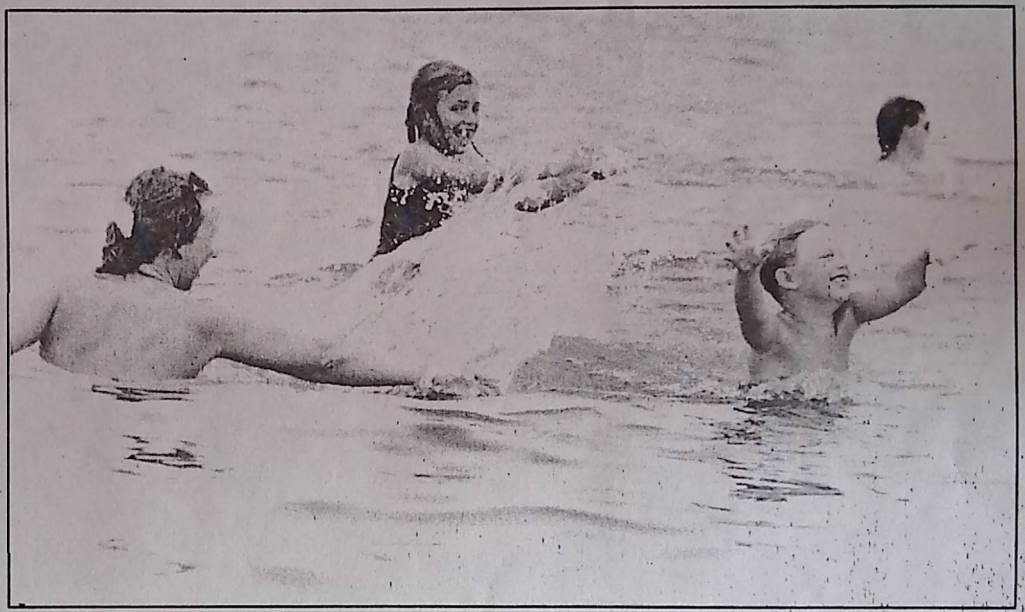
The first element of this name is perfectly clear: it is the familiar Creek *ikàna*, "earth." If the second element could safely be considered an abbreviation of Cr. *finoki*, "shaking," then the translation would be "swampy grounds"; but unfortunately for such an assumption, the early spellings of the river name all point unmistakably to Creek *fina*, "a footlog," "a bridge," as the source of the second element. The name signifies, then, "natural (earth) bridge"; an apt name because about fifteen miles up from the mouth of the Econfina, in Taylor County, there is a natural bridge which obstructs navigation.[10]

I note that the term *fina* appears in *Chulafinnee*, the name of a hamlet in Cleburne County, Alabama, which Gannett, *Geol. Bulletin* 258: 81, renders incorrectly by

[10] Cf. Norton, *op. cit.*, p. 93.

Discover Citrus County

Crystal River is best known as the home of the manatee — a gentle, sea-loving mammal. Thousands of tourists from all over flock to the city's waters to play with the manatee and enjoy other water recreation the city has to offer.



Lora Gordon/*The Chronicle*

If swimming in crystal clear, cool spring water sounds appealing, check out Hunter Springs Park.

Crystal River

Where Man and Manatee Play

Crystal River

Where Man and Manatee Play

By Dave Schlenker
Staff writer

This year's city slogan contest pretty much says it all: "Crystal River — where man and manatee play."

With a population edging over 3,000, Crystal River is best known as the home of the manatee — a gentle, sea-loving mammal that has as much interest in swimmers and divers than they have in the manatee themselves.

Protective measures to ensure the safety of the endangered species have been taken by state and federal agencies. Boaters must operate at idle speed in King's Bay during the manatee season and divers are warned against harassment of the gentle mammal.

The manatee, like many residents in the city, winter in Crystal River. But these winter residents spent their time in year-round 72 degree waters of King's Bay.

Thousands of tourists from all over flock to the city's waters to play with the manatee and enjoy other water recreation the city has to offer.

Crystal River's freshwater springs in King's Bay are the second largest in the state. Divers from across the state and around the world travel to this small west central town to dip into the chilly depths of the springs, located near Banana Island. The springs pour out more than two millions of fresh water every minute.

More than a dozen dive shops, which house equipment and provide certified dive training, are located at various spots throughout Crystal River.

Outdoors men and women may also find further recreation at Ft. Island Gulf Beach located at the end of State Road 44 West, about 12 miles outside of Crystal River. Fishermen and sun-seekers may cast their lines or catch a few rays at the small county beach.

Commercial fishing is one of the primary industries in the city. Fresh seafood is therefore readily available in stores and restaurants along U.S. 19, the highway that cuts through the center of the city.

Families and swimmers can also find recreation and relaxation at Hunter Springs Park in Crystal River, located near Northeast Second Street. Picnic tables, grills and a beach provide opportunities for family gatherings under the Florida sunshine.

Fresh and salt water fish abound in the Crystal River which leads to the Gulf of Mexico. Bass can be found in the Crystal River along with speckled perch, bluegill, shell cracker, red breast, warmouth and catfish.

Silver and speckled trout, grouper, mackerel, redfish, pompano, cobia, jewfish, ladyfish, shark and others have been hooked in the Gulf of Mexico. Anglers can charter boats along the river and more than a dozen clubs are dedicated to the sport.

Two marinas, Twin Rivers Marina and Pete's Pier, offer dry docks, ramps, gas and a plethora of fishing and boating supplies to customers.

Crystal River also offers a variety of hotels and motels for visitors to the area many of which are located along U.S. 19 north and south of town. Several others, such as King's Bay Lodge and the Plantation Inn, are located in town.

Several developments offer housing through condominiums, custom-made homes, mobile homes and apartments offer housing which may range from extravagant to comfortable living.

A variety of employment opportunities in business and small industry create Crystal River's economy. Florida Power operates a nuclear and coal plant north of Crystal River on U.S. 19 and several other private institutions such as Seven Rivers Hospital, banks, retail stores and small businesses provide employment.

DeBartolo Corp. — a large indoor mall developer — built the Crystal River Mall which provides more than 60 retail shops along with three anchor stores — K mart, Sears and Belk-Lindsey.

The nearly 500,000 square-foot mall, located on the north side of Crystal River on U.S. 19, is Citrus County's first enclosed mall. The mall is a prototype for future malls which may be built by the DeBartolo Corp. for populations of 100,000 or less.

Points of interest

King's Bay: Crystal River's freshwater springs in King's Bay are the second largest in the state.

Hunter Springs Park: A city-owned park and swim area on N.W. 2nd Street. Hunter Springs offers a freshwater, spring-fed swimming hole, picnic tables, a pavillion and rest rooms.

Ft. Island Gulf Beach: At the end of Gulf Island Trail. This coastal, gulf-water beach has offers picnic facilities, volleyball and full restroom, changing and shower facilities.

Marinas: Two marinas, Twin Rivers Marina and Pete's Pier, offer dry docks, ramps, gas and a plethora of fishing and boating supplies to customers.

Resorts and Hotels: Crystal River also offers a variety of hotels and motels for visitors to the area many of which are located along U.S. 19 north and south of town. Several others, such as King's Bay Lodge and the Plantation Inn, are located in town. These resorts feature quality tennis and golf facilities.

State Park: The Crystal RIver archealogical park, located north of town off U.S. 19, is a state park which displays a variety of indian and other prehistoric artifacts.

Other Parks: The Crystal River Reserve, a natual wilderness area with walking trails, operated by the Department of Natural Resources. Located off Fort Island Trail, on Dixe Shores.

Shopping: The Crystal River Mall, on north U.S. 19, is the only totally enclosed shopping mall in the county.

Crystal River

Wildlife — and retirees — find a refuge on Florida's 'Nature Coast'

By J.G. Nash

For three decades, Art and Becky Fleming lived in the limelight. Art was host of the popular television game show "Jeopardy" from 1964 to 1979, then for 13 years had a top-rated radio talk show, "Trivia Spectacular." He and Becky led an active life in St. Louis, MO, and traveled extensively around the world.

In 1992, on a trip to see their daughter in St. Petersburg, they stopped at Crystal River to explore Florida's "Nature Coast."

"We came here on Monday, bought a house on Tuesday and I quit CBS on Wednesday," says Art, 70. "We were so taken with Crystal River that we just simply decided to drop everything and move."

Just the year before, they had moved into the "home of our dreams, where we expected to stay forever," says Becky, 52.

What is it about a relatively unknown town of only about 4,000 residents that could so impress a couple who have been nearly everywhere?

The Flemings were drawn by "the relaxed living with nature," as Art says.

Land of Lush Growth

More than in name alone, the Nature Coast is part of Florida's rare, generally unspoiled, undeveloped natural coastline. It is unique in that it has none of the expected sweeps of tourist-laden beaches for which Florida's Atlantic and Gulf coasts are known.

On the central Gulf Coast, from near Tarpon Springs in the south to Cedar Key in the north, the Nature Coast is lined with mangrove trees, saw grass, palms and other tropical marine foliage. Freshwater rivers wind through the area's lush vegetation on their way to the Gulf. One of the larger of those streams, the Crystal River, begins at Kings Bay, where the state's second largest spring gushes 2 million gallons of 72-degree water every day of the year.

Although well-known for its trout and tarpon, it is the manatee that has brought more fame to Crystal River.

The beauty and bounty of that spring and river attracted Timucuan Indians, who lived in the vicinity for thousands of years. Some of their 30-foot-high earthen mounds are preserved and visible at the Crystal River State Archaeological Site.

Those early settlers apparently lived primarily off the abundant creatures of the river; today's residents still enjoy outstanding saltwater and freshwater fishing. The river offers bass, bluegill and catfish; its easy access to the Gulf of Mexico affords an opportunity to go after grouper, speckled trout, cobia, redfish, Spanish mackerel and the sport fisherman's favorite, tarpon.

Although well-known for its trout and tarpon, it is the manatee that has brought more fame to Crystal River. These popular marine mammals are attracted by the comparatively warm waters of the Crystal River.

In winter, when the Gulf turns cool, the legendary creatures arrive in such numbers that boat traffic must be carefully regulated to protect the easily (and frequently) injured animals.

The annual migration of manatees attracts nature enthusiasts from around the world, and numerous dive shops cater to those hoping to swim with the gentle sea creatures. Crystal River even posts highway signs advising visitors to "tune to" a dedicated radio station providing current information about the manatees.

Not everyone, though, is lured to Crystal River because they like fishing, love the manatees or simply enjoy being in what Art Fleming sees as "one of the more attractive, unspoiled parts of the world."

Lower Cost of Living

Crystal River retirees Estelle and Paul DeGuardi were enticed by economics. Back in 1991, in Glen Cove, NY, the DeGuardis were facing retirement from Citibank, where they both had been employed for more than 30 years.

"Real property taxes in Glen Cove (on Long Island) were rising so fast that we knew we couldn't stay there, so we started looking elsewhere," says Paul, 72. They searched for re-

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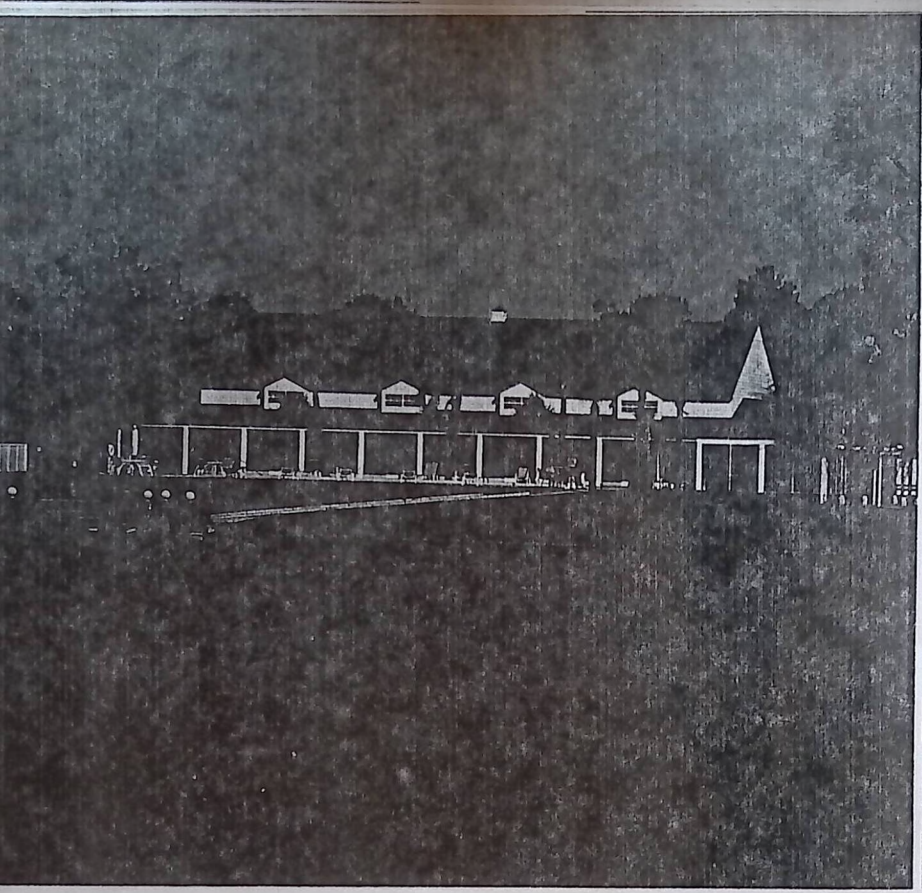
Crystal River, on Florida's "Nature Coast," protects its manatee population with signs that remind boaters to be on the lookout for these marine mammals.





tirement sites in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and New York, adds Estelle, 69.

At a convention in New York City, Paul met a Florida homebuilder and decided to go south to check out his homes. After visiting several places, he and Estelle settled in Crystal River.

The DeGuardis say the move cut their living costs dramatically, particularly the taxes.

"I was paying almost $6,000 a year there (in property taxes). Here I pay about $600," Paul estimates in comparing his New York and Florida homes.

The Flemings also cited the savings they've achieved in their move. "Our total cost of living is much less," Becky says. "Auto repairs cost half of the St. Louis cost. Cable TV was $56 in St. Louis — here it is $27. Garden produce is about one-third as much (here)."

The DeGuardis and Flemings also were won over by area residents.

Estelle says, "The people are so friendly; even sales clerks are so nice and polite."

Paul adds, "Even the kids who came to our door last Halloween were the nicest."

Becky says one reason they moved to Crystal River was that "the people were so warm and friendly and really seemed to care. We said, 'This can't be for real. This is Mayberry.'"

Art recalls how "everyone joined forces to help others" when the "no-name" storm of 1993 caused flooding in the area, sending water within fractions of an inch of their living room.

Community Camaraderie

Longtime Crystal River resident Ruth Pedrick praises the area's people as "its major attraction."

"The people with whom I volunteer are like an extended family to me; I feel very close to all of them," says Ruth, who spends "at least 40 hours" a week helping a half dozen charitable organizations.

Ruth says the community offers numerous activities. "There is a large and growing need for volunteers. There also are little-theater groups that are real active, and a lot of retirees have joined the Art League. Others are helping at our Seven Rivers Hospital or with the mentor program (in which retirees share their knowledge with students)," she says.

Becky and Art "retired" to new careers. She became involved in the Citrus County Abuse Shelter Association and now is its executive director. Art, who doubts that he ever could retire per se, does five editions weekly of a popular radio show called "When Radio Was" and is working on a new television show called "Senior America" to debut this year.

In their free time, the Flemings like to explore the Nature Coast, with its historic Indian sites, colorful seaside communities and a nearby state park



J.G. NASH PHOTOS

that is home to various wildlife, including the manatee.

Both couples have few criticisms of the area, though they note that residents have to go elsewhere for cultural events and major shopping. The Tampa/St. Petersburg area and Gainesville, each about a 90-minute drive, meet their big-city needs. The Flemings say such relatively short distances are a small price to pay for the quiet beauty they have in Crystal River.

The town is rather rural in feeling, with a decentralized business area. In classic beachfront style, businesses stretch along the main highway, U.S. 19, where billboards vie for attention along with fast-food places, banks, medical facilities, drugstores and shops.

Residential areas, though, are located away from the commercialized highway and capitalize on the natural environment.

Within the town and suburban area, retirees find a variety of housing choices, from canal- or river-side homes to developments with championship golf courses and economical manufactured-home communities. The median housing cost is comparatively low, about $77,000 in town and even less in the county. The Flemings say you can get more house for your money in Crystal River. Art estimates that a home similar to theirs would cost two-thirds more in St. Petersburg.

When asked what advice they might give to retirees considering Crystal River, Art and Becky are both enthusiastic and realistic in their comments.

"They couldn't do better, but this is not a party town. Discoing, drinking, partying are not big here," Art says.

Becky adds, "They have a lot of country-western clubs. If you want high social life, forget it. If you want to fish or play golf, this is the place."

But Becky notes that they've stayed so busy with other activities that they haven't been on a golf course since we moved here, and we both love to play but we just haven't had time."

Far left: A lake-side clubhouse is popular with residents of Crystal River Village, one of the area's manufactured-home communities. Center: Art and Becky Fleming, formerly of St. Louis, MO, were attracted by Crystal River's relaxed lifestyle and natural beauty. Above: Crystal River offers a variety of housing, from new residential developments to charming, older homes in long-established neighborhoods.

Despite all the big-city sights that both Art and Becky have seen around the world, they enjoy the unspoiled nature of their new home.

"You wouldn't believe driving at night. You'll see bear, wild pigs, deer and even panthers. Animals are abundant," Art says.

John G. Nash is a free-lance writer-photographer who lives in nearby Homosassa, FL.

→

Crystal River, Florida



Population: 4,046 in Crystal River, 98,623 in Citrus County.

Location: On Florida's Gulf Coast, about 75 miles north of Tampa/St. Petersburg.

Climate:[1]

	High	Low
January	70	50
July	90	74

Average relative humidity: 58%

Rain: 51.2 inches (most in May through September).

Winters are mild and pleasant, with frost rare on the coast but possible inland in the county. Summers are long and often hot and humid. The area is vulnerable to hurricanes; the latest to hit the county was in 1960. Elevation is 4 feet.

Cost of living: 91.99, based on an average of 100 among Florida counties.

Median housing cost: $77,554 in the town, $66,085 in the county.

Sales tax: 6%

Sales tax exemptions: Medical services, prescription drugs and most groceries.

State income tax: None.

Intangibles tax: Assessed on stocks, bonds and other specified assets. Tax rate is $1 per $1,000 value for assets under $100,000 for individuals or $200,000 for couples, and $2 per $1,000 of value for greater amounts; first $20,000 for individuals and $40,000 for couples is exempt. Some investments are exempt.

Inheritance tax: None except what state takes from federal taxes, due on estates of more than $600,000.

Property tax: $25.17 per $1,000 of assessed value for homes in the town, $19.173 per $1,000 for homes in the county, with homes assessed at 100% of market value. Yearly tax on a $77,500 home is $1,321 in the town and $1,007 in the county, with the homestead exemption noted below.

Homestead exemption: $25,000 off assessed value for permanent, primary residence.

Security: Latest data from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Uniform Crime Reports section show a rate of 29 crimes per 1,000 residents in the county, lower than the national average of 54.8 per 1,000 residents.

Religion: There are 73 churches in the county, representing a variety of religions.

Education: Central Florida Community College in nearby Lecanto offers about 20 continuing-education courses as well as two-year associate degrees.

Transportation: There is no regular bus service, but the Citrus County Transportation System operates by advance reservations, and there are taxis. The closest major airport is at Tampa, about 75 miles south.

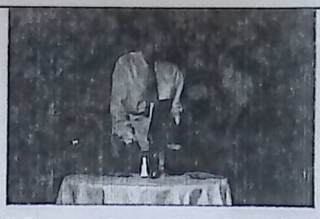
Health: The county has three hospitals with 387 beds, 137 physicians, 32 dentists and six nursing homes. Crystal River's Seven Rivers Hospital is a 128-bed, acute-care facility.

Housing options: Homes are available on live oak-lined streets; with private docks on Kings Bay, the Crystal River or dredged canals; and in new golf communities and other planned developments. Houses range from $30,000 to $500,000. Representative developments include **Meadowcrest**, with homes starting at $60,000, (800) 558-4555; the **Black Diamond Ranch**, starting at $160,000, (800) 328-8099; and **Crystal River Village**, with manufactured homes starting at $35,000 plus $186-a-month lot rental, (904) 795-7161.

Visitor lodging: Plantation Inn & Golf Resort, with golf, tennis, snorkeling (manatee watching) and fishing, $79-$115 for a couple, (800) 632-6262. Best Western Crystal River Resort, with its own dive shop and boat rental on Kings Bay, $49-$67, (800) 435-4409.

Information: Crystal River Chamber of Commerce, 28 N.W. Highway 19, Crystal River, FL 34428, (904) 795-3149.

[1]Climate data for nearby Tampa, from National Climatic Data Center. Sources: Florida Department of Commerce, Crystal River and Citrus County chambers of commerce; county and city tax offices.



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Post Office Box 4216, Dept. VP
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Historic magazine highlights Crystal River

By Evelyn Bash
Special to the Chronicle

Local history buffs will be fascinated by a 1910 publication extolling the advantages of living in Crystal River.

The booklet, which its writers called a "magazine," has just been discovered and reprinted by the Citrus County Historical Society Inc.

Beginning July 4, the magazine will be on display at the Coastal Heritage Museum and for sale.

Entitled "The Industrial Review of Crystal River," the magazine was originally published by the Board of Trade of Crystal River.

The purpose of the magazine was to attract "homeseekers, tourists, hunters, anglers, businessmen, sportsmen, boat men, truckers, farmers, stock raisers and lovers of an ideal climate."

Beginning July 4, the magazine will be on display at the Coastal Heritage Museum and for sale.

The population of Crystal River at the time the magazine was written was 1,200. The magazine touted the city's "excellent education facilities ... excellent transportation facilities on both rail and water."

Included are short biographies of leading citizens: C.E. Herrick, Albert S. King, George W. Hyde, R.L. Turner, James T. Rawls, Dr. J.D. Bennett, Charles A. Miller, Colonel Nickabud Barco, Hon. J.F. Stevens.

Many other important persons of the area are mentioned briefly in the text.

Local industries are profiled. They include the Oxford Crate Co., the Cedar Mill of the Joseph Dixon Crucible Co., the Ox Fiber Factory, and the Crystal Ice Co.

There were 11 mercantile establishments doing an annual business volume of $200,000. The Crystal River News was the town's newspaper.

The Bank of Crystal River flourished with assets of more than $49,000. Commercial and sport fishing, truck farming and citrus groves thrived as did poultry, dairy and cattle farming.

Among the crops grown commercially were oranges, celery, potatoes, watermelon, strawberries, beans, tomatoes, sugar cane and pecans.

The area was attracting tourists who found a home away from home at the Hotel Willis, the Strathcona Inn and the Dixon House.

The magazine contains an assortment of advertisements and photographs of local people, landmarks and rural scenes.

Coastal Heritage Museum officials are inviting the public to see the magazine and to learn more about the history of this area by visiting the museum. It is located at 532 Citrus Ave. in Crystal River and is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

2.

archives, there appears the following:

> **Notice**—On Thursday, the second of July 1903, all registered voters residing 1 mile in any direction from the center of Sect 21, Twp 18S, Rge 17E in Citrus County are required to assemble at the office of the Crystal River News to select officers and organize a municipal government for the Town of Crystal River, Florida.

They did meet and the city was formed that day. E. T. Bowman was elected Mayor with 33 votes.

1907 BUSINESSES

Miller & Smith (H. G. Miller & R. D. Smith), B. V. Rowland, and Sparkman & C. (Stephen W. & Newton P. Sparkman).
Grocers--Retail--Paul Boellert.
Hotels-- The Alabama Hotel, Dixon House, Edwin Hotel, and Willis House.
Ice Dealers--Crystal Ice. Co. (Robert Biship, manager)
Livery, Sale & Feed Stables--J. K. Eubanks.
Lumber Dealers--Crystal River Lumber Co., (R. J. Rawles, Manager)
Lumber Manufacturers--Camp Lumber Co., Crystal River Lumber Co., Dixon Crucible Co,, and S. H. Kelsey & Co.
Machinists--George W. Smith
Meat Markets--Isaac T. Mixon
Music Teachers--Mrs. L. A. Bennett, and Rose Hammond
Naval Stores--Knight Bros. (Robert J. and William C. Knight)
Weekly Newspaper--Crystal River News
Notarial Seals--N. Parco
Oysters--Wholesale--Hou & Black, and Andrew W. Johnson
Pencil Wood Manufacturers--Dixon Crucible Co. (E. C. Merick, manager)
Physicians--Joseph D. Bennett, and H. M. Taylor
Printers-Book & Job--Crystal River Publishing Co. (W. L. Martin, mngr.)
Publisher--Stevens and Parco.
Real Estate Agents--Nickabud Parco.

These were some of the officers of the town: Mayor, Edwin T. Bowman; Marshall, Quilla Hay; and City Clerk, A. S. King. The Baptist minister was Rev. M. M. Wombolt; Methodist, Rev. W. H. Funk; and Presbyterian, Rev. F. T. McLean.

1.

Inn. Speaking of Crystal River, it may interest you to know how it was formed. In the Incorporation Book # 1 (1893 to 1935), located in the Citrus County Historical Society

10-3-03

Business owners set to fight annexation

Diocese will not sell 80-foot strip

MICHAEL TERRY
mterry@chronicleonline.com
Chronicle

A showdown at Crystal River City Hall seems likely now if the city chooses to pursue the involuntary annexation of more than 400 acres of property south of the city.

In a press release issued Friday by Dr. Thomas Dawson, he announced the creation of a political action committee, a legal action committee and a finance committee to fight the city's involuntary annexation efforts.

The decision to create the committees was made Wednesday during a meeting of business owners along the west side of U.S. 19 who are affected by the proposed involuntary annexation.

Dawson said the group, named Citizens Opposed to Realticorp Annexation or CORA, also agreed to retain attorneys to fight the annexation.

Dawson, chairman of CORA, said paying a retainer would depend on what transpires at the Monday, Oct. 13, city council meeting.

At that meeting, council members will hear the results of an annexation feasibility study by Berryman & Henigar Inc.

If the city council moves ahead with annexation, Dawson said Crystal River attorney Carl Bertoch and special counsel Sarah Bleakley of Tallahassee, who specializes in annexation law, would represent CORA.

Dawson said the committee believes the financial impact to the city would be substantial if the involuntary annexation proceeds.

He added that dilution of services was also likely because of the need to patrol the area, as well as providing utility services.

"It is quite clear that the cost to the city will be greater than any economic benefits when one sees that the developer not only wants to construct a Wal-Mart superstore with retail and gas stations," he said, "but also plans for retail shops and up to 13 restaurants,"

Dawson also mentions what he believes are the developer's plans to create a residential subdivision behind the proposed Wal-Mart site, which he said would further tax the city's resources.

What can be viewed as some good news for CORA members was the recent decision by the Diocese of St. Petersburg not to sell an 80-foot strip of land owned by St. Benedict Catholic Church to Realticorp.

Realticorp, the company seeking to clear the way for the development of what is believed to be a Wal-Mart Supercenter next to the church, was offering $120,000 for the property.

The company planned to use the land to create an access road required to meet the county's access management plan that dictates traffic flow on U.S. 19.

In the coming weeks, Dawson said members of CORA plan to voice their opposition to the city's involuntary annexation efforts.

"We're going to try to be more active in hopes of gaining support," he said, adding that they also plan to turn out in full force at City Hall when the time comes for a decision to be made.

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Ice Dealers--Crystal Ice. Co. (Robert Biship, manager)
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Lumber Dealers--Crystal River Lumber Co., (R. J. Rawles, Manager)
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Meat Markets--Isaac T. Nixon
Music Teachers--Mrs. L. A. Bennett, and Rose Hammond
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History lives in Crystal River

9-15-03

Steve Arthur
sarthur@chronicleonline.com
Chronicle

IF YOU GO

- The Coastal Heritage Museum in Crystal River has extended its Saturday hours to be open from 9 a.m. to noon. It is also open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. For more information and special tours, call 795-1755.

In 1920, a fire started along Citrus Avenue in the fishing village of Crystal River.

It was a fire that destroyed all of the wooden buildings on the west side of the street, leaving only charred ruins of the businesses that longtime residents had depended on.

When rebuilding took place, there was a gap, an empty lot.

That lot stayed empty until 1938-39.

James "Doc" Hudson remembers when it was cleared and walls of rock and mortar went up on the site.

"I was a senior in high school that year, so I remember it well," Hudson said. His father, the town physician, had an office down the street. It's now a hairdresser's shop.

The federal Works Project Administration brought men and materials together to build a new city hall. Laborers working for Hub Hyatt built the first permanent home for the community's city hall. It stayed as the city hall until 1970.

The limestone rocks used to build the walls of the squat, stone structure came from local quarries, he said. Somehow, they squeezed in city offices, the police station, the fire station — the garage for the fire truck was on the south side of the building — and the jail.

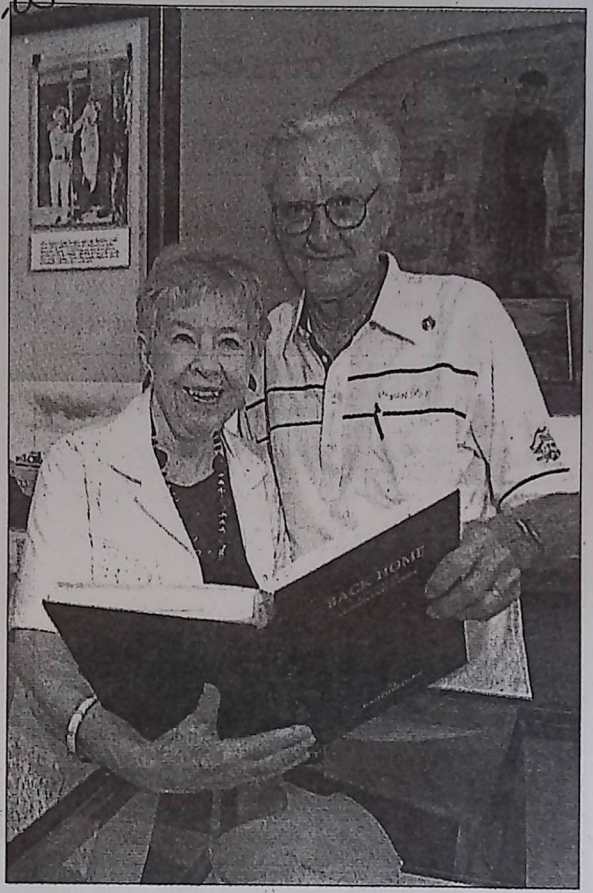
"The ceiling is magnolia wood," Hudson said. "It was cut locally and was milled in town."

The fire engine, parked next to where the city council met, stayed parked there until the early 1960s.

Old-timers remember that the proceedings of the council were kept for years in a ledger book placed on the mantle over the fireplace, one of the building's more elegant touches.

In the back room, there were three jail cells meant to hold people hauled in for disorderly conduct, vagrancy and petty thefts. One of those cells

Please see **HISTORY/Page 4A**



DAVE SIGLER/Chronicle

The Coastal Heritage Museum at 532 Citrus Avenue in Crystal River is opening Saturday from 9 a.m to noon for anyone interested in learning about Citrus County coastal history. Molly Johnson and James "Doc" Hudson are pictured with the museum copy of "Back Home" by Hampton Dunn in the museum's main room. The museum is having a raffle for an out-of-print copy of "Back Home" as a fund-raiser.

HISTORY

Continued from **Page 1A**

remains.

That once-brand-new building is now an older building that now houses some of the fascinating antique treasures of the city. It is known as the Coastal Heritage Museum.

Among those treasures are medical instruments in a glass case from Dr. James Hudson's office, a facade of an early fish house, antique furniture, a menu and display from the Green Tavern, photos and a treasure-trove of research materials for people interested in local history.

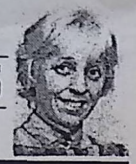
One display, a diorama of Citrus Avenue circa 1927, takes up an entire wall, and shows the city as it was back then, from what is now U.S. 19 along the bay and down the avenue to the railway spur and the ice factory used to ice down fish on their way to market.

For the history-loving stalwarts of Crystal River the museum is a refuge.

For men and women who love the city and have been watching the tidal wave of buying and selling of land, the construction and the paving bouncing ever-northward along U.S. 19, quiet places like this humble, authentic museum take on a special importance.

Western islands offered a different kind of family life

CLAIRE PHILLIPS LAXTON



Editor's note: *Citrus County is 100 years old this year. In conjunction with the Centennial, the* Citrus Times *will publish an occasional feature about Citrus County's past. Claire Phillips Laxton, a 10-year county resident, is a free-lance writer who specializes in history.*

CRYSTAL RIVER — From the early 1900s through the 1920s, several families lived on the western islands, a group of islands in the Gulf of Mexico just off the Citrus County shoreline.

Some of the families were the Waddingtons, the Ellises, the Edges, the Boswells, the Gilleys and, for a while, the Wellses.

The two Waddington brothers, John and Joe, raised their families on one island known as Waddington Island. Jimmy Waddington and his sister, Frances Jones, wife of Crystal River City Council member Raddie Jones, recalled growing up on the islands.

About 30 families living on the western islands used boat transportation for shopping in Crystal River and for transportation to Rochelle School on another island, where Pirate's Cove Resort is today.

"Rochelle was a one-room school house; Maude Miley was the first teacher," recalled Jimmy Waddington.

Jones recalled a log moving one day as they walked over the ditch — and the log the children walked upon proved to be a large alligator!

After the commercial fishing season ended each January, the western island families hunted mink and raccoons. They raised hogs and chickens, grew crops and planted citrus.

There was no electricity on the islands from the 1900s through the 1960s, only kerosene lamps and, later, battery radios.

"There were no warnings of storms or hurricanes," said Jimmy Waddington.

He recalled 1927, when his Aunt Lillie saved $500. His Uncle Joe had an old wooden boat, dry-docked in the front yard, which he filled with soil. "Aunt Lillie made a garden in the old boat and hid her jar in the garden," he said.

There was no electricity on the islands from the 1900s through the 1960s.

One night, without warning, a storm erupted, bringing a huge tide. "I mean a big tide with pretty strong winds that beat up against the old boat," Waddington remembered. The storm destroyed the garden, and Aunt Lillie's money washed inland with the boat fragments.



Luke Willis, a member of the Waddington family, gets gas for a boat he used to travel between the western islands and Crystal River.

Two years later, Jimmy's father John was running a trap line on the shore when he saw something lying in the water. "Sure enough, the old jar was lying there, half full of water, with the top just about rusted off," said Waddington. The money was still inside the jar, found two miles from Waddington Island.

"I can see my Aunt Lillie now, she took that money, just a glob, all rolled up, and she didn't try to separate it," Waddington said. She pressed it on a tin roof, weighing the money down with oyster shells. After the money dried, Joe Waddington sent it to Washington and within two weeks, a check arrived for $5[illegible].

"It made national news, but the newspapers sensationalized the story that the money came in just in time for a crisis," Waddington said. *Ripley's Believe It or Not* also heard about the incident and asked John Waddington to come to New York to tell the true story on radio.

John and his son-in-law Luke Willis went to New York. After they returned from the big city, Willis joked with some of his friends.

"They sure have a lot richer soil up in New York," he said.

"How's that?" he was asked.

"Well, the buildings grow a lot larger up there," Willis said.

Saturdays were made for Crystal River

CLAIRE PHILLIPS LAXTON



Good ol' days, rowdy nights spent along Citrus Avenue

Editor's note: Citrus County is 100 years old this year. In conjunction with the Centennial, the Citrus Times will publish an occasional feature about Citrus County's past. Claire Phillips Laxton, a 10-year county resident, is a free-lance writer who specializes in history.

CRYSTAL RIVER — In the late 1920s and the early 1930s, the downtown Crystal River area became a mystical part of town, with people arriving on Saturday for a big day.

Horses and buggies were tied behind McBride's Bakery and the grocery stores, while those with automobiles lined the storefront parking areas.

Those were the times of exciting events — of the circus coming to town, the turkey shoots, and the sideshows of the medicine man. Crystal River's Jimmy Waddington and Doc Hudson recalled those Saturdays of long ago.

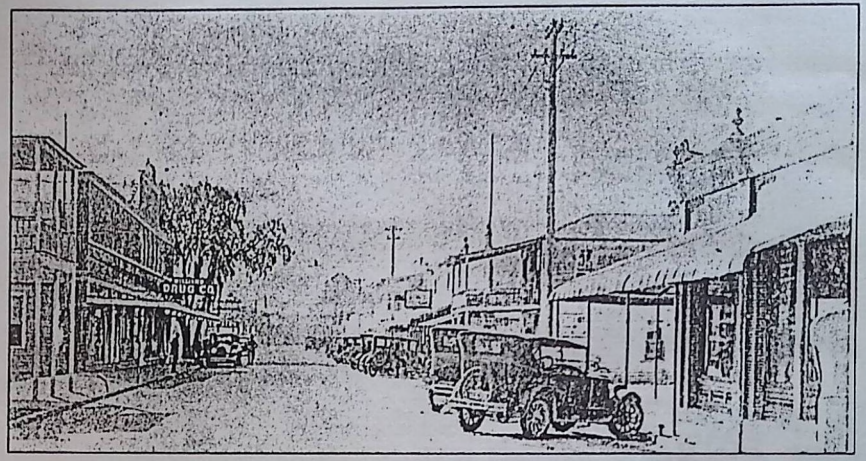
Crystal River was the big town where people came from surrounding areas for shopping and entertainment. The day started at noon with people lingering until midnight, Waddington said.

Families came from Homosassa, Ozello and the Western Islands (a group of islands on the Gulf of Mexico). Waddington lived on those islands back then.

"The people from Ozello and the Western Islands area came by boat to the fish houses, then by cars to Crystal River," Hudson said.

The farmers arrived earlier to sell produce. They came from Red Level (north of Crystal River), the Backwaters (Lake Rousseau today), Fairmount (now Meadowcrest), Citronelle and Lecanto.

"It was payday for most people," Hudson said.



Crystal River's Citrus Avenue was the scene of lively Saturdays in the 1920s and 1930s.

Mill workers, commercial fisherman and others were paid on Saturday. It was a day for meeting friends and buying groceries. Crystal River had five grocery stores, but grocery shopping wasn't as it is today. In those days, you gave the proprietor your list, which he filled and delivered later.

There weren't many choices, only staples to purchase. Other abundant shopping was found in hardware stores, dry goods stores and meat markets. For entertainment, there was the old Regent Theater (later the Springs Theater).

"Homosassa had grocery stores, but most of their young people came to Crystal River to watch the movies," Hudson said.

After seeing the feature, they'd end their night sipping sodas in the local drug stores. (Williams Drug Co., Crystal River Drug Co. and Dr. Hudson's in front of his physician's office).

Mr. L.C. Yoeman, proprietor of one of the oyster houses, also owned the Regent Theater in the late 1930s. "He made a pile of money off that thing" said Waddington.

A big attraction was Lecanto's Jasper Wolf peddling his popular boiled peanuts. Later, the job was taken over by Jim Barnes, also of Lecanto.

"That was a real treat for years," Hudson said. "Another favorite food was when they'd peel and chew on sugar cane stalks. We'd chew the *pummings*, then spit them out," he said.

After prohibition was repealed in 1933, Crystal River had some dispute with the addition of local pool halls and saloons.

Saturday nights became notorious for fighting, brawling and even killings in the late 1930s. It was common for people to have too much to drink and get into scraps.

Dr. Moon and Dr. Hudson, Doc Hudson's father, busied themselves sewing lacerations from knives and razors during the late evening hours.

"On two different occasions, gun fights took place resulting in deaths," recalled Doc Hudson. "We only had one marshal at that time, who tried to control the rowdy crowds."

Those Saturdays also became the day for families to spend together, making friendships that sometimes lasted a lifetime. Others came just to watch people as they bustled up and down Citrus Avenue. For the youngsters, a fun-filled day with special treats and big events remain treasured memories today.

92PA1-1

c1921 - identified on back

This photograph was taken at Major Brass's home, site of the present Hunter Spring Park. These visitors came mostly by train and spent the winter months. The homes around Hunter Park were built by them. They left their mark on Crystal River.



92 PA 1 ON BACK OF PICTURE

Jan 1, 1921

Geo Miller
Mrs. Kocle (?)
Uncle William and wife
Mr. Bedow
Mr. Parker
Francis Boswoth (?)
Mrs. Geo Miller
Dayton Becker and wife
May Bicker
Mr. Hunt
John Doobois
Bert High and Mrs.
Mrs. Boom
Mr. and Mrs Begate
Mrs. Proconia and Mr.
Abe Becker
Mrs. Redding
Ed and Lena Richort
Mr. and Mrs. John High
Mrs. Brass
Lucy Kimeyda
Mr. John Leoffler
Mr. Sidney Nickles
Mrs. Nickles
Mr. Shelley
Mrs. Romley
Mr. and Mrs. Wan Stringer
Frederick VanRoy is yhe tallest person - in back- in dark suit

Michigan Town Crowd
employees of Ford Motor Co.

Thos. J. Flood, ARCHITECT, OCALA. PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES.

H. D. Edwards. M. B. Edwards.
Wm. Gray. Greenleaf & Moore.
O. P. Keller. E. K. King.
J. L. Mills. E. W. Priest.
J. J. Priest. Wm. Priest.
Jessie Smith. Louis Winn.
T. S. Winn.

ORANGE GROWERS.

Paul Bollert, 3. E. T. Brown, 1.
B. A. Coffey, 10. Ed. Deibert, 2.
Jacob Deibert, 2. Dr. Dunklin, 4.
H. D. Edwards. W. B. Edwards.
Greenleaf & Moore. H. T. Hartman, 5.
O. P. Keller, 5. E. K. King, 6.
A. S. Mann, 10. J. J. Priest, 2.
Wm. Priest, 2. Edward Wheeler, 6.
Josiah Wildemuth, 2.

VEGETABLE AND TRUCK FARMERS.

Wm. Gray. O. P. Keller, 1.
J. J. Priest, 2. Jessie Smith.

CURTIS MILLS.

WAKULLA COUNTY.

Population, 45. W. B. Lewis, postmaster. This place was first settled in 1885. It is situated 25 miles southwest of Crawfordville, the county seat, on the Ocklockonee river, six miles north of where it empties into the bay. Pine timber is the chief export. Mails Monday, Wednesday and Friday from Tallahassee, by stage line, which leaves this place for Carrabella and Tallahassee every other day. The fare to Carrabella is $2; to Tallahassee, $5. Tallahassee is northeast, and is the nearest express and banking point. St. Marks is the nearest railroad station. This place has a school and Methodist church, and one store. The price of land is $1.25 to $2.50. A saw mill and a store is wanted.

Barret E. W., gen. mdse.
Gray S. P., pastor Methodist church.
Holland A. S. Miss, school teacher.
Lewis House.
Lewis W. B., logging and postmaster.

COTTON PLANTERS AND FARMERS.

E. W. Barret. M. A. Chatwood.
B. F. Davis. Wm. Isler.
A. S. Roberts. G. W. Roberts.
W. T. Roberts.

CUSTER.

SUWANNEE COUNTY.

A flag station on the Florida Railway and Navigation Company's Railroad, six miles west of Live Oak. This is not post office. Mail to Live Oak.

CUTLER.

DADE COUNTY.

Population, 75. William Fuzzard, postmaster. This place was first settled in 1884, and was formerly called Hunting Grounds. It is situated on Biscayne bay, 15 miles south of Miami, the county seat. Mails from Key West, by sailing vessels, to which latter place all mails and shipments intended for this place should be made; Key West is 135 miles southwest of this point, and is the nearest bank, express and trading port. Starch is the principal export. This port receives mail once a week on Wednesday. One store and a starch factory are all the business interests here. Land sells at $1.25 to $50 per acre. They need a hotel and steamboat line.

FUZZARD WM., postmaster, starch factory and gen. mdse.

BANANA GROWER.

C. F. Seabold, 10.

PINEAPPLE GROWER.

Wm. Fuzzard, 15.

VEGETABLE AND TRUCK FARMER.

John Addison, 10.

CYPRESS.

JACKSON COUNTY.

Population, 18. J. A. Bevis, postmaster. This place was first settled in 1873. It is situated on the line of the Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad, 12 miles southeast of Marianna, the county seat, and 56 miles west of Tallahassee, the nearest banking point. Cotton, lumber and timber are the principal shipments. Has a school, one store and a saw and grist mill. The price of lands is $1.25 to $5 per acre.

Bevis J. A., gen. mdse.
McClellan J. S., saw mill, grist mill and cotton gin.

Florida Oranges. Consign your Oranges to G. M. HUDSON, the largest dealer in FRUIT in Georgia, at ATLANTA.

Is the Title to your Florida Land Good? THE BACON & ADAMS ABSTRACT CO. Abstracters of Florida Land Titles. Jacksonville and Ocala. (See adv.)

Swanson S. W. (c), barber.
Ward G. H. Rev., pastor Episcopal church.
Willis L. F., saw mill.

ORANGE GROWERS.

A. F. Aimes, 10. L. A. Ballard, 10.
James Beekman, 5. H. E. Bennet
H. Benham. R. G. Brown, 10.
Harold Gantier, 10. T. N. Gantier, 10.
S. W. Goodale, 10. J. C. Grimsley.
J. Harp, 20. H. G. & B. Hubbard.
George Hutchinson. H. Hutchinson, 20.
L. A. Hurlbut, 20. A. J. Main.
C. O. McGrady. J. C. Miller.
Samuel Neal. W. C. Norton, 5.
W. J. Norton, 5. James Padget, 3.
Judge Patchin, 10. M. M. Potter, 10.
J. R. Preston, 20. J. T. Welham.
Williams & Hubbard. L. F. Willis.
C. C. Woolnough.

CRESTVIEW.

WALTON COUNTY.

A country post office and a station on the line of the Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad, situated near the western border of the county, 51 miles north of Pensacola, the nearest bank. DeFuniak Springs is the nearest express and telegraph station. It is only a shipping station.

Cobb S. E. station agt. P. & A. R. R.
Frater H. L., gen. mdse.
HUGHES J. E., postmaster and gen. mdse.
Powell H. F., hotel.

CRESWELL.

LEON COUNTY.

Situated on the Ocklockonee river, two miles north of Bloxham, the nearest post office. It is a place only in name.

CROWELL.

JACKSON COUNTY.

This is not a post office, but a country settlement, about two miles northeast of Cypress, the nearest railroad station.

CRYSTAL RIVER.

HERNANDO COUNTY.

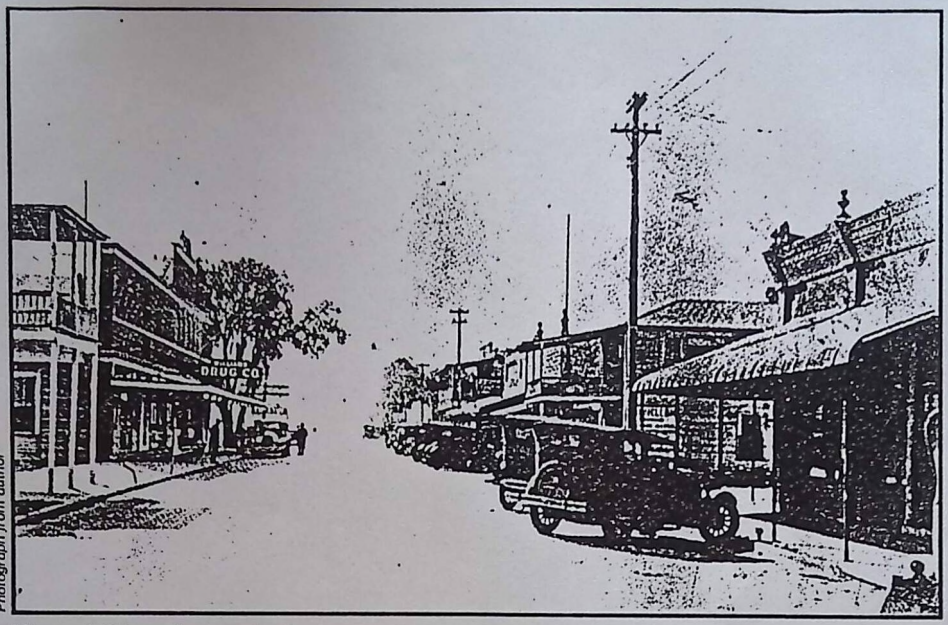
Population, 200. H. T. Hartman, postmaster. This place is an incorporated village, situated at the headwaters of Crystal river, a stream that empties into the Gulf of Mexico. This village is 30 miles northwest of Brooksville, the county seat, which is also the nearest railroad, express and telegraph station; but Cedar Key, 40 miles west, is the shipping point. Ocala is the nearest bank. Cotton, oranges, vegetables and cedar pencil wood are the principal exports. Mails, by hack, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from Ocala; from Brooksville, Monday and Thursday. Fare by hack, with mail carrier, to either Brooksville or Ocala, $3. The Gulf Steamboat Company of Cedar Key makes landings at this point. The Dixon Pencil Mills, run by steam power, are located at this place. There are one white and one colored school, eight stores and various other pursuits. Oranges and vegetables are grown here with much success. The price of land is $1.25 to $50 per acre.

Atkinson W., carpenter.
Barco N. (Barco & Pardoe).
Barco & Pardoe (N. Barco and S. J. Pardoe), gen. mdse.
Bennett J. D., physician.
Brooks H., mayor.
Crystal River Lumber Co., saw mills.
Dixon, Pencil Mills.
Dunklin —, physician.
HARTMAN H. T. (Hartman & Miller), postmaster.
HARTMAN & MILLER, grocers.
Miller Jas. L., gen. mdse., cotton gin and boat line.
Pardoe J. Miss, teacher.
Pardoe S. J. (Barco & Pardoe).
Paul J. W., sailboats.
Perry E. W., justice of the peace.
Priest A. T., saloon.
Pringle R. S., justice of the peace.
Shands W. A., physician.
Williams Mary Mrs., gen. mdse.
Williams James, pine and cedar mill.
Willis Bros. (Thomas and M. P. Willis), gen. mdse.
Willis House, T. Willis, prop.
Willis M. P. (Willis Bros.), sail-boat line.
Willis Thomas (Willis Bros.), prop. Willis House.

FARMERS AND GRAIN PLANTERS.

B. A. Coffey. Dr. Dunklin.

Dunlap, Land & Stevenson, REAL ESTATE AGENTS, Bartow, Polk Co., Florida. Send for Descriptive Pamphlet and Price List.



Photograph from author

View of Citrus Avenue in downtown Crystal River in 1926.

Doc Hudson Remembers

BY CLAIRE PHILLIPS LAXTON

Doc Hudson, a history buff and antique dealer, is a lifetime resident of Crystal River, Florida. His shop is located on Citrus Avenue, known as downtown Crystal River. Most of the old area has been revised by Crystal River merchants.

Doc looks younger than his years. A slender man with a southern drawl, he remembers Crystal River when it was a small fishing village in the good old days during the 1920s and 30s. The fishing industry boomed with all types of fishing, oystering and guiding.

"We had plenty of seafood, fish, and swamp cabbage," he recalled. That era touched his memory of the black oyster fishermen singing spiritual songs as they came into the river. "We'd go down there just to hear 'em sing," he recalled. "I'll never forget that."

Doc's proper name is James F. Hudson, Sr., but people nicknamed him "Doc" after his daddy. Dr. Porter James Hudson's, Doc's father and one of the two town doctors serving the entire west side of the county during the 20s, was on call day and night during the malaria epidemics. In those days, patients often paid him with farm foods instead of cash.

"While recovering from the fever myself, lying awake through the night, I counted as many as eight times in one night, my daddy went out on house calls," he said. If people were not treated, the fever was fatal.

His daddy made quinine capsules in the back of the office with the help of his family. In order to recover from malaria, you had to take the capsules from 48 hours to one week. Back then, hospitals were an hour away. Those were the times when doctors gave eye exams and pulled teeth with tooth pullers, as Dr. Porter James Hudson did.

Crystal River's old movie house stood on the east side of Citrus Avenue. A fire swept through several downtown stores destroying all but Dr. Moon's office, which was made of cinderblock.

Rumor had it that people smoking and playing cards in the old movie house is what started the fire. The theater was rebuilt on the west side, across from where Doc's antique shop is today, and went from the silent, captioned movies to the talkies.

Prices were 10 cents for children and 15 cents for adults, but later were raised to 25 cents for adults. "Laurel and Hardy was the first talkie," he remembered.

Today, both Doc and his wife, Ailene, are intrigued with antiques. What first drew his interest was a Monoxulus Carving, a one-piece wood carving of a life-sized Caribbean island native woman holding a baby. Four years ago he opened his own antique business.

"Old furniture is very popular even with the young people because it is well made and lasts longer," Doc said. "Glass, pottery and china are also popular."

His most unusual request was for dog tags (used for pets) by a woman who collects them. Doc still gathers bits of history for the Citrus County Historical Society and for himself.

Having an antique shop in the mostly revised downtown area fits in perfectly with Doc's style. He's a delightful man with many stories of the good old days that blend well with his lovely antique shop.

French film crew comes to Crystal River to do documentary

MICHAEL TERRY
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Chronicle

Manatees in the Crystal River are going international.

Two weeks ago, a French film crew arrived in Crystal River to film a documentary about the docile sea cows and the controversy that surrounds their protection.

Bruno Victor Pujebet, director, said the film will be part of a five-film series on various wildlife.

The series will appear in September on French television where an estimated 7 million people will view the documentaries, Pujebet said.

Other featured animals include England's red squirrels, and caribou in Alaska. Pujebet said the crew chose Crystal River because of its abundance of manatees.

"When we started to work on the film, we went on the Internet and most of the Web sites said Crystal River was the best place to film manatees," he said.

So far, the film crew has not been disappointed.

"The river is very clear, which makes for great pictures," he said, adding that it helps that manatees aren't camera-shy.

"They like to come really close to the camera," he said.

The three-man film crew plans to spend another two weeks in Crystal River before heading back to France to edit the footage.

Before coming to Crystal River, Pujebet said he had never seen a manatee in person. There are no manatees in France, he

Please see **CAMERA/Page 4A**

Lights, camera, manatees



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Alain Daignault, camera operator, cleans the front element of his video camera Wednesday afternoon before filming a biologist commenting about manatees. He and two others from a French production company are in the area documenting the mammals.

Back in Time

Originally published in the Citrus County Chronicle.

1933

■ Crystal River High School vs. Wildwood played a double header basketball game on Tuesday. The Crystal River girls and the Wildwood boys were the victors.

■ Messrs. Jack Campbell and Owen D. Swilley of Tampa, who represent the Crystal River Oyster Farms, Inc., spent Friday and Saturday here making a survey of the oyster beds.

■ Miss Phrynetter Stroup took the teachers examination in Inverness.

■ Dr. Bert Caldwell of the American Hospital Association has returned to his home in Chicago after a week's fishing trip in Crystal River.

■ Dr. and Mrs. Pentecost of Atlanta are registered at the Crystal River Inn. Their fishing luck has been very good.

Fred VanRoy, J.E. Stevens and Phil Rubin attended the Municipalities Convention in Winter Haven last week. Mr. and Mrs. Bert High and Miss Grace High left Saturday for a month's visit in St. Petersburg.

■ Mrs. S.K. Stroup was called to Starke on account of illness of her sister.

■ W.C. Daniel of Jacksonville spent the week-end in Crystal River.

■ Miss Minerva Williams of Jacksonville spent the weekends in Crystal River.

■ Mr. and Mrs. C.J. Hensel who have spent the winter months here have returned to her home in Utica, N.Y.

■ Mrs. T.D. Hoy, Mrs. C.E. Hoy, Mrs. A.D. Williams and Miss Wilma Ray Williams were shopping in Inverness Saturday afternoon.

■ Misses Martha Bartlett and Blanche Sabourin spent the weekend with the girls at Randall Camp.



Special to the Current

Cedar was a prosperous industry in Crystal River at the turn of the century. One of the biggest operations was Dixon's Cedar Mill shown here. The Crystal River Current is looking for old photos of Crystal River and the surrounding areas to be used in Back in Time. Photos can be sent to Crystal River Current email editor@crystalriver-current.com or dropped off at the Chronicle office Meadowcrest.

G.D. Edwards Jr., Nathan Abbott, Ralph Hood and George Anderson returned to the University of Florida Sunday.

■ Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Stevens spent Sunday with relatives in Oxford.

■ The Haag Bros. Circus was in town last Wednesday.

■ Mrs. W.S. Alyea is visiting in St. Petersburg.

Information for Back in Time is supplied by the Citrus County Historical Society.

Marina faces uncertain future



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

A formal offer has been made to buy Pete's Pier Marina on the Crystal River.

City has an interest in buying Pete's Pier

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Chronicle

Pete's Pier in Crystal River is as much a part of the city's landscape as the mossy oaks that line many streets.

gent contract, meaning the sale is not a sure thing.

"They have due diligence built into the contract," McCarty said. "The buyers will investigate all aspects of the property before they decide whether to buy it."

McCarty said details of the contract

The City of Crystal River has an interest in buying the marina, but the asking price may be too high, according to City Manager Phil Deaton. He said the last price he heard was $12 million.

Property Appraiser Melanie Hensley said Pete's Pier is appraised for tax purposes at $1,588,400. She said the owner, Pete's Pier Inc., paid $34,163 in property taxes in 2004.

He said the city's finance director will probably make a presentation later this month to the Crystal River City Council outlining the city's options with regard to Pete's Pier.

Kurt Woerner, director of planning and community development for the city, said Pete's Pier is zoned as waterfront commercial, which does not allow residential development. He said restaurants, clubs and retail

MARINA

Continued from **Page 1A**

land use amendment, but Woerner said the property's uses are somewhat limited because it lies in the Coastal High Hazard Area. The CHHA is an area where storm surge can cause heavy damage. Density is often limited in the CHHA.

Woerner said the interest he has seen in Pete's Pier is part of the overall increase in real estate activity around the city.

Former county commissioner Roger Batchelor, a partially retired charter boat captain who has docked his boat at Pete's Pier for 20 years, said he would hate to see it sold and converted to a different use. He said he knows many others feel the same way.

Batchelor said there is no covered-boat parking facility in Crystal River, other than Pete's Pier. Losing the facility would mean he would have to carry his boat to the water on a trailer.

"It's been there a long time," Batchelor said. "I sure would hate to see it go. It would put a hardship on a lot of us."

Madge Purcell and her husband Edwin "Knox" Purcell, now in a nursing home, originally owned the property. He operated a boat repair facility at the site.

She said they sold the property to Pete Wise, and Wise later sold it to Joe Middleton.

Middleton's three daughters own the facility now, according to Fred Standard, who operates Apollo Deep Sea Fishing Boat in Crystal River.

Batchelor said the facility is in a state of decline. He said the roof of the dry storage building was damaged during the 2004 tropical storms and never repaired. He said the souvenir shop has been closed.

"It has gone to hell," he said.

Crystal River mayor: 2005 was 'stabilizing' year

12-29-05

Year in **REVIEW**

Mike Wright
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chronicleonline.com
Chronicle

It's not exactly the sound of silence emitting from Crystal River City Hall, but it's not an uproar either.

This year was broken into two parts for a municipal government known for its behavioral antics.

It started with the firing of yet another city manager and the city losing an annexation lawsuit.

It ended with a city manager everyone on council supports, and a council united against a group's effort to dissolve the city.

Plus, council members seem intent on focusing on the future instead of each other.

In all, city leaders say 2005 had its moments, but they are now better prepared for 2006.

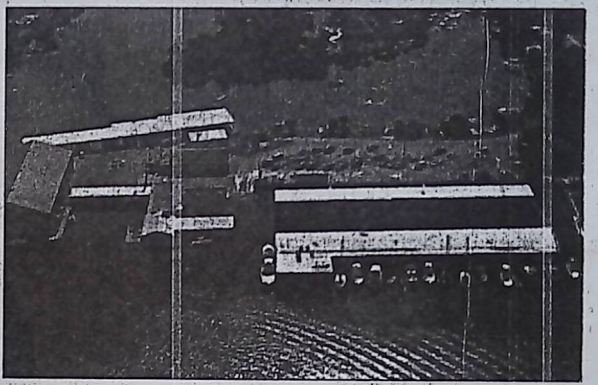
"I hate to throw out clichés, but is the glass half empty or half full?" Mayor Ron Kitchen said. "I guess it's where you choose to focus. I'd say it was a stabilizing year. We kind of leveled out and stabilized as a city."

The biggest issue on the city's plate is growth. Developments are planned for Three Sisters Spring and near the Crystal River Mall. An ambitious resort hotel was unveiled for the Pete's Pier property, but most council members say it's too big and seems more like a time-share, which they oppose.

Still, city officials know that growth is coming and they want to balance that growth with keeping that small-town feel.

"The project for Pete's Pier really grabbed the people's attention," Councilwoman Susan Kirk said. "All that growth that we've been warned about is coming and it's coming in full steam."

Please see **2005/Page 5A**



Chronicle file

Pete's Pier was a point of controversy in 2005. Developers had plans to turn it into a resort hotel, but city council members felt it was too big and would attract too much growth.

2005

Continued from **Page 1A**

Councilman John Kendall said he was disappointed in the city losing the annexed property just south of town that would have secured more tax revenue. And he called the firing of City Manager Susan Boyer "a disaster as far as I was concerned." Kendall was on the wrong end of a 3-2 vote to dismiss Boyer.

But he sees progress in development and he wants the city council to get a better grip on future growth.

"We're not looking into the future far enough," he said. "This is the crown jewel of the Nature Coast."

Kitchen, who has advocated budgets that project five years into the future, said the council and its constituents need to grasp 2006 as a time to define the city. The Pete's Pier resort has brought that to the forefront.

"The big question the city needs to ask is does it want to grow or not," he said. "We need a vision of what the city wants to look like. You ask nine out of 10 people why they moved to Crystal River and they'll say because of the water."

Then there is the issue of the council itself, as in getting along. Council members Kirk and Kendall say they may not agree on everything, but the council itself is more harmonious than it's been.

"We used to be a little more vocal about our ideas," Kendall said. "I think now we're coming a little more compassionate of the ideas of our fellow council people. Each and every one of us is only interested in what's best for Crystal River. We may disagree how we get there."

Kirk said the council is focused on that very thing.

"The political squabbling has ceased," she said. "I think we've stayed focused on business. This is good for the council and the city as a whole."

Local ticket worth millions

Crystal River shop sells winning Lotto ticket

ASHLEY SORRELL
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Chronicle intern

A grocery store in Crystal River made one lucky customer a millionaire.

Kash-n-Karry, 1651 U.S. 19, sold a winning Florida Lotto ticket Saturday, according to a Florida Lottery press release.

Store manager Vincent Salomone said he was informed Sunday the winning ticket was sold at his store.

Salomone said he was happy the winning ticket was sold in a small town.

"I was curious who it was," he said.

Salomone said Kash-n-Karry sells many lottery tickets, but this was the first time the store sold a winning lottery ticket.

"Our lottery sales make the Florida Lottery people very happy," he said.

Salomone said he expects Kash-n-Karry's lottery sales to increase since the sale of a winning ticket.

A second winning lottery ticket was sold at Tropical Supermarket in Miami-Dade County.

No one has come forward to claim their winnings.

Two winners will share a $6 million jackpot to be paid in 30 annual payments.

ON THE NET

■ www.flalottery.com

The lottery winners will have 25 percent of their winnings withheld for federal taxes.

Other than the two winning tickets that matched all six winning lottery numbers, 90 tickets sold matched five numbers to win $4,273.50; 5,278 tickets matched four numbers for $59; and 99,236 tickets matched three numbers for $4.

The winning numbers from Saturday's drawing were 2-16-17-18-20-29.

A percentage of the profit generated from the Florida Lottery ticket sales helps to fund public schools and education programs in the state.

According to Florida Lottery statistics, the lottery generated approximately $44.9 million in funds for public schools and programs in Citrus County.

MAY 24 2005

2005 CRYSTAL RIVER HIGHLIGHTS

- Attempts to annex property just south of the city that would reportedly include a Wal-Mart Supercenter were thwarted by a circuit court judge who ruled the annexation illegal. Though not happy with the ruling, the council decided not to appeal.
- The city council voted 3-2 to fire City Manager Susan Boyer over a squabble about, among other things, money she spent to remove debris from the previous summer's tropical storms. The council and Boyer eventually agreed to a five-month buy-out of her contract.
- The council hired Phil Deaton as acting city manager, then named him full-time city manager. Deaton, of Pine Ridge, has more than 30 years experience in municipal government but has made it clear the Crystal River job is for the short term.
- City Attorney David LaCroix resigned. At Deaton's suggestion, the council hired Anthony Perrone as the city's first full-time city attorney.
- Angry with the council's handling of the Boyer situation, a group of citizens began a petition drive that it hoped would force the council to set a referendum on whether to dissolve the city. Though the group obtained enough signatures, the effort hit an apparent wall when Perrone said state law offers only two ways to dissolve a city: an act of the Legislature, or an ordinance approved by the city council and then ratified by voters. The group has vowed not to give up.
- A developer unveiled an ambitious plan for a 120-unit resort hotel where Pete's Pier now stands. Plans call for the marina to remain open to the public, and the developer would replace the boat ramp with one across from city hall. Most council members say the project is too large.
- Mike and Kautia Hampton announced plans for a sports bar and restaurant on Kings Bay near Cracker's restaurant.
- In other growth news, a residential development of some type – so far, unknown – is being planned for Three Sisters Spring. And a 240-unit condominium is planned near the Crystal River Mall.

There are a lot of memories hidden in old theater building

by Karen Hand

This story takes place a long time ago. It is the story of James "Sonny" Hudson and the Springs Theatre on Citrus Avenue in Crystal River.

"It was built around 1925 and the front of the building was covered with blue and green stones, like crystal. Of course, it didn't take us long to start carving them out," chuckled Hudson. When the Springs first opened it started off with silent movies. Hudson remembered. "Back in those days the blacks had to sit in the balcony. That's also where the victrola was. My sister was dating the guy who ran it so I used to sneak up there and sit with them. You had to be able to read since there wasn't any sound. If you couldn't read the subtitled you didn't know what was going on."

The theatre acted as sort of an expensive baby sitting service. Said Hudson, "Movies were only a dime. My father had his doctor's office across the street so on the weekends when he worked, I'd go to the movies. I would watch most of the movies three or four times. My favorites were the westerns; Tom Mix, Arty Coty and Tim McCoy. It was exciting."

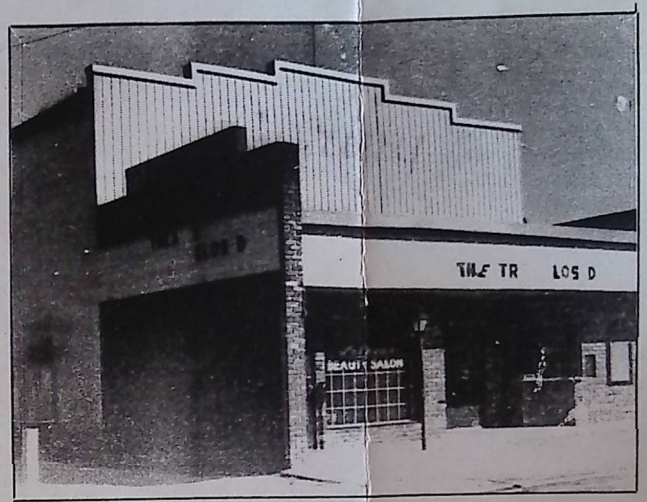
Sometimes the "movie goers" were as entertaining as the movies. Hudson, quick with a joke or a smile, laughed. "I remember one kid, he had the funniest laugh and when he got going, the rest of us would be laughing at him more than at the movie." The Practical Joke was also popular at the time: "There was a big fan that used to blow air into the building. One time somebody threw a pole cat in the back. You never saw people move so fast to get out of a place."

Although a little later than the big city of Inverness, talkees finally came to the Springs. "The first one was Laurel and Hardy and the Honolulu Baby. I saw it four times, I saw most of them four times. I had them memorized," said Hudson.

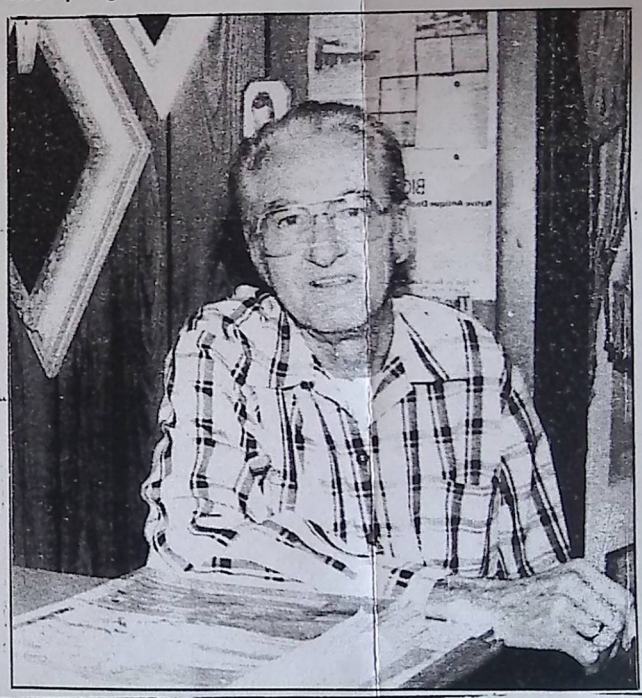
"We'd get news reels once a week, the news was always a month old, but it was new to us. The theatre was our social place," he said. "We always knew when the fishing guides walked in."

In the Good Old Days, the theatre provided the entertainment, social contact and the news. In 1957 the Springs received a new "Front," looking much as it does today. In December 1986, the Springs Theatre was closed and put up for sale, its future is uncertain. Whatever might happen to the old building, the weekend memories of such grown up children as James "Doc" Hudson will live on.

"I don't go to movies anymore," said Hudson. "It's not the same."



The Springs Theatre located on Citrus Ave. in Crystal River.



Doc Hudson reminisces in his antique shop across the street from the Springs Theatre.(photo by Karen Hand)

Local history buff Molly Johnston celebrates small-town life in her newly published novel

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Chronicle

For Molly Johnston, being called small-minded isn't necessarily an insult.

She loves, loves, *loves* small towns and their history — who married whom and who lived where.

A longtime volunteer for the Coastal Heritage Museum on Citrus Avenue in Crystal River, Johnston said that in many ways the historic section of the city reminds her of her own hometown of Newcomerstown, Ohio.

With great affection, Johnston recently dedicated her newly published novel, "Hawthorne," to the place she calls home.

Published by AuthorHouse, she used the pen name Molly Sheppard, which was her grandmother's name.

"I have wonderful memories of growing up in a small town," she said. "I lived in Newcomerstown all my life until I graduated high school. Then I moved to Huntington, W.Va., where I met my (late) husband. We lived there for a while, then moved to Pennsylvania and then to Massachusetts.

"It seems strange to have moved so many times because my mother and most of the people I know in my little town lived there all their lives; they never moved away," she said.

Johnston's nostalgic mystery takes place in the fictional town of Hawthorne, a town similar to the one she grew up in.

Even though she has lived elsewhere for more years than she lived in Newcomerstown, that's the place she calls home.

"I think what endeared me to Crystal River was the small-town atmosphere," she said. "The people on Main Street and at the town hall — Roger Goettelmann and John Leto — who have been so wonderful."

As former director of the museum, Johnston was awarded the Mary MacCrae Award for her 10-plus years of working with the museum.

"First of all, I love history, and I think you have to have that to dedicate yourself to something like this," she said.

She said one of her favorite parts of the museum is a book that she discovered stashed away in a drawer.

"It was written by the people that lived in Crystal River in 1910," she said. "It's my favorite because they wrote it, trying to encourage people to move to Crystal River."

The book was falling apart when she found it, but it was too precious to toss away. So she persuaded the county historical society to print new copies.

"One of the ladies who started the home improvement group — now the Woman's Club, which is the (city's) oldest club — wanted them to improve everything in Crystal River," she said. "They actually planted the trees on Crystal Street where the train station is."

Johnson, who declined sharing her age, said she envisions a walking tour of the old homes — Judge Bowman's house and the Miller-Holder house, names that may be unfamiliar to many county residents but endearing to her.

"Dr. Moon's house on 11th Street — he was an early doctor and he went to the Senate," she said. "I think his grandson lives in it now.

"In the old days, people lived back from the water. My feeling is that they

Please see **MOLLY/Page 8**

Plantation Inn resort sold; expansion planned

Property sold for $11 million

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Chronicle

Many improvements are in store at the Plantation Inn and Golf Resort following the property's sale in December.

Plantation Resort Inc., a subsidiary of the Caruth Family Trust, was sold Dec. 1 to Plantation Inn Hotel, a Delaware limited partnership, for about $11 million, according to the Citrus County Clerk's records.

The sale includes the hotel and golf course. Attorney Clark Stillwell, who did not participate in the sale but now represents the new owners, said the publicly recorded deed includes only the land itself and does not represent the total price. He declined to detail the final sale price.

The new owners are hardly strangers. Plantation Inn Hotel also is known as Prism Hotels, a Dallas company that has managed the Plantation for years.

Several changes are in the works. They include:

- The golf driving range will be moved to the other side of Fort Island Trail. Stillwell said he didn't know exactly where and he wasn't sure if the golf range would be extended.
- The hotel will add 66 guest rooms.
- A conference center just outside the hotel will be expanded into where the golf driving range is now.
- Expansion should begin in the near future, Stillwell said.

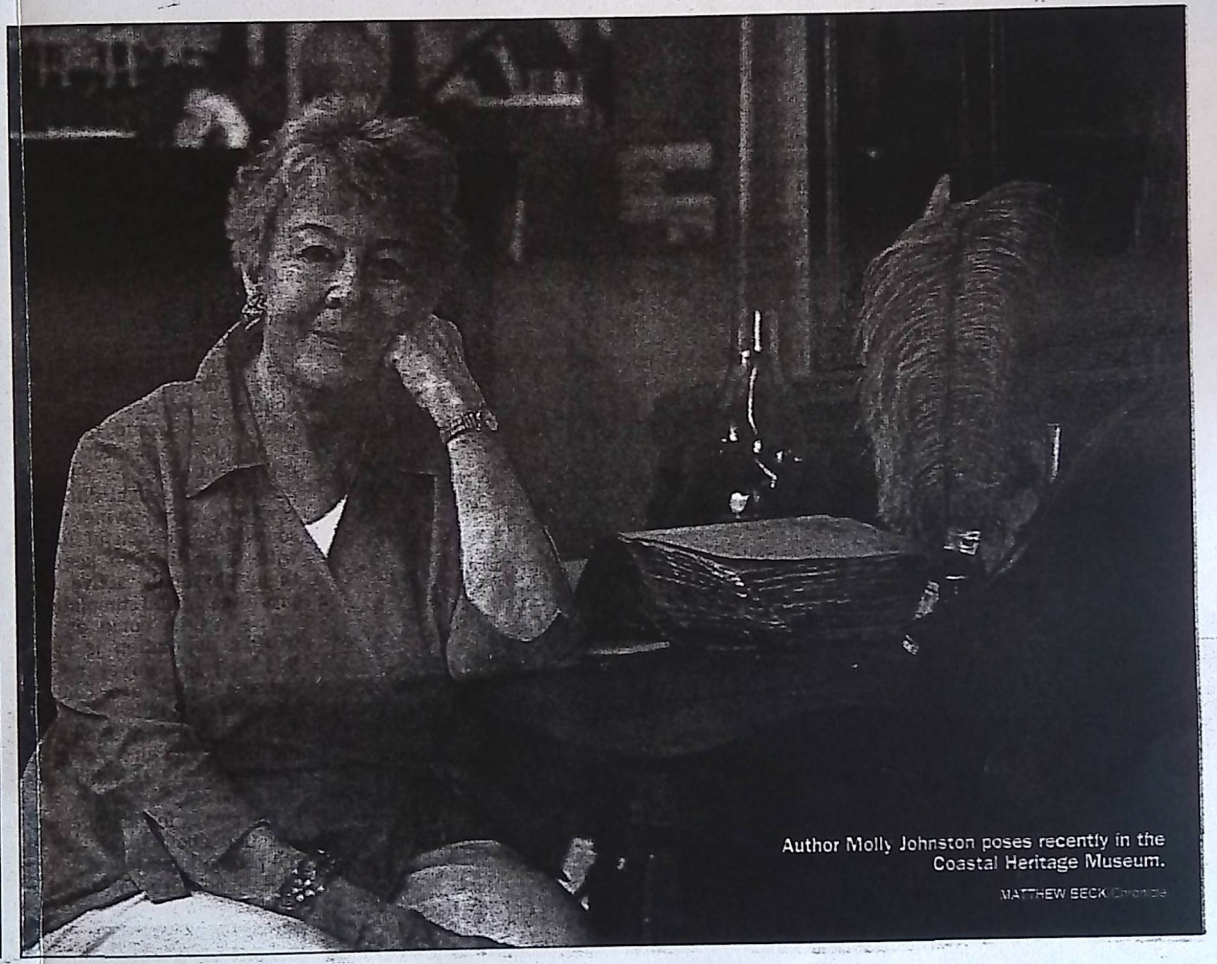
Also, Plantation owners and Crystal River officials are discussing a voluntary annexation into the city. Stillwell said the annexation would allow the Plantation to receive water and sewer service.

Get your write on

To write your own "This is the way it was" story, The Remembering Site, a nonprofit initiative at www.the-rememberingsite.org, offers sample questions to stimulate your memories. They include:

- What was your mother's name? Your father's name? Your grandmothers' names? Your grandfathers' names? What did you call them?
- Can you remember what you daydreamed about as you looked out of your bedroom window in the house of your growing up?
- Do you like your birthday or do you dread it? What birthday do you remember the most from your youth? What kind of parties did your parents give for you?
- Who are your best friends? What do you like about them? What are some special memories of times spent with friends?
- Who was the greatest president of the United States?
- What are some special memories spent with family?
- What advice would you give to a child?

Her Town, by Molly



Author Molly Johnston poses recently in the Coastal Heritage Museum.

MATTHEW BECK Chronicle

Chronicle file

Kings Bay is mired by lyngbya, stormwater runoff and dumped fertilizer and pesticides. There have been many proposals through the years to clean up and improve the quality of the bay and the surrounding area.

Crystal River resident: Bay could use some improvements

Editor's note: *This is an address longtime Crystal River and Kings Bay resident Vangie Rich submitted to the Crystal River City Council regarding the state of Kings Bay.*

VANGIE C. RICH
Special to the Chronicle

I sat in the town meeting/workshop last Friday afternoon listening to the various committee reports and basic visioning reports for the city of Crystal River. Don Cox gave a rather lengthy detailed technical report concerning the possible causes of the water problems in Kings Bay.

His findings are quite valid, but did not offer an immediate solution to the continuing deterioration of the bay. There have been many studies and many reports in recent years but, sadly, no visible action to stop or reverse the accelerating demise of the once pristine blue springs and bay that form Crystal River.

I would love to see Crystal River become a friendly, walkable community with little shops, apartments and townhouses, slowed traffic, and all the amenities that Dan Burden introduced us to several months ago. However, I was under the impression that the workshop was intended to discuss our problems with Kings Bay and what we should do about getting it under control.

In the letter I received from (City Manager Phil) Deaton, he asked several questions pertaining to the future of Kings Bay specifically.

1. Starting with a bare piece of land, what would you like to see?

I would hope to preserve as much of the natural surroundings as possible. Trees, plants, water quality.

2. What would you like to preserve?

It's too late for that. We still have many trees in our yard but fewer birds and butterflies.

Our water is totally changed. We have no fish bedding around our dock, no grasses, no wading birds (egrets, marsh hens, coots, mallards), no otter coming into our yard to play, few owls and hawks, even our pet black snake has disappeared.

3. What would you like to see that is not here?

All of the above plus the beautiful clear blue water and white sand bottom that we used to have.

I'd like to see more small sailboats (like Sunfish, which are one- and two-person flat bottom boats), kayaks and canoes, paddle boats, and people using their larger boats to slowly cruise the bay enjoying the beautiful surroundings and appreciating our springs, the wildlife including the manatees, and the fact that we are fortunate enough to live in such a beautiful and special place.

We have no fish bedding around our dock ... even our pet black snake has disappeared.

Of course, in order for this to become reality, we will have to have year-around slow and idle speed on the entire bay.

4. What is here that you would like to see go away?

Lyngbya, muck, turbidity, stormwater runoff, lawns dumping fertilizer and pesticides and mowed grass into the bay, careless people allowing cans, bottles, plastic bags and other trash to "fall" into the water, speeding boats and PWCs (personal watercrafts such as Jet Skis).

In addition, the boats that are anchored in the bay (free mooring) by owners who visit from time to time, that also break away during high winds

Please see **RESIDENT/Page 5C**

Group organizing Kings Bay symposium

Editor's note: *The City of Crystal River Kings Bay Waterfronts Florida Partnership recently approved this appeal designed for numerous agencies and parties for a workshop symposium. It would create a foundation for a Kings Bay Restoration and Management Plan similar in scope to a National Estuary Program but on a smaller, more focused scale. A list is being developed to invite relevant agencies and groups.*

The concept is to hold a multi-day forum to lay the basis for the science behind the plan, then bring in the managers to come up with a proposed restoration plan based on the best science.

GALEN CLYMER AND MATT CLEMONS
Special to the Chronicle

The City of Crystal River Kings Bay Waterfronts Florida Partnership has identified water quality as a priority issue critical to the success of the board's mission. While there are many issues to address, one of the specific issues that has arisen is the degradation of water clarity and quality resulting from certain aquatic plant harvesting operations and the lack of an adequate follow-up plan with a focus on longer-term goals.

While several plans exist for the bay they are not coordinated and often have conflicting goals. The SWIM plan and efforts of the Southwest Florida Water Management District have had some positive impacts in the past and hopefully will continue to do so in the future, but there is a growing level of frustration with the apparent lack of progress.

Please see **GROUP/Page 4C**

3-26-06

A call to action



RESIDENT

Continued from Page 1C

and drift dangerously close to docks and seawalls, and occasionally, sink.

This past weekend, we counted 13 boats moored on the north end off Buzzard Island and there are presently three boats sunk and unmovable in various areas of the bay, that I know of.

5. What do you think the community should do to enhance this focal point and asset for Crystal River?

Calm the traffic on all roadways, and especially on the water, at least to the point of Casa Rio, keeping the entire bay slow/idle speed forever.

People will just have to sacrifice the thrill of speed, waterskiing, Waverunners or tube dragging, racing, spraying, jetting, whatever else they think is fun, for the sake of rescuing the bay and trying to restore it to a more positive condition.

Besides the fuel emissions into the water from all motorized craft, the turbulence created by dozens of boats and PWCs all going at wide open speeds, criss-crossing wakes, doughnutting, is causing untold damage to the bay bottom and therefore, to the many large and small springs scattered around the bay.

I have witnessed the turbulence when it was so severe that it actually knocked fish off their beds around our dock. No wonder they aren't there anymore. And, as I said before, there is no eel grass or any other sign of vegetation to attract fish.

We have lost a great deal of sand from the front of our seawall due to summer boat turbulence. And the turbulence keeps the three-foot depth of muck so stirred up it looks like sewage instead of pure spring water. It is not a nice place for humans to swim, much less aquatic wildlife.

I would like to see the city arrange to buy Pete's Pier, make improvements, and maintain it as a marina/park with an education center that would be accessible by boat as well as by car, bike path, or sidewalk. Anything more than that would create too much of a heavy traffic impact on an already sensitive area.

There has to be a first step and, in my opinion, that first move in a positive direction is to curb the impact on the bay by implementing slow speed on the bay year around, with idle speed in manatee areas during high manatee population season as we now have it.

We must retain our valuable marina, but we must also do everything to protect its surrounding environment. We cannot allow stormwater runoff from the parking areas necessitated by such a project. Look at the problems of contamination occurring on the Pete's Pier site as it is now. Think what a major development would do. We must turn it into a positive for the city.

There has to be a first step and, in my opinion, that first move in a positive direction is to curb the impact on the bay by implementing slow speed on the bay year around, with idle speed in manatee areas during high manatee population season as we now have it.

The city has the power to file a recommendation/request for speed regulations with the county commission. Most of them have already indicated their approval and agreement to do this. This is a no-brainer, it won't cost us anything, and it will be helping the ecology of the bay.

The second step is a major education campaign to wake the public up to the fact that Kings Bay is Crystal River. It is our only bay, we're using it to extinction, and when it is completely destroyed we can't get it back again.

It will be gone forever, destroyed by those who chose to use it and abuse it to death, all in the name of fun. We have reached our stopping point, it is now or never. Then we have to get everyone busy fixing what we can fix immediately and prioritizing what we have to do next as far as cleanup and restoration.

They must realize that if we do not begin today by taking that first step the bay will continue to go downhill and one day in the not-too-distant future our bay and river will once again become a swamp fed by a slow trickle of putrid spring water. That may sound a little extreme but at the rate we have seen the bay and river change in the past 20 years, it is a realistic and depressing outlook.

There will be protesters, but those people do not have the best interest of Kings Bay as their major concern. They want a place to play on weekends and then they go home to Lecanto or Inverness, or Ocala, Gainesville or Leesburg, and forget about Kings Bay until the next time they want to rip around and whoop it up all weekend.

They are using our bay freely and abusing our bay shamefully. They bring their own beer and sandwiches from home and leave their trash in the water and up and down our roadways. Their rude folly is a frustration and a danger to those of us who would protect and nurture our bay and surrounding environment.

In the summertime, we have observed people shamelessly urinating off the backs of boats from our patio when the gas fumes weren't so strong that we couldn't stay out in our own yard. We have also rescued innocent people from sinking jonboats and canoes who have been swamped by speeding boats and Jet Skis, and observed families on pontoon boats being sprayed by those inconsiderate revelers.

The protesters do not deserve any consideration when the protection of our bay is at stake.

There is so much more I could say, but I think you have an idea what my feelings are, and those of many with whom we have spoken.

As for the city, I would like to see restorations done on some of the older houses that now sit empty, to spruce up some of the older neighborhoods and make them inviting places to live for young families.

I would like to encourage developers to build patio homes and townhouses, perhaps even residences over shops as demonstrated in Dan Burden's Charrette of downtown redevelopment. We have boating, fishing, swimming areas, golf courses, tennis courts and other sports venues, and an airport all within , or in proximity to, the city.

We need more cultural activities, namely, a cultural arts center. Curtis and I have laid the ground work for such a facility, in securing a 501.c.3 under the name of Nature Coast Cultural Alliance, and we have even planned a major fundraiser and registered the theme name for it, "Manatee Magic." We are currently seeking 8 to 10 acres for the facility.

We must beautify our city by enforcing mandatory cleanup of junk in residential yards and around businesses. This will also help to clean up stormwater runoff before it finds its way into the bay. Home improvement is never ending, as is city improvement.

We must begin immediately and not lose another day talking about what we "should" do to save our bay and our city.

Plantation getting makeover, addition in Crystal River

4-18-06

New owner wants closer relation with community again

Jim Hunter
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Chronicle

The Crystal River landmark known as "The Plantation" is getting new management, new rooms, new looks and new attitude.

The Plantation Inn and Golf Resort in Crystal River was recently purchased by Dallas-based Prism Hotels, which plans to add another wing with 60 rooms and to completely renovate the present main building. It also will be increasing the meeting space.

Two new managers have taken over, Kole Siefken as general manager, and Anthony James as director of operations, and they said in an interview Monday that the company has big plans for the resort.

One of their biggest goals, in addition to the expansion and renovations, is making the resort a part of the community again. "We're very community oriented," said Seifken. He said the resort wants the community to know it wants to be an integral part of the community again, something it may have drifted away from in recent years.

"We want people coming and taking part," Siefken said. "To welcome the community back to the Plantation is what we're after."

To start that process, beginning Friday, April 28, the hotel will have a band at the pool from 6 to 10 p.m. during the sunset hours for residents to get reacquainted with the resort. The hotel is featuring its Sunday brunches again, and during the summer it is offering summer memberships to the pool on the sprawling patio activities area on the water behind the main hotel.

No timetable has been laid out yet, but the 60 new rooms will be where the driving range is now, and the range will likely be relocated to the other side of Fort Island Trail, though the construction manager is just this week arriving to begin planning the project, Seifken said.

While the improvements to the present building and facilities will be significant, Siefken said, the traditional character and feel of the hotel will be retained. "We will still keep the southern charm" he said, adding it would be just kind of an updated version of the hotel. "We very excited about it," he said.



WALTER CARLSON/Chronicle

Cole Siefken, general manager, left, and Anthony James, director of operations, represent the new owners of the Plantation Inn at a press conference Monday. They explained upcoming plans for the Inn, which included more offerings for the local residents.

Seifken said another big change will involve the staff. "We're very service-oriented," he said, but added the company understands that based on good, happy employees.

"We're very big on employee relations," Kole said, adding that the company's overriding philosophy is that if management takes care of the employees, the employees will take care of the guests. The hotel presently has 143 employees.

Siefken said the hotel company really has "an employee culture," and added, "We take a lot of pride in the employees." He said the company's slogan embodies that commitment and its pride in the highest service: "A great place to work; a great place to stay."

Prism Hotels is privately held. The company president and CEO is Stephen L. Van, a Dallas attorney who has served as Assistant Attorney General of Texas, director of the Atlantic Treaty Assembly (NATO's U.S. arm), and director of the Texas Turnpike Authority. He founded Prism in 1983.

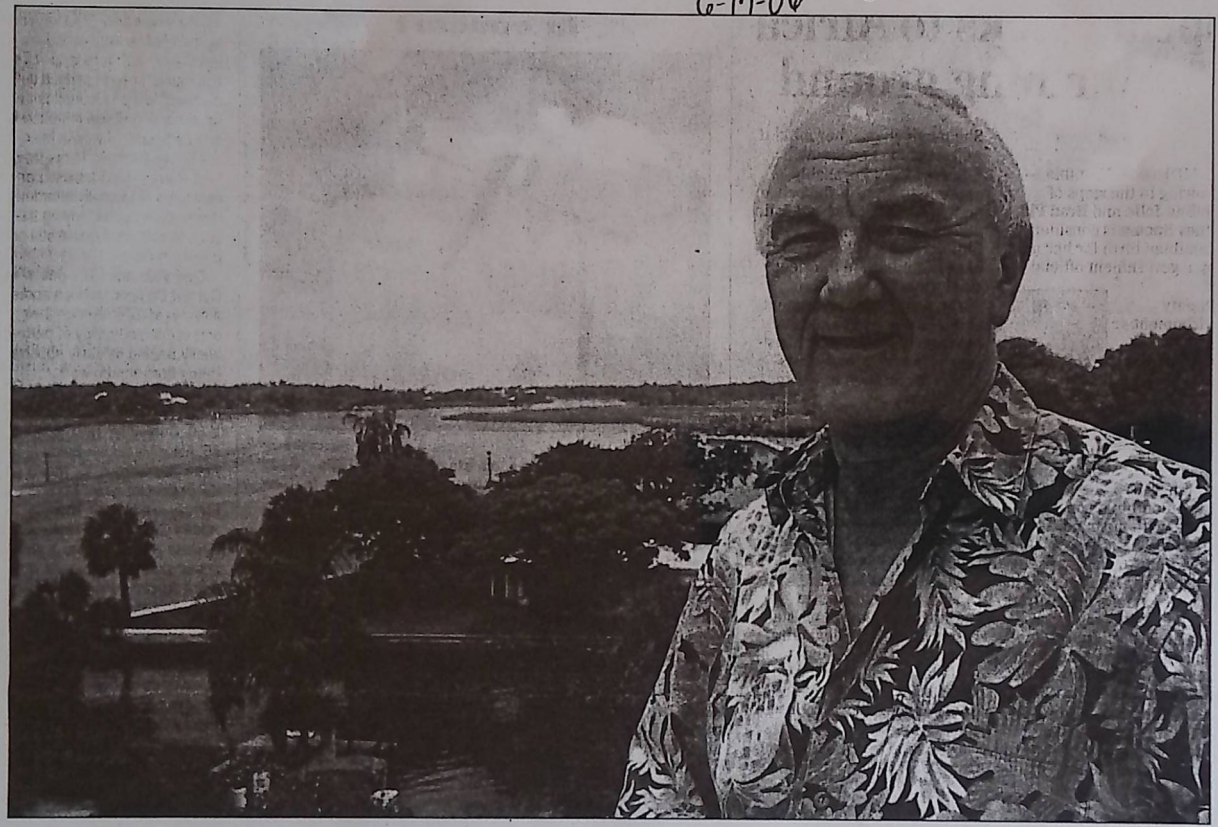
According to a number of hotel management publications, the company has a reputation in the industry as one of the fastest-growing full-service hotel investment, management and development companies in the country. Hotel and Motel Management Magazine ranked it in the top half of the top two-dozen independent hotel management companies in the nation.

The company currently manages 33 hotels with more than 6,000 rooms for multiple owners in 11 states from Portland, Ore., to Grand Cayman Island. It employees 1,800 people.

Its clients' hotels include: Radisson, Hilton, Marriott, Sheraton, Embassy Suits and Holiday Inn. It has built 35 hotels and done major renovations on 60.

Enjoying a new view in Crystal River

6-17-06



CATHY KAPULKA/Chronicle

John Kostelnick is the new member of the Crystal River City Council, replacing the late John Kendall. Kostelnick said his love of Crystal River is what prompted him to enter politics.

City to consider annexation, zoning changes

1-8-06

MIKE WRIGHT
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Chronicle

The Crystal River City Council seems ready Monday night to approve the annexation of a street against the wishes of one couple who say they don't want to live in the city.

At the first reading of an annexation ordinance last month, the council enthusiastically backed the annexation of Nokomis Point, in large part to extend sewer service to a road surrounded on both sides by canals.

Residents say septic tanks and drainfields are polluting the canals that feed into the Crystal River. Council members agree and they say any chance to extend sewer to waterfront areas should be embraced.

If the council approves the ordinance, registered voters who live on Nokomis will cast ballots on the annexation. Although the street has 15 property owners, those who are not registered voters may not vote.

- **WHAT:** Crystal River City Council meeting.
- **WHEN:** 7 p.m. Monday.
- **WHERE:** Crystal River City Hall, 123 N.W. U.S. 19.

Alan and Sandra Burns oppose the annexation. They said they moved to Nokomis because it was close to Crystal River, but they do not want to become city residents and pay city taxes.

Plus, the sewer assessment is pegged at about $10,000 per property owner, which the couple opposes.

Should the council OK the ordinance, voters will likely be given ballots by mail, City Manager Phil Deaton said.

Also Monday, the council will give final consideration to several zoning changes.

The council meets at 7 p.m. in City Hall.

Resident John Kostelnick assumes larger role with council for love of the city

Mike Wright
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Chronicle

> **"I had no interest in politics. I love this city. I started going to council meetings and also to the workshops."**
>
> **John Kostelnick**
> newest member of the Crystal River City Council.

From the perch atop his Woodland Estates home, John Kostelnick watches from a bend on the Crystal River. To the west, the Gulf of Mexico. To the east, Kings Bay.

Kostelnick can see it all.

Now, through unfortunate circumstances, Kostelnick has a much different view of the city — one from the council dais.

Kostelnick, 63, is the city's newest council member. He was appointed following the death of John Kendall, then avoided a special election when potential opponent Bonnie Taylor erred in her ballot-filing paperwork.

The appointment is to fill Kendall's term through 2008.

"I had no interest in politics," Kostelnick said. "I love this city. I started going to council meetings and also to the workshops."

Kostelnick and his wife, Gail, are relative newcomers to Crystal River, having moved there in 2001 from Spring Hill. They had moved to Florida from Virginia, where Kostelnick ran a cabinet shop for the Department of Office Furnishing that provides furniture for the U.S. House of Representatives.

"We did custom stuff, but nothing outrageous," he said.

Kostelnick worked for the federal government for 24 years.

"I loved the job," he said. "I enjoyed going to work every day. I met thousands of people."

They bought property in Woodland Estates, then had a house built — a tall house. It has a full view of the river and surrounding neighborhood.

Kostelnick hadn't heard of the goings-on at city hall, but a neighbor passed on this advice: "If you want a good laugh, go to city council meetings."

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VIEW

Continued from **Page 1A**

So they did. He saw council members arguing and a general lack of order. "I thought I could do better," he said.

Kostelnick received appointment to the city's planning board. He ran for office in 2004, losing to Kendall in a close race. He and Gail continued attending council meetings and he became chairman of the new planning commission.

After Kendall's death, Kostelnick seemed a natural replacement choice to council members like Susan Kirk and Jim Farley. Both cited his knowledge of city issues and his nearly perfect attendance at council meetings.

Like other council members, Kostelnick praises the work of City Manager Phil Deaton, who is retiring at the end of this month. Kostelnick said he doesn't plan to interfere with the daily operations of Deaton's successor, Andrew Houston.

"He's there to manage the city. That's his job," Kostelnick said.

Kostelnick said he sees plenty of growth in Crystal River in the coming years, particularly from annexation. He also believes the city needs additional revenue sources to keep up with growth.

He said he supports the idea of a sales tax that would target tourists and other visitors to the city. "I think it's a wonderful idea," he said.

Kostelnick said if the council had a sales tax aimed at visitors, it could reduce property taxes.

"I'd like to find ways," he said, "to reduce property taxes and still get money coming in."

Officials breathe life into new tax

6-20-06

CR considers tax on cigarettes

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Chronicle

Smokers who buy their cigs in Crystal River may want to take a puff on this:

The city council, in an effort to raise money without breaking the financial backs of its citizens, is considering a 2-cent a pack cigarette tax to balance the 2007 budget.



Jim Farley in favor of new tax.

At a workshop Monday evening, council members enthusiastically supported Finance Director Mark Thiel's idea that a cigarette tax could raise $850,000, or about as much as the city needs to balance its 2006-07 budget.



Phil Deaton presented budget hiking city's mill levy.

"I like that idea," Councilman Jim Farley said. "It raises money and discourages people from smoking."

Councilman Robert Holmes said he'd recommend a 5-cent a pack tax because stores likely would raise their prices by 5 cents anyway.

"Make it a nickel and I'll quit smoking," he quipped.

City officials are looking for ways to raise enough money to fund a $7.5 million budget.

Please see BREATHE/Page 5A

BREATHE

Continued from **Page 1A**

Last year, with expenses continuing to rise, the city took money from a reserve account rather than raise the property tax rates.

That isn't an option this year, City Manager Phil Deaton said. Instead, he presented a budget that includes raising the tax rate from 5.6 mills to 7.7 mills. One mill equals $1 for $1,000 of taxable value on property. He said the alternative is to make cuts in services.

The millage increase would raise about $888,000.

Thiel, however, said he asked the Florida League of Cities for alternative revenue sources. One was the cigarette tax.

Another was a tax of up to 10 percent on water and sewer bills that could go into the city's general fund. Council members said Monday they didn't like that idea.

Councilman John Kostelnick had suggested a 1 percent hike in the sales tax. Thiel said the city couldn't do that on its own. Instead, it would be a county sales tax increase with a portion — about $370,000 — given to the city of Crystal River.

Council members discussed various ways to reduce spending. Holmes suggested that meter-readers, for example, use bicycles or golf carts as transportation to save on fuel costs.

Holmes also suggested creating a special taxing district in unincorporated areas where the city provides fire coverage.

It was the cigarette tax, however, that caught the most attention. Council members wanted to know if the tax could be in place when the fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

City Attorney Anthony Perrone said it would take 120 days to approve a tax ordinance. He cautioned, however, the council against approving a budget that assumes revenue from a cigarette tax because it could face stiff opposition.

"I wouldn't count on the money," he said. "We do have a number of citizens in the area who like to watch what we do."

The council's next budget workshop is 6 p.m. Thursday, June 29.

Mixed-use plan for downtown

6-26-06

■ A construction group proposes shops and upstairs living for Crystal River. While it has appeal in some corners, the project would require modifying the land development code.

By ELENA LESLEY
Times Staff Writer

CRYSTAL RIVER — The city could get its first mixed-use development downtown if officials can make provisions for such a project in the land development code.

A local construction group made an informal presentation to the Community Redevelopment Agency in late May, showing preliminary sketches of a development that would have shops downstairs and apartments upstairs and be built at the corner of U.S. 19 and Citrus Avenue.

"This would fit with making a true downtown, a walkable downtown," said Kurt Woerner, director of planning and community development.

But the city has never had a similar project before, and there are no rules to guide its progression — at least not yet.

"I'm researching," Woerner said. "We'd first need to create a vehicle in the land development code for mixed use."

Chris Ensing of Southern Exposure, who made the presentation, said he didn't want to give too many details because the project is in its early stages. But he said he felt a mixed-use development would "broaden downtown, make more activity."

"Crystal River kind of rolls up the sidewalk when it gets dark," he said.

Though Woerner said he thought residents could benefit from a greater range of shops and the city could use the tax money, there are some concerns associated with a mixed-use development.

There may be problems with noise and the increased density.

"The designs they showed us were innovative and exactly the type of thing we'd like to see happen," said Roger Goettelmann a consultant for the CRA. "If done correctly, mixed-use could be very desirable."

Mayor's budget moves irritate council

9-18-06

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Three Crystal River Council members have a question for Mayor Ron Kitchen:

Where have you been?

Council members say Kitchen is unfair to chastise them for not considering a cut in the property tax rate when the mayor himself missed some workshops when the budget was hammered out.

Kitchen, who is running for re-election, said last week he is working on a plan to cut $1 million from the city's budget so that council members may approve a millage rate at their Sept. 26 meeting to keep taxes in line.

He made the offer the day after a budget public hearing where many people showed up to complain about higher taxes.

Though the council's proposed millage of 5.6 is the same as this year, it will bring in about $500,000 more in tax revenue because property values are skyrocketing across the city. One mill equals $1 for every $1,000 of taxable value on property.

Kitchen said he wants the council to approve the roll-back rate that would bring in the same amount of money as this year. The fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

Councilman Roger Proffer, who is running against Kitchen and two others for mayor, said the tax-cut plan is a ploy to "feed one man's ego."

Proffer, at the Sept. 11 budget hearing, abruptly suggesting cutting the tax rate from 5.6 mills to 5 mills. He then asked Kitchen to suggest budget cuts right then.

Kitchen declined, saying it was not the time to rehash the budget. On Sept. 12, he said in an interview that he wanted time to research budget cuts before blurting them out in a public hearing.

Kitchen said Friday he still is doing research, but he said the city budget has grown 37

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1A

council has never said, 'What's it going to cost?'" Kitchen said. "The only reason we have a balanced budget is because they're taking it from reserves."

Kitchen said he sees cuts in the police department, eliminating the full-time attorney's position and possibly negotiating fire service with the county.

Proffer said he wouldn't do anything with the fire department without a public referendum.

Proffer also said City Attorney Anthony Perrone has saved the city hundreds of thousands of dollars in potential costs involving the RealtiCorp sewer project south of town.

Council members Susan Kirk and Jim Farley also criticized Kitchen for bringing up tax cuts long after budget workshops. As for specifics, both reserved opinions until after hearing Kitchen's proposals.

"We did everything we possibly could without cutting services," Farley said. "There's no frills, no fat left."

Proffer said Kitchen is showing poor leadership.

"He's done this every year," Proffer said. "He's pulled this every year since I've been on the council."

Kitchen said he is performing his duty, and he wants council members to do the same.

"I don't want this to be about everybody doing it wrong," he said. "Staff is not the problem. Employees are not the problem. Elected officials that have control of the purse strings — that's where the problem is. All they have to say is 'we can't afford it' and we wouldn't be in this spot."

25¢ VOLUME 113 NO. 269 Florida's Best Community Newspaper Serving Florida's Best Community SEPTEMBER 26, 2006

Kitchen's budget proposals sink

City thumps mayor's plan by OKing tax rate, equal to 24 percent increase

MIKE WRIGHT
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Mayor Ron Kitchen's proposed budget cuts went over with a thud Monday night by a Crystal River City Council that voted 4-1 to keep the 2006-07 millage rate the same as this year.

The 5.6-mill rate equals about a 24 percent tax increase because taxable property values have risen substantially in the city.

One mill equals $1 for every $1,000 of taxable value on property. The fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

Kitchen had proposed significant budget cuts to reduce the millage so that it wouldn't include a tax rate. Those cuts included shaving seven positions from the police department, freezing the pay of the police chief and his assistant, eliminating the full-time city attorney's position and cutting council pay.

Council members Jim Farley, Susan Kirk, John Kostelnick and Roger Proffer stuck with the current millage. Councilman Robert Holmes said he didn't agree with all of Kitchen's proposals, but thought some deserved attention.

Kostelnick and Farley said Kitchen's proposals came about too late and were too severe.

"Are we going to give these police officers one week and then fire them? I don't think so," Kostelnick said. "I cannot and will not support these cuts."

Farley, reading from a prepared statement, said Kitchen's proposals were "radical." Farley, a former police chief in Crystal River, said proposals to reduce the police force were "rash and ill conceived."

About a half-dozen citizens who spoke pleaded for tax relief.

Please see SINK/Page 5A

SINK

Continued from **Page 1A**

"You need to take a serious look at what you're doing and how you're spending," Maureen McNiff said.

Holmes agreed.

"This council needs to take the bull by the horns and look at the budget recommendations made by the mayor," he said.

Holmes supported Kitchen's position that the city negotiate with the county to transfer fire-protection service. Holmes has long argued that city fire services are repeatedly overused for the county outside of city limits, with little in return.

"The cost is going to continually soar with the fire department," he said.

Proffer said he asked City Manager Andy Houston earlier Monday to find necessary cuts should the tax rate be set at 5 mills, a difference of about $291,000. Houston's suggestions included not filling three positions, including two open slots in the police department.



Ron Kitchen plan wasn't well received.

Kirk said she could not support further cuts.

"We are listening. We do care," she said. "We have to keep the best interests of the city at heart, and that's what I'm doing tonight."

Four Crystal River mayoral candidates are a broad bunch

Kitchen not fan of spending

MIKE WRIGHT
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Chronicle

Sometimes, Ron Kitchen says, he feels alone on the dais.

The Crystal River mayor said he pounds away at budget issues and is ignored by city council members.



Ron Kitchen

"I seem to be the lone voice against spending money we don't have," Kitchen recently told the *Chronicle* Editorial Board.

Kitchen, elected mayor in 2002, is up for re-election against three challengers. After Nov. 7, the mayor's role changes: Now, Kitchen conducts the meeting, but can't vote, other than to break ties. The new role has the mayor as one of five voting

Please see KITCHEN/Page 4A

Proffer claims calm nature

MIKE WRIGHT
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Chronicle

10-13-06

Roger Proffer has a direct answer when asked why he decided to give up his seat on the Crystal River City Council to run for mayor:

"The biggest reason was the mayor said he wasn't going to run," Proffer said.



Roger Proffer

Proffer, who was elected in 2002, said he recently turned 65 and decided now is the time to become the city's mayor or leave politics altogether.

"Either be the mayor or get out," he said. "The city's going in a solid direction."

The mayor's role changes after Nov. 7 from someone who just conducts meetings to one of five voting council members.

"I really don't find it all that attractive,"

Please see PROFFER/Page 4A

Garrison: Leaders lacking

MIKE WRIGHT
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Chronicle

As a member of the Crystal River Community Redevelopment Agency, Bruce Garrison wants to bridge the cultural gap of his community.

Garrison also wants something similar out of his government.



Bruce Garrison

Garrison is one of four candidates running for Crystal River mayor and the only one who hasn't already been elected to something. Ron Kitchen is the incumbent, Roger Proffer is on the council now and Mike Gudis is a former councilman.

What he sees is a lack of leadership.

"It's not a conducive environment," Garrison recently told the *Chronicle* Editorial Board. "There is a lot of divisiveness. You hear more

Please see GARRISON/Page 4A

Gudis touts different style

MIKE WRIGHT
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Chronicle

When Mike Gudis sits in the audience as Mayor Ron Kitchen directs Crystal River City Council meetings, he has one thought:

This isn't the way to do it.



Mike Gudis

Gudis, a former councilman who is one of four people running for mayor, said he believes Kitchen controls conversation rather than facilitates it.

"Ron Kitchen and I have an entirely different way of handling meetings," Gudis recently told the *Chronicle* Editorial Board. "You need someone there with less talking and more listening to people. I'm there to listen, not trying to jam something down their throats."

The mayor's role changes after the Nov. 7

Please see GUDIS/Page 4A

KITCHEN

Continued from **Page 1A**

- **WHAT:** Crystal River mayor.
- **WHO:** Mike Gudis, Bruce Garrison, incumbent Ronald Kitchen and Roger Proffer.
- **COVERS:** All of Crystal River.
- **TERM:** Four years.
- **PAY:** $5,428.

members of the city council.

Kitchen initially said he wouldn't seek re-election, and then changed his mind. He said he is sticking with his principles during the election, and if he loses, so be it.

"I am absolutely perfectly content with the outcome of this election no matter who it will be," he said. "I'm content with whatever the citizens decide."

Kitchen said he was unfairly criticized when bringing proposed budget cuts in the final days before the budget was approved. He said he sounded the same theme of overspending well before this year.

"Last year, I jumped up and down about spending reserves," he said.

Some of Kitchen's critics say he spends too much time at meetings expressing his own views and not enough time listening to others. Kitchen said that isn't true and that he encourages everyone to speak up.

For example, Kitchen said that he presented his budget proposals and then sat back while other council members offered their views.

"I could have hammered it all night," he said. "I could have said it in a way that was confrontational. I'm used to being in a business environment where everyone at the table wants the same results. Local government is the only environment where people just shout you down."

Kitchen admitted he has his faults, but he's not alone.

"It takes everyone on the team to want to be on the team," he said.

On other issues:

- Kitchen said the city does what it can about water-quality programs with its limited budget. "What we can do locally, we try to do," he said.
- Kitchen said he supports the city's role in community events, but that commitment involves money, the finances should be spelled out in the budget.

"It always comes back," he said, "to who pays the bills."

PROFFER

Continued from **Page 1A**

Proffer said.

Proffer said his style is to stay quiet and speak when necessary. After a vote, he said, the issue is settled and he moves on.

"I don't carry an agenda afterward," he said.

Proffer said the council has had its moments of instability but that he has the ability to build consensus.

"I think I have a calming nature," he said.

As for the incumbent Ron Kitchen, Proffer said: "He likes to keep little fights going along the side, and I don't understand that."

On the budget side, Proffer said Kitchen received a lot of attention when trying to cut nearly $1 million in spending to reduce the tax rate. Proffer said that what most people didn't realize was that he also suggested a tax rate cut that went nowhere.

"I tried to reduce the millage and got no votes," he said.

On other issues:

- Proffer said the size of the police department should be reduced to 15 officers. He supports renegotiating the interlocal agreement with the county for out-of-city fire response, but he doesn't support turning over fire services to the county.
- Proffer said he is a strong supporter of the city being involved in community events. "You'll never have to worry about the Christmas parade or fireworks," he said.

He also said the county's Tourist Development Council should help fund major city community events.

- The question of whether fast-release fertilizers should be banned to stop polluting Kings Bay belongs with state regulators, not the city, he said.

GARRISON

Continued from **Page 1A**

bad things about the city than good."

Garrison believes this environment is not good.

"There's not a lot of cohesiveness on the council," he said. "There's a lot of personality conflicts."

Garrison said he isn't running for mayor so that elected officials may mend fences. Rather, he wants to encourage more participation.

"My main thrust is rebuilding a community, where all citizens are involved in the process," he said.

The city's business community is left out of that process as well, he said.

"I do see," he said, "the current leadership as part of the problem."

Garrison said the council should work as a group to better the city.

"We need to build an image of a city that people want to be a part of," he said.

As mayor, Garrison said he would encourage open discussion.

"I would urge a more open environment and let everybody speak their minds on the issues," he said.

Garrison said the city should take the lead in developing programs to clean pollution from Kings Bay. For example, Garrison supports a city ban on the sale and use of fast-release fertilizers.

"It's a step and we've got to start taking that step," he said. "We need to take those small steps. It's not the whole issue, but it's one of the issues. If we take the lead, maybe others will follow."

On other issues:

- The city should look at asking the county to provide fire services as a possible cost savings.
- The council should be a leader in community events, such as the Christmas parade and Fourth of July fireworks.

"It should not be a hassle to run community events," he said. "There should be more community events in the city."

GUDIS

Continued from **Page 1A**

election. Now the mayor conducts meetings, but does not vote; the next mayor will be one of five voting council members.

Gudis entered the race early, when the rumor mill suggested Kitchen wouldn't seek re-election. Kitchen announced he wouldn't run, then changed his mind and is on the ballot.

"I had planned to run regardless," Gudis said. "I was in there from the beginning."

Gudis was critical of Kitchen's late plan to shave nearly $1 million off the budget to reduce the tax rate. The plan, which includes eliminating seven police department positions, found little support on the council.

"To try to axe seven police officers at the last minute smacks of politics," Gudis said. "I think he did that to get votes."

Still, Gudis acknowledged the budget needs scrutiny.

"There's a legitimate concern that taxes are too high and costs are too high," he said, adding the administrative staff should justify costs as they come up during the year.

On other issues:

- Gudis said the city should do more to protect water quality in Kings Bay. He said that, during his time on the council, he was instrumental in the city securing an $11 million grant designed to remove septic tanks in favor of sewer service.

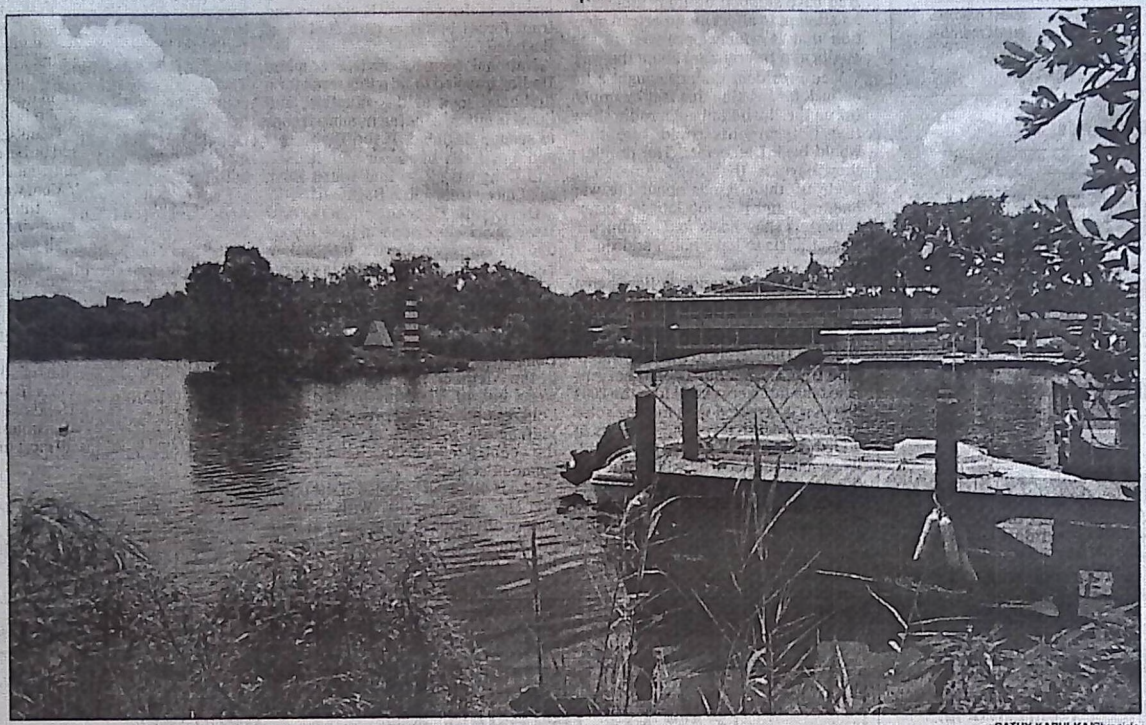
"We've been talking about this for decades," he said of water quality. "We should make it a top priority."

- Gudis said he wouldn't do away with the police department without a voter referendum first.

As for the fire department, Gudis said he wants to see if other benefits exist for turning fire service over to the county other than a cost savings.

The story on stories

11-5-06



CATHY KAPULKA/Chronicle

Development and density on the Homosassa River is much on the minds of groups like the Homosassa River Alliance. Proposed expansion of the Homosassa Riverside Resort, above, was recently at the center of a dispute about what actually constituted three floors of living space. Another issue of concern for the alliance is the potential conversion of commercial property to high density residential, by claiming timeshare projects with six-month-time limits are not residences.

Crystal River comp plan must be upheld to ensure integrity of land, waterways

RON MILLER
Special to the Chronicle

"To protect the waters you must first protect the land." —Ancient Chinese Proverb.

The proverbs have this one right. The destiny of our waters is inextricably linked to what we are doing to the land. Florida has a deplorable record for killing its lakes and streams. Will Citrus County do better? Hopefully. But how can we pull this off?

In "Out The Window" on Oct. 8, Gerry Mulligan presented a list of 11 significant items that our elected officials should do to reduce the environmental impact of growth on Citrus County.

Several of Gerry's ideas are already addressed one way or another in the county Comprehensive Plan (the comp plan). Great! Since every candidate in Citrus County has pledged to uphold the comp plan, we should be in good shape. Nope! When hard decisions must be made, the comp plan turns to rubber and gets stretched, twisted and distorted to meet the needs of developers.

The top item on Gerry's list was to limit buildings to three stories. Hey, the citizens did exactly that in the Old Homosassa Overlay Plan in an effort to maintain the character and charm of this cracker-style fishing village. Like Gerry, they also wanted to soften the impact of developments in this sensitive coastal region.

So look at what happened last July when everyone (the citizens, the county planners, the commissioners and the developers) knew about the overlay plan goal and what it meant.

The overlay plan states that "buildings shall be limited to two stories above the first living floor." This is very simple. When you walk into a building you are standing on the floor. If that is the first living floor, then the room you are standing in is part of the first living story and the second story is above you.

The words "floor" and "story" are technically precise in the vocabulary of professional planners and were very carefully selected for the comp plan. A sketch was included for clarification. Since Homosassa is in the coastal flood plain, the plan allows for stilt houses with a parking garage under the two living stories. A two story house over parking is effectively a three-story building.

So along comes a developer and lawyers for the Homosassa Riverside Resort who chose to read the rule as if a floor is a story. They argued that a garage, a floor and two stories really means a four-story building is OK. And they laughed at the sketch. It was astonishing to witness three of our county commissioners going along with this.

Then the commissioners explained that they liked tall buildings because you get more "green" space, and one actually chided the Homosassa River Alliance for not being environmentally conscious. How ridiculous is that? Why not go for eight or 10 stories to get even more green space. If this reasoning is accepted, any project too intense for a site would be justified by adding more stories.

So along comes a developer and lawyers for the Homosassa Riverside Resort who chose to read the rule as if a floor is a story ... It was astonishing to witness three of our county commissioners going along with this.

The second point Gerry made was that developers are subverting the intent of our residential density laws by claiming that timeshare projects with six-month time limits are not residences. How right Gerry is. If you buy the developer's argument, then you can convert commercial property to high density residential, which is clearly against the intent of our planning laws.

Here is how the comp plan addresses this residency issue. Again, the wording is very precise and clear. The comp plan specifically prohibits new or expanded "R-2" residential dwellings in the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA) west of U.S. 19.

"R-2" is a part of the Florida Building Code (a law) that classifies multiple occupancy buildings. A multiple dwelling structure with cooking facilities and occupancy of more than 30 days is defined to be in the "R-2" category.

Clearly, the comp plan does not allow condos with cooking facilities and six-month occupancy in the CHHA.

So here we have the comp plan that is very specific and precisely worded. We have commissioners who have all pledged to support it. But we are still failing miserably in implementing the goals of that comp plan. And with that goes any hope of protecting the waters or anything else in Citrus County. What is wrong?

The basic problem is that Citrus County treats the comp plan as an option. But the comp plan is not an option, it is the law. When mistakes are made as described above, either you accept the idea that developers can cherry pick the planning laws or you must legally challenge them.

To this end, the Homosassa River Alliance is legally challenging the decision to put four-story, residential buildings on the shores of the Homosassa River. If you agree that the integrity of the comp plan must be upheld, pitch in and give us a hand. Go to our Internet site, *www.HomosassaRiverAlliance.org*, for more information, or drop a note to the Homosassa River Alliance at PO Box 124, Homosassa, FL 34487.

As you watch the explosive developments along Florida's waterways, it is obvious that, ultimately, if we are going to protect our aquifer, springs, rivers and lakes, we must implement an effective comp plan. We must apply these laws equally to all. There is no other option.

If we fail to do this, the damage done by those whose main interest is turning a quick buck will be swift in coming and irreversible.

Oh by the way, I agree with more than two of Gerry's 11 ideas.

Ron Miller is a director of the Homosassa River Alliance and is currently serving on the Citrus County Chronicle editorial board as a citizen guest member.

Kitchen, Price victorious in Crystal River election

11-8-06

MIKE WRIGHT
mwright@chronicleonline.com
Chronicle

Ron Kitchen and Phil Price didn't run a team for the Crystal River City Council, but that's how they ended up. Kitchen was re-elected mayor and Price elected to the council's Seat 2 after both ran on platforms that called for stringent review of budgets and spending.

Kitchen had 389 votes. Mike Gudis finished second with 286 votes, though he, Joyce Garrison and Roger Proffer all were bunched up with just a few votes separating them.

Price, who served a term on the council in the mid 1990s, had 493 votes, easily distancing Lynn Wallace and Councilman Robert Holmes.



Ron Kitchen



Phil Price

Kitchen made it clear from the outset that his single campaign platform was fiscal responsibility. He tried unsuccessfully to reduce spending in the city's budget in a last-minute plan that opponents said was politically motivated.

"I'm kind of overwhelmed," Kitchen said after hearing of the results from a reporter. "I hadn't expected it."

Indeed, Kitchen made it clear in his campaign that if people didn't agree with him that spending was out of control, they should vote for someone else.

His opponents, meanwhile, were critical of Kitchen's handling of city council meetings, and said he was to blame for creating factions in the city.

Kitchen said the election results show otherwise.

"I wanted people to speak up about what was important to them," he said. "The budget will be one of the first things I bring up."

Gudis said Kitchen's key to victory was his name recognition in a four-man race.

"The three of us split the votes," Gudis said.

Proffer, who gave up his council seat to run for mayor, said he gave it his best shot.

"It's not a problem with me," he said of the results.

Price said his victory is a clear message that city residents want taxes reduced.

"They're tired of paying taxes — more and more and more," he said. "They're looking for change. This really gives me renewed hope for this city."

Wallace said she did well for someone who had never run for office.

"Most people must have liked what Phil had to say," she said.

Holmes said he didn't know what to expect coming into Election Day.

"You can't predict," he said, "what's going to happen in this city."

Section C - WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2009

SUMMER BREAK

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Bicentennial blast

Young or old, whether you're into sunbathing, skateboarding or sports, Crystal River's Bicentennial Park has something to offer







DAVE SIGLER/Chronicle

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP: John and Dawn Crawley share some quality time at Bicentennial Park's pool while their children play nearby. Bicentennial Park also has a skateboard park as well as other ball courts to serve other sports activities. • Amanda Purnell and two of her sons, Caleb and Seth, pack up from a morning of All-Star Little League Baseball activities at the county park. The Purnells have sons playing at all levels of the sport, so a smart mom makes sure to pack enough to satisfy her family's cravings. • Brittany, 9, left, and Courtney Plante, 7, right, climb around on the playground equipment during a recent trip to Bicentennial Park in Crystal River.

Location

Bicentennial Pool, 8145 W. Bicentennial Park Drive, Crystal River (A on the map); Bicentennial Park, 501 N. Baseball Point, Crystal River (B on the map.)

Park hours

Sunrise to sunset, daily.

For more information

Park, 527-7677; pool, 795-1478.

Fees

The park is free. For open swim, the daily pool costs are $1.06 for ages 5 to 11 and 60 and older, and $2.12 for those 12 to 59. Children age 4 and younger admitted free. Pool passes are also available. A 12-month family pass costs $60.80; an individual pass, $30.40; and a senior pass, $24.70. A six-month family pass costs $30.40; an individual pass, $15.20; and senior pass, $12.35. Children younger than 12 must be accompanied by an adult guardian.

Amenities

Four baseball fields, two multipurpose fields, a basketball court, three parking lots, a pavilion, picnic tables, a playground, three racquetball courts, restrooms, a skate park, a swimming pool, three softball fields, four tennis courts, two volleyball courts and a water fountain.

Activities

Baseball, basketball, picnicking, racquetball, skateboarding, swimming, softball, tennis and volleyball.

Park rules

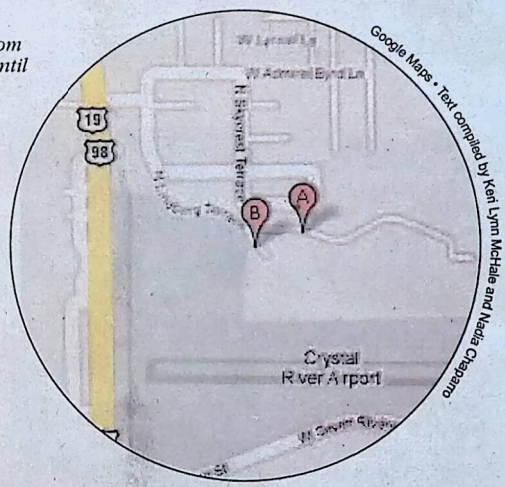
No alcohol, no pets, no camping overnight, no vandalism, no littering, no ground fires, no firearms, no inappropriate behavior and no unauthorized solicitation. For pool and skate park rules, log on to www.citruscountyfl.org and search under the Parks and Recreation section.

Special pool programs

- *Senior Fitness Swim for those 60 and older from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday until Aug. 17; seniors can participate with their pool passes or by paying a daily admission of $1.06.*
- *For those 18 and older, a water fitness class is available from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; the cost is $40 for 20 sessions or $2.50 per class. Pool passes do not grant access into the water fitness classes.*
- *Those interested can participate in lap swimming for $1.06 daily or with their pool passes.*
- *For a pool programs schedule, log on to www.citruscountyfl.org and search under the Parks and Recreation section.*

What makes this park special

"It's like a one-stop shop. It offers so many varieties of activities," said Bob Glancy, Citrus County Parks and Recreation Grounds Maintenance manager.



**Information provided by Bob Glancy, Citrus County Parks and Recreation Grounds Maintenance manager, and the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners' Web site, www.citruscountyfl.org, under the Parks and Recreation section.*

SUMMER BREAK
CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

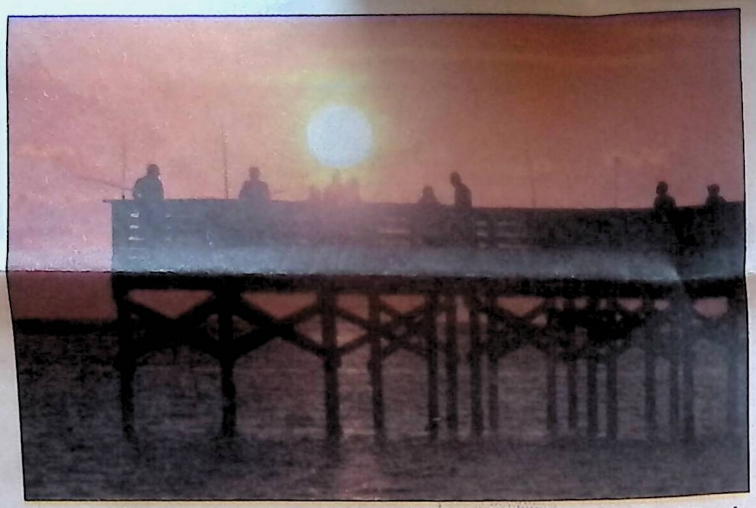
Daydreaming destinations

A pair of parks a few miles apart down West Fort Island Trail offer a welcome retreat from the daily grind for boaters and landlubbers alike. • Both Fort Island Gulf Beach and Fort Island Trail Park are places to enjoy laid-back pursuits. • Visitors can come to these inviting spots to sail away, sink a line, catch some rays, have a picnic or simply gaze over the water and daydream.



BRIAN LaPETER/Chronicle

Fort Island Gulf Beach features rock jetties around the swimming area.



A 200-foot pier, built in 2003, juts into the Gulf of Mexico at Fort Island Gulf Beach.



Lou Honigfort, of Ocala, likes to fish as often as possible at Fort Island Trail Park. He said he likes the peaceful surroundings. The park includes two fishing piers and a public boat ramp on the Crystal River.

Fort Island Gulf Beach

Location
16000 W. Fort Island Trail, Crystal River.

Hours
Dawn to dusk.

Amenities
Handicap-accessible pavilion, fishing pier, sheltered picnic tables, boardwalk, swimming area, barbecue grill, sandy beach on the Gulf of Mexico, boat ramp, lightning detector, three parking areas, restrooms, outdoor showers. There are no lifeguards on duty, but water quality is monitored.

What makes this park special
County parks and recreation manager Rafael Del Valle said this 15-acre park has the only saltwater beach in the county. It is also a very popular spot. • "You have a tremendous amount of activity out there," Del Valle said. "(On) the weekends, I know it's packed." • Swimmers should expect to share the beach with gulls and other sea birds. The park is part of the Great Florida Birding Trail (www.floridabirdingtrail.com). • Besides the regular activities popular at the park, it also hosts the occasional triathlon.

Rules
No fishing allowed from jetties or beach area. The following are not allowed in county parks: Pets, littering, firearms, vandalism, ground fires, overnight camping, inappropriate behavior, intoxicating substances, unauthorized solicitations, sales or advertising.

Activities
Swimming, sand castle construction, fishing, picnicking, launching boats, watching sunsets over the Gulf of Mexico.



Fort Island Trail Park

Location
12073 W. Fort Island Trail, Crystal River.

Hours
Dawn to dusk.

Amenities
Two boat ramps, fishing pier, handicapped-accessible facilities, boardwalk, pavilions (two large with two grills each; one small with one grill), pay phone, two buildings with restrooms, two parking areas.

What makes this park special
Del Valle said one of the large waterfront pavilions is new, completed earlier this month. The pavilions and boat ramps make the park a popular place for fishing tournaments. Also new to the 14-acre park is a boardwalk along a portion of the bank of the canal where the boats launch. • Del Valle said this park is also a great place to spot wildlife, from eagles, dolphins and manatee to wild pigs. "It's really beautiful out there," he said. • This park is also part of the Great Florida Birding Trail.



For more information about these parks, call 527-7677.

Information from the county's Web site at www.citruscountyfl.org was used in this report. Maps courtesy of Citrus County.

Information compiled by Cheri Harris.

25¢ VOLUME 118 No. 264 Florida's Best Community Newspaper Serving Florida's Best Community www.chronicleonline.com SEPTEMBER 21, 2006

Kitchen's cuts: Police No. 1

Crystal River mayor unveils suggested trims from city budget; Seven CRPD positions top list

MIKE WRIGHT
mwright@chronicleonline.com
Chronicle

Crystal River Mayor Ron Kitchen on Monday will provide a sweeping proposal to reduce about $1 million from the Crystal River city budget by cutting positions, pay and the full-time city attorney's office.

Kitchen's proposal includes laying off seven patrol officers from the police force.

Kitchen also recommends that 5 percent across-the-board pay raises be reduced to 3 percent and that the council members and the mayor also take pay cuts.

He followed through on an earlier promise to recommend that the full-time city attorney's position be eliminated in favor of keeping an out-of-house attorney on retainer.

Kitchen said he will meet Monday morning with City Manager Andy Houston to outline his suggestions prior to the budget public hearing that evening. Kitchen said all data for his proposals came from the proposed budget itself.

"These are not made up numbers," he said Wednesday. "This is as specific as I can get."

Kitchen said during a Sept. 11 budget public hearing that he would find $1 million in cuts to reduce the property tax rate from 5.6 mills to 4.5 mills. One mill equals $1 for every $1,000 of taxable value on property.

The 4.5-mill is considered the "rollback rate," or the tax rate necessary to bring in the same amount of revenue as

Please see CUTS/Page 5A

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET TRIM PROPOSAL

- Eliminate seven patrol positions from the police department.
- Freeze the pay of the police chief and assistant police chief.
- Eliminate the full-time attorney's position and replace it with an out-of-house attorney.
- Turn city fire-protection services over the county.
- Reduce the pay of council members and the mayor from $5,428 annually to $3,500
- Reduce across-the-board pay raises from 5 percent to 3 percent.

Mayor Ron Kitchen

PAGE 1A

CUTS

Continued from Page 1A

this year. The rollback rate is lower because the taxable value on property in the city has risen significantly.

Several council members accuse Kitchen of grandstanding for votes because he is running for re-election. Kitchen said he is only offering suggestions; it's up to the council to decide what to do.

Kitchen said he based his budget recommendations by following three-year trends in spending. According to Kitchen's proposal, for example, spending for law enforcement has increased 61 percent from 2004 through the proposed 2007 fiscal budget.

Several council members accuse Kitchen of grandstanding for votes because he is running for re-election.

"Our police department has grown and grown and grown and our city has not," he said. "It's not the chief's fault that the police department grew. It's to his credit. But it's the elected officials' job to say what we can afford."

He recommends that seven patrol positions be eliminated — about one-third of the department's workforce. Houston and Police Chief Steve Burch should decide the exact positions that would be cut, he said.

Kitchen also recommends that salaries be frozen for the chief and his assistant.

All told, Kitchen's proposal would shave $504,218 from the law enforcement budget.

He said he knows suggestions to cut the police department budget will raise the most eyebrows.

"My phone is constantly ringing with people saying get rid of the police department and do what they did in Inverness," he said. "I don't agree with that. But even with these seven reductions, the police department is still too large for our city."

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MAN IN CRYSTAL RIVER. FLORIDA

Constance A. Van Vlack
Research Paper EDG 6935
Dr. Leon Greabel. Instructor

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Historians, in general, agree that man walked across a land bridge from Siberia to Alaska approximately 20,000 years ago. This concept is the basis of development of the North American Continent. These wandering peoples spread over the continent until they arrived in Florida about 10,000B.C. The Pleistocene Ice Age was coming to an end and Florida was quite different than it is today. The climate was much colder, the land extended farther into the sea, and the rainfall was more profuse. The shape of the pennisula was larger and more irratic as the ocean level was about 100 meters lower.

Archaeological evidence supports the idea that men were living in Crystal River about 10,000 B.C. These aboriginal inhabitants were nomads who hunted and followed the large game. Historians named these inhabitants the Paleo-Indians. Remains and artifacts indicate that they hunted large animals that are extinct now. Game for the hunters included mastodon, extinct forms of turtle, sloth, bison, and perhaps deer. Some indications of prehistoric animals similar to horses, camel, and manatee may also have been hunted by these indians. The Paleo indians left little evidence at their campsites and didn't stay in any one place very long. Most large sites are in northern Florida and as far south as Paynes Prairie by present day Gainesville. Some local discoveries indicate that they hunted in Crystal River at different times.

During the later period of the Paleo-Indian the environment began changing. The climate was warmer and drier. Some of the large game began to become extinct. As the food supply became less the indians had to turn to other forms of food. Since they were

hunters by nature they simply changed to smaller forms of game. They also began to fish and turn to wild vegetation. These changes mark the beginning of the Early Archaic period.

The Archaic period began approximately 6,500 B.C. and lasted until 3,000 B.C. During this period the indians became more sedentary in their habits. They collected wild berries and nuts, as well as following seasonal game and plants. The Archaic period was a long cultural period. There are many Archaic sites in north and central Florida. These sites were usually found around natural bodies of water. Since there are seven rivers and several springs around Crystal River we may assume that these indians traveled through our area because of artifacts found here. Flint chips and broken tools usually are strong indications of indian habitats. Most of these sites were located on high ground that may have been eroded and currently would be nonexistent.

The environment was still changing. The forest regions were limited in the past. During this period more hardwood hammocks appeared. The savannahs were giving way to lakes and fresh water supplies. The indians preferred living near the fresh water and as they moved from place to place each successive camp needed a fresh water supply. This evidence supports the continuing life of indians in the Crystal River area. Documented artifacts show that during the Transitional Period the indian society became more complex from 1,000 B.C. to 500 B.C. They had been making pottery for a thousand years. During this period they developed some new methods and designs were added. Other changes in the culture appeared in government, religions, and more stationary settlements.

The Deptford Period began about 500B.C. and continued until about 100 B.C. During this time frame much advancement in the culture is documented. Milanich and Fairbanks stated in "Florida Archaeology"

> "At a relatively early time (the Deptford period) Crystal River seemed to have been a major center for trade, with the elaborate Hopewellian centers far to the North. It is also possible, that by no means proven, that Crystal River had some sort of sporadic contact across the Gulf of Mexico with the high culture centers of Mesoamerica."

It is suspected that the local indians had trade with the Hopewell Indians of Illinois in addition to the Appalachian Piedmont tribes and some tribes in the Ohio Valley. Artifacts made of copper, stone, and exotic pottery from the north have been located. The Crystal River tribes probably traded conch shells, seafood and local plants for the trade. During this period they developed throwing sticks for hunting and baskets and nets for fishing. Some of these ideas may have come through the trading ventures or been part of them.

Some evidence regarding the indian's change of food source to shellfish and fish, might be the warming temperatures and the rising level of the ocean. The interior of the state was changing also to cypress swamps and pine forests.

The connection of the local indians with Mesoamerica is supported by the development of maize horticulture. This was a reliable stable food source. This development also brought other complexities to the culture. Some one was needed to predict rainfall and planting times. Rituals were added to the society. Harvest times and fertility became important parts of the culture. Corn, beans and squash were added to a diet that previously had been only fish

and game or wild nuts and berries. Some of the local indians may have left Crystal River during this period to move farther inland to have more room to grow crops of corn.

At the end of the Deptford period another phase of culture was documented in northern Florida, the Yent Complex. Three major areas of this development were in Yent, Pierce and Crystal River. Ceremonialism was a large part of this era. At the Crystal River site a carved puma jawbone and fifty-three ceremonial shells were discovered. The shells were used in burial rituals where the bottoms were broken and the owners spirit was allowed to go free. Colored pottery ranged from buff to dirty brown and frequently was stamped with patterns. It was found with the shells in the burial sites.

The existing indian mounds in Crystal River are dated circa 200 B.C. This permanent settlement dates from 200 B.C. to 1400A.D. These indians were known as "Pre-Columbian Mound Builders." The State of Florida maintains a museum building and the surrounding grounds of this most important archaelogical site. The discovery of the site in 1903 by Clarence B. Moore, a wealthy Philiadelphian, occurred after 11 years of efforts in Florida. He located many sites around the state but the one in Crystal River indicated a cultural center for several surrounding counties.

The Crystal River Archaelogical site is important because it binds us with our past. It shows the development of man in our area from the prehistoric nomads including the Pre-Columbian indians to our present culture. The Pre-Columbian Mound Builders had some connection with the Mexican indians. A solar observatory and calendar with stelae of stones and shells was discovered. Trade was carried on with the tribes of the Eastern United States. The Mound Builders made a permanent settlement of culture.

The Crystal River Site includes burial, temple, and midden mounds. The northern temple mound is the largest, 235 feet in length. The southern temple mound is the highest in Florida, rising 30 feet. The midden mounds were dumps for refuse. The one closest to the southern temple mound is 400 feet long. The burial mound houses some 450 burial sites. Many more detected have not been disturbed. The site also has a cutaway burial place encased in glass for display.

Life for the Mound Builders was devoted to survival skills. Men provided the shelter, obtained the food, and carried out the ceremonial rituals. Women cooked, made pottery and clothing, prepared skins, and probably tended the crops and took care of the children.

The houses of the Mound Builders were usually constructed by placing posts in the ground in either rectangular or round shapes and weaving sticks or branches through the posts. The sides were finished in the waddle and daub method of filling up the cracks with mud. The roof was thatched with palm fromes. The floors were dirt.

The primary food sources for the Mound Builders were seafood and crops. Some hunting of small game continued. Fishing was done from dugout canoes. Nets made of plant fiber and animal sinew were used to drive fish and shellfish into a tidal pool. When the tide went out the men would go in and collect the fish. Bone hooks and spears were used to catch fish in the river or open waters. Spears and arrows were tipped with a sharp arrowhead. The arrows were thrown with an atlatl or throwing stick. Small animals such as rabbits, turtles, and birds were hunted with an

atlatl. Spears were used for fish and larger game such as deer and bear. Large groups of men would go out to hunt big game. Individuals would hunt bobcat, turkey, and squirrels. Excess meat was smoked for later use. Shellfish was caught in wooden traps of dug up with stones or bone tools. Wooden or bone rakes were used in the oyster beds.

Crops consisted of corn, beans, coontie, and squash. The men would clear a space to plant by cutting all of the growth and then burning the undergrowth. The women would plant by making holes in the ground with sticks. Stone hoes were used to cultivate. Evidence suggests that when the field did not produce it would be abandoned and a new field would be cleared.

Materials used for tools included bone, antler, shell and stone. Scrapers, arrow points, spear points, knives and drills were made by striking the substance with a hammerstone until it was chipped into the desired shape. Bones were used for needles, awls, hide scrappers, fish hooks, beads, hairpins, and hoes.

Pottery of the Mound Builders was made by rolling long pieces of clay in their hands and then forming the desired shape. The next piece of clay was rolled and placed on the first and pinched into place. Each additional roll was shaped in the same manner. Then the clay was smoothed with a wooden paddle until the desired effect was obtained. The pottery was then baked in a low temperature fire until finished. A mottled appearance indicated a completed project.

Clothing was made of scaped hides or woven plant fibers. The hides were cut by knives some of which had wooden handles. The clothing was sewed together with animal sinew or plant vines.

The Pre-Columbian Mound Builders way of life, religious rituals,

burial habits, and daily activity of a permanent settlement are important in that they denote the beginning of community life and a civilized society. The location of a permanent village for such a long period of time suggests the desirability of the area. Crystal River was a center for cultures as far away as Cedar Key and Safety Harbor. There is supporting evidence that important chiefs and tribal elders were brought to Crystal River for burial.

For some unknown reason Crystal River was abandoned totally circa 1400 A.D. Some speculation as to a disastrous hurricane or war or even possibly a priestly prediction of disaster may have decided the fate of the Mound Builders. For a period of two or three hundred years no man lived in Crystal River.

North Florida acquired a new group of indians from Georgia about 1,000 B.C. They migrated as far south as Paynes Prairie. This new group and their offspring were called the Alachua. It is possible that some remains of this group and other branches of tribes from other parts of the state banded together by the early 1500's and were known as the Timucuans. These were the peoples that the explorers met when they came to Florida. It is estimated that there were 25,000 indians in Florida when the Spanish established their first settlements. Bones have been dated for that period in the Cedar Key and Gainesville and Ocala areas. It is reasonable to assume some of those tall beautiful people may have hunted this Crystal River area but that is not documented.

The period of time between 1513 and 1821 Crystal River was under the same jurisdiction as the rest of Florida, but it was a wilderness without inhabitants.

In the year 1720 the Spanish invited the Creeks of Georgia to move into Florida hoping they would help to discourage the English from military action. Many runaway Black slaves joined them. One prominent village, Cuscowilla,in southern Alachua County was established in 1750. This was the beginning of the Seminole Nation. Seminole is a derivative of the Spanish word "cimarrone" which means "wild one" or "runaway." The Seminole Indians did not have a direct bearing on the history of Crystal River. Currently, archaeologists have located campsites on the Withalacoochee River, in Inverness, and in Floral City which indicates their presence within miles of Crystal River. Historians may assume their presence in the region would mean that they traveled through Crystal River. Seminole occupation of the general area was at the time of the Seminole Wars.

During the 1700-1800"s the coastline to the south from Bayport to the north at Cedar Key was marsh and grassland on low lying island terrain. For the most part no visible entrance to the rivers existed. The explorers, the armies and the indians seemed to have marched due north from Tampa to Dade City, to Inverness, to Ocala, and on to Gainesville and points north. Since Crystal River is closer to the Gulf it was probably by passed.

From the time that General Andrew Jackson took possession of Florida in 1821 until the time of the Second Seminole War in the mid 1830's there is no record of white men in Crystal River.

From an unpublished diary of Lt. Henry Prince daily entries detail skimishes and battles with the Seminoles during the Second Seminole War from Tampa north to the Gainesville area. There are only two entries regarding Crystal River. One states that a Capt. Allen and company K went by water from Tampa to the We-wa-ky i-kak or Crystal River to meet Lt. Prince who would travel from the

interior to meet him on January 28, 1837. The second reference was dated February 8, 9, & 10, 1837.

"Major Nelson with two companies of horse and two of 4th Inf. (Alvord & myself) is ordered to find the head of the We wa Kyiika & to proceed down it to meet Capt. Allen who with his company in Lt. Johnson's steamboat is ordered to ascend from the mouth. Both parties start early in the morning. (9th) Proceeded to the Chrystal river - and found it to be a large inland sea - were not able to determine the outlet. The wind was so high that the cloth pontoon was unmanageable. Encamped on a branch arising from a large spring. (10th) Early took 3 men with me & paddled round 12 miles at least in this archpelago without being able to ascertain positively its outlet. I climbed a tree 70 feet high and looked over the land westward 8 or 10 miles. We saw an abundance of redfish sharks & porposes - curlieu & a great variety of water fowl, not at all shy - indeed they were as tame as buzzards in a town. Examined everything that looked like an indian sign - found no fresh trace of them. Returned to camp at half past eleven A.M. having been absent more than three hours."

From the details written by Lt. Prince we can assume no settlers or indians had a permanent camp at Crystal River on the above dates.

The period of time from the duration of the Second Seminole War to the beginning of the Civil War there are few varifiable known facts about the town of Crystal River. The Armed Occupation Act of 1842 gave 160 acres of land to anyone who would clear 5 acres of land, build a structure and carry a gun. The theory was the sounds of building, clearing and shooting would discourage any remaining indians from staying within the territory. During this time David Levy Yulee established a successful sugar plantation in Homosassa seven miles to the south of Crystal River. According to Hampton Dunn's book, "BACK HOME" after the Armed Occupation Act went into effect approximately seventy names appeared on the 'Lists of Permits' for land grants for the present day area of Citrus County. He contended that many were for the Homosassa and Crystal River area. According to an 1847 survey (Tom Knotts) there were four houses and several tracts of land with the names of Patrick McFeely, Neil Ferguson and John Beggs. Dunn also cites William Turner as the first settler of Citrus County in 1820. Turner had a Spanish land grant for a place known as Cedar Grove which was supposed to have been at Red Level a few miles to the north of Crystal River.

In 1861 William H. Paul came to Crystal River and joined two other families, the John E. Allen and Easley Allen as residents of Crystal River. Records of these early times would indicate movement by the settlers, as well as the integration of places. It may have been that the Millers, Bertines, Priests, Turners, and the Turketts were neighbors even though their homesteads stretched from Red Level to Homosassa. Crystal River was a tiny village at this point in time. A stage would come from Ocala and cross a dry ford about three miles northwest of Crystal River and go on to Stage Stand about one and half miles from the present day Homosassa

Springs Attraction.

Historical note of interest is that during the Second Seminole War 1836-1842 just prior to the Armed Occupation Act of 1842 which openned up this area to homesteaders, a battalion of Georgia soldiers fought in this area with Major Cooper (Ft. Cooper, area Inverness). Genealogy records, tax rolls, and population survey for the surrounding counties as well as Citrus County indicate that many of the early settlers left Georgia went to Alabama and then came directly to the Crystal River area. Whether or not there is a direct relationship between those two facts needs further investigation and varification.

Another question seemingly left unanswered by time and historians is why settlers, both indian and white, more or less left the water-access area of the Crystal River and chose to move inland to Lecanto, Floral City, and Inverness to live after the disappearance of the great mound-builder indians. Historians agree that at some time in our past the coast line on the west side of Florida extended farther out into the Gulf of Mexico. In the section of old maps Florida's coastline shrinks considerably after the disappearance of the mound-builders. Evidence that the mound-builders of central Georgia also left their area after centuries of occupation about the same time as the Crystal River mound-builders. Whatever the phenonenon was that occurred in the area it definitely had a long lasting effect on the development of human population in the area. When the white settlers began moving into the area with the promise of 160 acres for clearing five, a vast of amount of land could have been claimed by just a few people. The City of Crystal River today claims only 3-4

miles of land area within the city limits.

Benton County was formed in 1843. The census was taken in 1850 and listed 360 white males, 244 white females, a total of 604 people. Some names to note on that census are Allen, Bradley, Edwards, Gomez, Harrell, Hayes, Johnson, Simmons, Sparkman, Turner, and Willet. After the census was completed the name of the county was changed to Hernando.

Marion County Census for 1855 is handwritten and quite detailed in contrast to the Benton County Censis of 1850, in that it lists males over and under 21, females over and under 18, children under 5, in school children, slaves - male, female and value of, free persons of color, total inhabitants, land - no. of acres, value, building value, household furnishings value, and animal values. Such records of detail would have been invaluable in establishing records of Crystal River. The 1867 Census of Hernando County lists inhabitants as white 1886 and colored 835 with a total of 2,721 listing only ages of those counted. The figures would be indicative of the growth in the area.

By the year 1860 old records establish that the Hodges, Turners, Bertines, Gomez, Willis, and Deas were families to the north of Crystal River. The Pauls, Allens, Fergusons and Christys were in the town. To the south were the Johns, Petersons, and the Barco families. The Edwards were listed in different places but they also seemed to have been in Crystal River. The census papers list some families as having as few as 1 child while some had as many as 19 or 20. At best the estimate of people connected with the village would be between 50 and 75.

Neil Ferguson had a blockhouse where salt was stored and people came

from miles around to obtain salt. During the Civil War the Federal troops took over this store house. Mrs. Hodges and some other ladies came from Cedar Key to get salt and virtually overwhelmed the troopers to get the precious commodity. Salt processed by flooding a container and letting the water evaporate. It was then cut and stored for later use.

There were no stores in Crystal River and all goods and supplies were either grown at home or the settlers went to Cedar Key to purchase either by boat or overland which was more difficult and took longer.

The Civil War did not affect Crystal River as much as other areas in the south. The single most interesting battle was the "Battle of Shell Island." The troop at Crystal River consisted mostly of young soldiers. There was a Federal ship anchored off Shell Island. Some of the youngest boys went out in a small boat and pretended to be in trouble, luring the Federal troops to come after them in small boats. When they had followed the local boys around the island out of the sight of the ship, they were captured. By the completion of the capture two or three had been killed and one wounded. The capture consisted of one unwounded man, one wounded soldier, one negro. The wounded man died, the negro was shot and the unwounded stayed in Crystal River until after the war was over and he went.home. (See Insert Page about Coast Guard)

Crystal River was a tiny, sleepy village and every event was a source of interest for colorful stories. Just as the "Battle of Shell Island" was a great war story, so were the stories of the great pirates that came to the local waters. A local resident John Gomez living here during the period ov 1850-1860 was supposed

to have been a cabin boy on the ship of Jean Lafitte. Oral history would have us believe that he jumped ship or was thrown off for displeasing the flamboyant La Fitte about 1826 and lived alone on Shell Island until the other settlers came. Some local historians say that the first white settler was a Spaniard living alone on the island. However, others cite Turner as being the first one here in 1820.

A local historian cites Homosassa with having mail service in 1830. A mail carrier would bring the mail up to Crystal River from there on horseback. One story tells of the carrier being murdered by indians and the mail sacks being cut up by the same indian. It would be difficult to determine who was here at that time to receive the mail.

However, postal service was established in Crystal River on April 20, 1857. The following is a list a postmasters and post mistresses.

John E. Allen	August 4, 1857
Jeremiah A. Allen	December 8, 1860-March 29, 1867
(closed for six years)	
Nickabud Barco	September 12, 1873
Samuel H. McBride	February 10, 1880
William F. Gaines	December 3, 1880
Harvey P. Hartman	October 28, 1885
Edward W. Leffler	June 17, 1891
Anne E. Allen	June 1, 1893
Jennie S. Huron	June 2, 1897
Charlie A. Miller	April 10, 1907
Grace Moon	1940
Gene Allen	December 31, 1966
Kelly Myers	Temporary 1973
Marvin Almond	1973
Russell Wills	1981-1985

Note: The first rural carrier in Crystal River was Gene Allen. He then became postmaster. During his administration city delivery was started for the first time.

COAST GUARDS - CAPTAIN JAMES L. MILLER'S COMPANY

Captain James L. Miller's Company of Coast Guards, at Crystal River, Florida. Mustered 27th May, 1861.



Captain
James L. Miller
1st Lieutenant
Obediah E. Edwards
2nd Lieutenant
Jacob A. Ganard

Jesse W. Allen	1st Sergeant
Charles N. Buford	2nd Sergeant
Jesse E. Clarady	3rd Sergeant
Henry D. Edwards	4th Sergeant
Early A. Allen	1st Corporal
John A. Allen	2nd Corporal
Antonio A. Everett	3rd Corporal
James W. Johns	4th Corporal

ENLISTED MEN

Allen, John E.
Allen, Jeremiah A.
Allen, Zachariah E.
Allen, William E.
Allen, James E.
Bertiere, William
Cryster, Henry
Decatur, A. J.
Edwards, Daniel
Everett, Joseph A.
Garland, M. W.
Garrison, Issac N.
Hodges, Joel
Hill, Robert M.
Hahn, Ashler B.
Johns, Henry M.
Johns, Jehu P.
Johns, Lewis J.
Kelly, Henry
Morton, Joel W.
Morton, William D.
Mason, Calvin H.
Peterson, Peter
Parsons, John
Peterson, Henry
Peterson, William
Patselago, Antonio
Paul, William H.
Peterson, Charles
Riley, James O.
Willis, Richard
Winn, Thomas S.



INCLOSURE 1 to FL EO Newsletter No. 5 (82)

*** Note: William Bertiere in the enlisted men's column above is probably a transcribing error and should be William Bertine.

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE ARSENAL, ST. AUGUSTINE
32084

SEOO 7 May 1982

Mr. George J. Allen
Director of Disaster Preparedness
Department of Safety
New Citrus County Courthouse
110 N. Apopka Avenue
Inverness, Florida 32650

Dear Mr. Allen:

Your keen interest and dedicated efforts in the establishment of the 711th Heavy Equipment Maintenance Company in Citrus County is a well known fact. I have not had the pleasure of meeting or working with you on this project; however, let me assure you that your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and the Florida National Guard equal opportunity office is appreciative.

I felt that you would be interested in the article that appears on page 2 of the inclosed May issue of our Equal Opportunity Newsletter. I found it very interesting to note that even in 1861 the "Allens" were very active in the Florida Militia, the Florida National Guard of the time.

My sincere best wishes to you, Crystal River, Citrus County, and the 711th Maintenance Company.

Sincerely,

EUGENE W. GRAVES
CW4, FLARNG
SEOO

1 Inclosure
As stated

BC: CoS wo/incl
SFC Anthony w/Incl

PHONE
904/824-8461

From an unpublished journal of Charles McBride, a long time Crystal River resident, comes the following quote "...he (John E. Allen) contracted to carry the U. S. mail from Homosassa, Fla. to (Long Pond) Fla. (now Bronson) levy Co. for the sum of $50.00 permonth round trip once a week. Distance round trip 80 miles Horse and buggy. Contract was let. April 30, 1855 for four years to 1859. John E. Allen resign contract was let or transferred to John Wester. Allen appointed postmaster of Crystal River. "

Records indicate that John E. Allen was indeed one of the very first settlers of Crystal River. When he came seems to be a question of which source you decide to believe. He may have come in 1850, 1855, 1857, or 1860. A historical note to ponder. If in truth there were only three or four families in Crystal River in 1860, (2 new arrivals) and a spaniard living all alone on Shell Island for 40 years, no indians, who was the mail carrier from Homosassa bringing all those bags of mail to when he was murdered on the way to Crystal River by an indian who was only four or five miles from where he was not supposed to be?

From an unpublished letter written to a member of the John's family in 1873 a quote reads "... Uncle Johnny Allen died 18 or 19th of September, 1868." From this we may suppose that the mail was not frequent and letters were of primary importance because dates were included of marriages and deaths as well as other dates of importance to the family business. In addition, we learn that the local settlers intermarried. The Johns, Christys, and the Allens became related through several marriages.

By the 1880"s Crystal River and the surrounding area was growing and the local residents were diversifying. Oranges, phosphate, lumber, farming, and fishing were the primary business interests

in the county. Politics were also becoming a predominant factor in the minds of the local populace.

Hundreds of acres in and around Crystal River were under cultivation for orange groves. It seemed that oranges would be a big business for the area. The boom of growth for that industry was short lived. The big freeze of 1894-1895 wiped out nearly all of the growers in the area. Continued freezes in the next five years discouraged the business from returning.

Crystal River and the surrounding country held a great supply of cedar trees. A mill was openned in 1884 by William Foerster. The cedar wood was used for many things including furniture and pencils. The pulp was processed for the oil. Barrels of oil were processed and sent to Europe.

During this time frame the phosphate mining began in Citrus County. It drew laborers from all over the county as well as the surrounding counties. Problems in Europe slowing the exports increased the desirability of local phosphate. Mining brought more transient type peoples to the area as well as more Black people. The boom in that industry brought new demands on the community as well as new sets of social problems.

Farming continued to increase as more and more land was cleared and planted. The increased population made the production of more crops profitable. The climate and soil were appropriate for high yield production.

Fishing was a natural industry because of the location so near the water. The local supply of shellfish and other fish made a good livlihood for those involved. Again there was a demand for sale. With some areas developing inland the seafood products

could be sent either iced or salted on boats or by rail to other markets.

The late 1800's saw much growth and development in the village and the county. Transportation by land was still over sandy roads and made travel difficult and slow. During the rainy season the problems of land travel were intensified. This is one of the main reasons cited for Albert Willard, a hotel operator from Homosassa, and Nick Barco, from Red Level, to make a trip to Tallahassee to petition the Legislature to divide Hernando County. They maintained that it was extremely difficult for some people to get to the county seat which was Brooksville. In 1887 the county of Hernando was divided into three parts creating Pasco County on the south end and Citrus County on the northern end of Hernando Co. Mannfield was designated to be the temporary county seat for a period of two years. At that time elections were to he held for a permanent county seat.

Seven elections were conducted to determine where the County Seat would be in 1889. Crystal River almost won the first ballot, but not a majority. Mannfield was in the center of the county. Inverness on the east side and Crytal River on the west side of the new county. Citrus County had been named for the booming new industry. (Before the collapse of the groves because of the hard freeze.) Needless to say much controversy occurred over the location of the county seat. While Inverness supposedly won the election fairly, an opposed group hired a Mr. C. M. Dupree to file a restraining motion in Brooksville. A colorful story about this event says that while he was gone some pro-Inverness picked up all of the records, the desk and the man sitting in it and put everything in a wagon and took the "county seat" to Inverness.

BUSINESS COMMUNITY
(1907)

Billiards and Pool - J. C. Freeman
Blacksmith -- L. T. Risher
Confectioners - Paul Boellert; J. C. Freeman, A. W. Robinson and B. V. Rolland
Crate Manufacturers - Oxford Crate Co. (M. A. Baum and J. Robinson)
Druggists - Crystal River Drug Co., and Dr. H. M. Taylor
Dry Goods - W. D. Edwards and Bros.
Fibre Manufacturers - B. M. Allion
Fish - Wholesale - Crystal River Fish & Oyster Co. and Hoy & Black
Fruits - J. C. Freeman
General Stores - Mrs. Mary W. Allan, Paul Boellert, J. W. Hart and Co., Knight Bros. Mercantile Co. C. A. Miller and Miller & Smith Co. , Sparkman & Co.
Grocers - Paul Boellert
Hotels - The Alabama Hotel, Dixon House, Elwin Hotel, and The Willis House.
Ice Dealers - Crystal Ice Co.
Livery, Sale & Feed - J. K Eubanks
Lumber Dealers - Crystal River Lumber Co.
Lumber Manufacturers - Camp Lumber Co., Crystal River Lumber Co., Dixon Crucible Co., and S. H. Kelsey & Co.
Machinists - George W. Smith
Meat Markets- Isaac T. Nixon
Music Teachers- Mrs. L. A. Bennett, and Rose Hammond
Naval Stores -- Knight Bros.
Weekly Newspaper - Crystal River News
Notarial Seals - N. Barco
Oysters - Wholesale - Hoy & Black, and Andrew W. Johnson
Pencil Wood Manufacturers - Dixon Crucible Co.
Physicians - Joseph D. Bennett. and H. M. Taylor
Printers - Book & Job - Crystal River Printing
Publishers - Stevens and Barco.
Real Estate Agents - N. Barco

*Note-- Although this list has been noted in other works as having 45 businesses in town, close examination will indicate that some of these businesses probably were conducted by the same people in the same building housing other ventures.

**Note-- In 1985 it was estimated that approximately 100,000 occupational licenses may have been issued for the whole county. Some of which would not require a business to have a building. Therefore the total number of businesses doing business in the Crystal River area would have to be estimated from day to day.

The people in Crystal River had been happy when the County had been incorporated and the first elections held in 1887 because some of the local people had been elected. Residents hoped to have the 'ear' of the powers in the government. The first elected Citrus County Officials were:

Commisioners:	P.J. Peacher
	O.P. Keller
	J.T. Landrum
	James S. Baker, Chairman
Sheriff	J. C. Priest
Tax Collector	Daniel Tompkins
Tax Assessor	W.M. Brooks
Clerk of Court	W. M. Zimmerman
Attorney	J.C. Phillips
Treasurer	Nick Barco
Surveyor	J.W. Allen
County Judge	J.W. Fleming

Crystal River and Citrus County experienced some boom in growth between 1880 and 1900. All of the same things that were affecting the whole country during the period affected the little town. In many ways life had never been so exciting and busy. There was a "Wild West" air about everything. The sleepy, slow little village was growing. Churches, schools and stores were becoming visible. Transportation was moving people. The few first family settlers were seeing more and more new faces. At one time the census reported no Black people in the county. In 1884 a Black church was founded in Crystal River. The Methodists and the Baptist shared a building. The Methodists had service on the first and third Sundays and the Baptists on the second and fourth. The problems over baptistisms, whether to sprinkle or submerge made the church goers split and the Baptists founded Mt. Olive Baptist Church for the Black population.

As the twentieth century began, Crystal River looked much like any other small American town. Businesses were clustered on one short street and were demand needs for the resident's uses. A general store, a post office, hotel and service related businesses.

During the early 1900's industry consisted of a cedar mill and a box and crate company. Fishing, farming, cattle, citrus, and phosphate mining were the other areas of the business community. Citrus was almost totally ruined by the hard freezes and bad winters from 1895-1900. A few growers still held on to their groves. For the most part the beautiful trees and growing business that the county had been named for were non-existent. The productive mines north of Inverness where some of the Crystal River residents were employed were shut down because of the war in Europe in 1914. These mines had exported their products almost exclusively to European Companies. As the cedar trees were depleted from the surrounding area the saw mill and the cedar mill were closed. Fishing remained stable as the Gulf of Mexico and the Crystal, Homosassa, and Withalacoochee Rivers remained productive. The acreage outside of town was used for small truck farming or family needs and for the cattle. Downtown Crystal River had a dirt street where cattle and other animals roamed freely. From the Barco Store Ledger we see that quinine was a local commodity as early as 1871. This indicates the presence of malaria. Old time residents stated that the summer weather was very hot and the bugs and malaria near the water made the people as well as the cattle sick. During the hot summer months people took their animals and retreated to the

Economic conditions are normally reflected in the consumer prices and available goods. Compare the items from a ledger sheet of the Barco Store in Crystal River in 1871 with the following chart on the next page for supplies available in 1937 and 1985.

Barco Store Ledger - 1871

Bacon	$.12½	per lb.
Coffee	.50	(quantity not listed)
Onions	.25	string
Shoes	2.25	pair
Jeans	.75	
Pills	.25	box
Quinine	.65	
Whiskey	.75	bottle
Rum	.75	bottle
Brandy	.75	bottle
Flour	8.50	barrel
Flour	1.00	12 lb.
Apples	.50	
Crackers	.15	½lb.
Fish lines	.25	for 2
Coat	6.50	
Collars	.25	box
Matches	.05	box
Peaches	.50	box
Boots	4.00	pair
Envelopes	.20	box
Soap	.50	6 bars
Salt	1.50	
Knife	.75	
Eggs	.20	box
Nails	.10	lb.
Screws	.20	dz.
Soda	.15	lb.
Potash	.30	box
Ormsburg Cloth	.20	yard
Axe	.75	

*size of box or quality of some items not indicated.

CONSUMER PRICES

ITEM	1937	1985
Sirloin Steak (lb.)	$.29	$2.98
Round Steak (lb.)	.26	2.69
Rib Roast (lb.)	.22	2.99
Bacon (lb.)	.22	1.49
Ham (lb.)	.31	1.29
Lamb (lb.)	.22	4.89
Pork Chops (lb.)	.20	1.89
Butter (lb.)	.28	1.59
Coffee (lb.)	.26	2.89
Sugar (lb.)	.05	1.49
Potatoes (lb.)	.02	.25
Onions (lb.)	.03	.40
Milk (qt.)	.10	1.60
Eggs (dz.)	.29	1.00
Bread	.05	.90
Cornflakes	.08	1.79
Women's Cloth Coad	6.98	79.00
Leather Shoes	1.79	90.00
Raincoat	2.69	40.00
Man's Overcoat	11.00	150.00
A Wool Suit	10.50	200.00
Necktie (Silk)	.50	15.00
Stetson	5.00	50.00
Shoes	4.00	50.00

*Note: Although the quantity and items available are similar, there is no designation about the quality.

inland area like LeCanto. If families had land away from Crystal River. this was practice was common as well as practical.

Throughout Florida business development and the weather have played important parts in the overall growth of the state. This has also been the situation in Crystal River. After the Civil War people began to see Florida as a warm climate for resting and relaxation. People have come from all over the country to fish or hunt in Crystal River. When the railroad came into Crystal River in the late 1800's it opened the door for tourism. People would come in their private railroad cars and back off on a siding and fish awhile and stay in their car until they were ready to leave. This led to establishing a hotel and boarding houses.

The invention and production of the automobile had an influence on the city and tourism in the area also just as it does today. By 1915 Florida boasted of 2200 miles of roads and over 400,000 register cars. Tom Knotts in his book, "See Yankeetown" described local roads as being first class if they had limerock in two ruts but a road"was considered a road if two passages each way had been successfully made over it." He also stated that you would seldom see anything except a Model T touring car in the area.

Entertainment during the early 1900's was self-made. Families seldom had occasion to go anywhere because of the care needed for the animals, crops, and homestead. They worked together for barn-raising, home building, and other necessary facets of rural life. In the evening or at gatherings of neighbors and friends they would sing and someone would play a fiddle or a banjo.

Life was simple in Crystal River. One longtime resident said that electricity came to Crystal River in 1917 and everyone was overjoyed to see that one little wire coming into town.

In 1920 a fire destroyed most of the town and any records that were in the buildings. The "Boom" of the 1920's saw much growth in Crystal River. Old buildings were rebuilt after the fire. Today if you look at the back of the really old buildings on Citrus Street you can still see scars of that fire. Land prices went "sky - high" as Judge E. C. May relates a story in his book, "Gators, Skeeters, and Malary," about a parcel of land that was offered to him for two dollars an acre. During the "Boom" period he was commissioned to buy it for a client offering thirty dollars an acre. The owner wanted three hundred an acre. The land was in Homosassa and is included to show relative costs in the area of Crystal River at the time. One source stated that at the height of the "Boom" in Homosassa lots near the big hotel were going for twenty-five thousand dollars each. No sources were located indicating that Crystal River had such great plans during the twenties.

The Crystal River Library had the minutes of the organizatonal meeting of the Seminole Club during the mid-twenties. They said that there was no place to go in Crystal River for enjoyment or entertainment so the club was started on donated land. The building was a community effort. People then went there on Saturday or Friday night for dinners prepared by the women of the club. After dinner there would be card games. Utensils were donated by the members.

Most of the city residents were living in an area around the

Seminole Club called "Michigan Town." The people worked at the local mill and were from Michigan. At that time the part of town where the present day County Road #44 leaves Crystal River was primarily a swamp. Some Black families lived on the outskirts of town toward and in the swamp. However, most of the Black community lived around the present day Crystal Lodge and near the river.

Fred Copeland, Henry Joyner, Claude Brooks, and some other hardy families stayed in Crystal River from the early 1900's and raised their children here even though times were hard. Descendents of the Black pioneers of Crystal River are still living in Crystal River.

Census figures indicate that between the early 1900's and 1940 the whole county was very stable as population stayed at 5,500. Those who stayed maintained their homes and families and few if any new people moved into the county. Farming and fishing were the main sources of livelihood.

Census Figures

1900-1940	5,500
1950	6,100
1955	6,200
1960	9,268
1965	11,800
1970	14,600
1975	35,252
1985	76,000*

*Note This figure was obtained from the Committee of 100 who are watching the population growth closely because some new businesses will not come into the county until certain figures show enough people to support their type of venture.

All of Florida had an increase of population during the 1970's because of the cold weather in the North and the shortage of oil for heating. Crystal River was one of the fastest growing

counties in the state. Highway #19 was four-laned in 1967 and the Crystal River Nuclear Plant was built by Florida Power about the same time. The Florida Power complex hires and moves people in and out of the area in very large numbers. The new highway encouraged more tourism and travelers passing through were exposed to the charm of the little town. Some wanted to retire and some came back for the fishing and scuba activities.

The Crystal River is seven miles long with an average depth of 12 feet. It boasts the third largest spring in Florida with 200,000 gallons of water per minute. It is a protected area for the manatee, as well as an attraction for underwater exploring.

There are 396,800 square acres in Citrus County. Crystal River has three square miles within the city limits. There are 3,026 people living within the city limits. However, approximately 36,000 people live within the Crystal River area and they do business within the town. Currently, there are 31,999 people in the Citrus County labor force with a 7.1 unemployment figure. The balance of the population is made up of retired people, non-workers (housewives, independently wealthy), and children.

The climate in Crystal River is moderate with average temperatures from 48° during January to 83°in July. A 15° variation may occur. Average rainfall is 45.9 inches per year. Average snowfall is .0 inches per year. Somewhat different than 1899 when Judge May arrived in Inverness with six inches of snow on the ground.

Citrus County has eleven banks, two hospitals, sixty-six doctors, 17 dentists, one hundred thirty-three restaurants, and nine shopping centers. About half of these are in the Crystal River area. A new multi-business complex is being constructed

on Route #44, called Meadowcrest. It will include everything from professional office space to a shopping center and also light manufacturing.

The airport was created in 1934. Since then it has been improved and now has an east-west paved runway which is 3000' long with a parallel taxiway. The north-south runway is 2400' of unlighted turf. Facilities include hangar space, tie-downs, servicing and repairs, training, rental and a lighted runway. Radio frequency 122.7 mgs is monitored during working hours.

Education has progressed from pioneers supporting a teacher by boarding in their homes and paying a stipend of twenty dollars per month in 1872, to a school on the Isle of Knowledge accessible only by boat, to a modern system where the county placed first in the region in the Statewide Assessment Tests. Citrus County produces scores at the same level as national averages. The county uses a traditional method of teaching with modern innovations. Crystal River has a primary, middle, and high school within its city limits. College courses are available in nearby LeCanto. Present enrollment for the entire county is 8,752 students. In addition to the schools for children and young people, there are also courses available through the adult education program. Vocational classes are available at the center in Inverness. Education in Citrus County is of a very high quality.

Crystal River is unique because the early pioneers that came to establish homes in the area after the Armed Occupation Act in 1842 created an atmosphere of life based on home and land. Sources indicate that many of them left Georgia to go to Alabama looking for a new beginning. When their hopes were not realized

there, they moved south to Crystal River. As time passed events and progress seemed to be to the south. east and north of them, but they held onto their rural, simple way of life. The railroad came through and they used it but basically held onto their values and did not change. In Hernando. a wild west atmosphere prevailed during the mining times, and the people of Crystal River might have worked or visited there but not much influence came back into the town. The growth of the twentieth century began and although citizens went to war, were touched by the depression, went to war again and again, not until the 1970's did a major influx in population touch the town and change the overall growth and availibility of goods and services. Crystal River has projected an image of small, rural American town for decades. The people who lived here liked it that way. Whatever they deemed necessary they built or invented. Things that happened or influenced the outside world were evaluated as to their necessity for the good of the town. For instance, Anthony Janus began the first commercial airline to the south in St. Petersburg in 1920, the same year as the fire in Cystal River. but an airport did not come to Crystal River until 1934. The hurricanes of 1921, 1926, 1928, 1935, and 1955 did widespread damage in Florida. That touched Crystal River, too, but they just cleaned up and continued to rebuild. The ice house in Crystal River was a novel new idea in the early 1900's but it was needed to keep the fish that were caught so they could be shipped to other places. Ku Klux Klan outfits were found in the attic of an old house in town supporting the fact that they too were here. Old time residents said that they "...took care of things that needed tending." When law and order

came to town, the KKK disappeared. This was true in St. Petersburg as well. Judge May related a story in his book about a murder that had taken place in Crystal River after a bar room disagreement. The killers were acquitted in court. A few months later the father and brother of the murdered man shot the killer and no one saw it or turned their head to see. No one tried to interfere. The father and son were brought to trial but "...the grand jury refused to indict either of them." Such things also happened during the thirties in other parts of the country. In 1939 Florida created the Florida Hyway Patrol and justice and laws became more unified and controlled throughout the state.

In the mid-sixties the outside world became a more dominant factor in the development of man in Crystal River. Integration of the schools was accomplished in 1964 with little or no noticable problem. In 1965 the first Black person, Claude Brooks, was elected to the City Council where he served for sixteen years. The first firetruck was purchased by the City Council in 1966. Soon after police cars were added to the city. While Mr. Brooks was in office a new City Hall was constructed. Progress had descended on Crystal River.

Today in 1985, Cystal River is a progressive town with modern conveniences and facilities. The population continues to grow as people move in and build homes. They look for lots suitable to their needs. The real estate business flourishes. This in itself is a change because the first people who moved here were looking for acres. The city has grown and will probably continue to grow and more forward in our fast paced world. As a visitor first looking at the narrow streets off

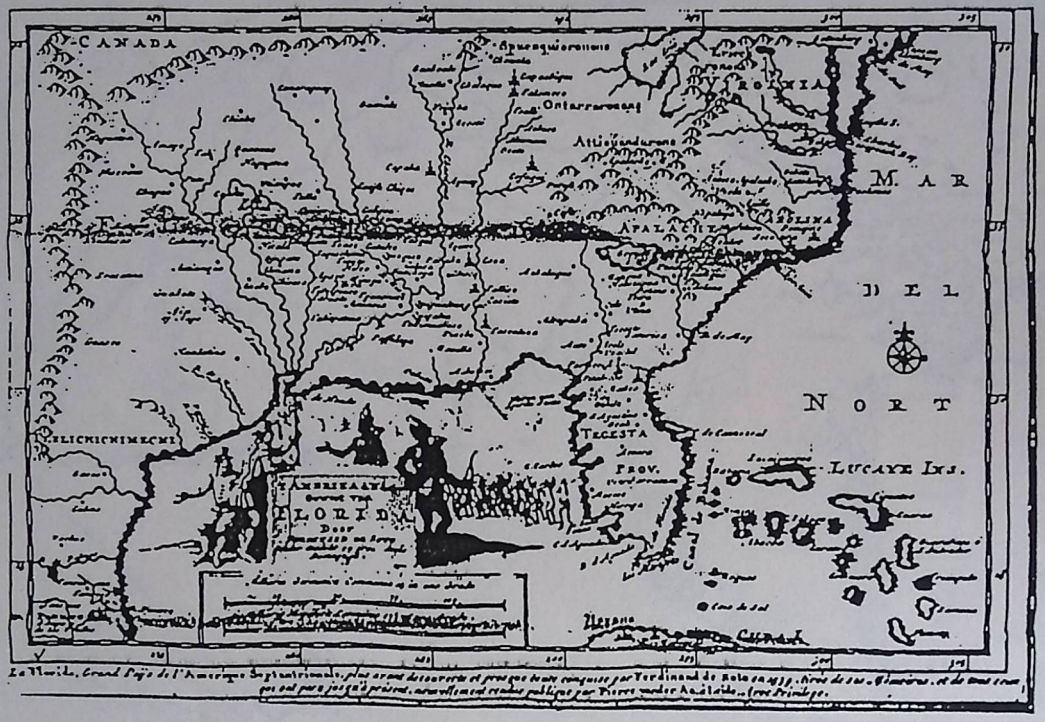
busy Highway #19 with the tall shade trees and an abundance of flowers and foliage, he would almost think that he had moved back in time. The small town atmosphere still prevails and the quiet way of life indicates warmth and solid values. The old families were religious folks and an abundance of churches are here.

Spending time in Crystal River is like "going home" or "feeling the spirit of America." The people have created an environment of security and simple basic values that man has been searching for since the beginning of our country.

APPENDIX - Historical Maps

Section includes old historical maps from various sources to indicate survey of land patterns and exploration of the Crystal River area.

FLORIDA—THE GREAT COUNTRY OF NORTH AMERICA 1539

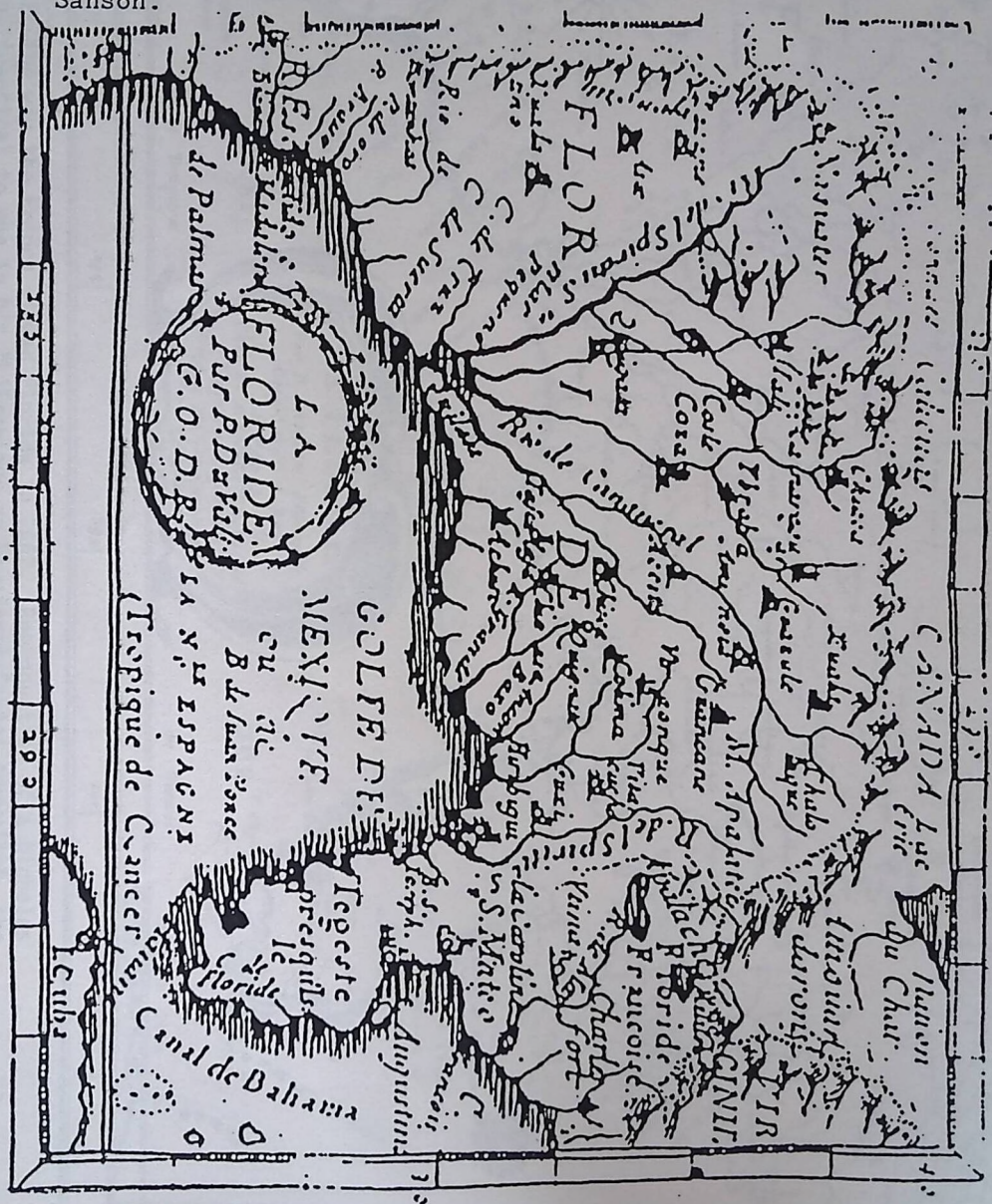


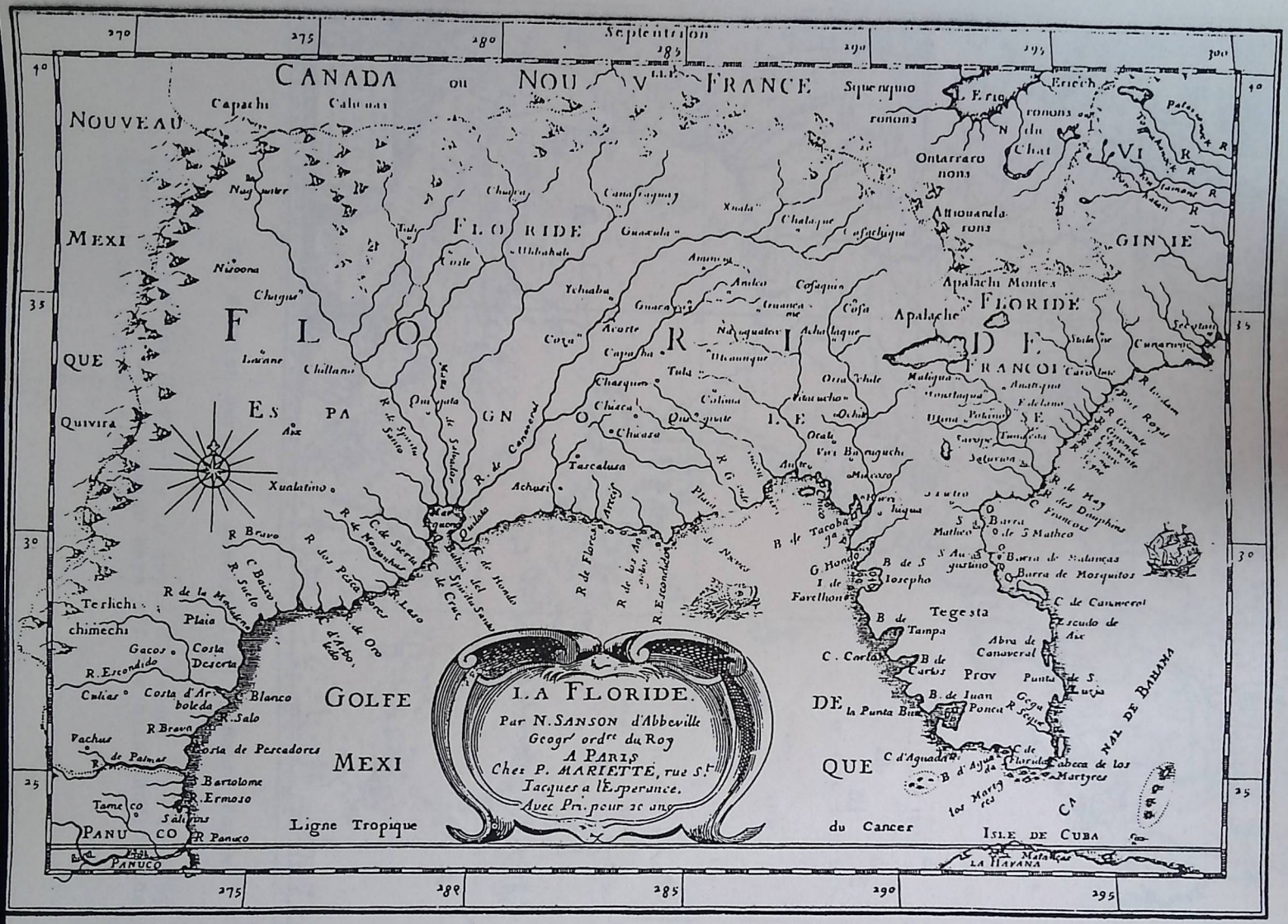
Dutch copy based on a Spanish Map. The French footnote at the bottom, in free on, reads "Florida the Great Country of North America with all discovered, and conquered by Ferdinand de Soto in 1539, taken from his memoirs; all that is t present, newly rendered and published by Peter van de Aa at Leyden, with per- However, as the name Carolina appears on it, the map was drawn after 1629 the year Charles I of England granted this territory and specified that it was to d after him. As Georgia does not appear it was drawn prior to 1727 as that derived its name from George II of England, whose reign started in that year.

The map shows that Spanish Florida covered all of the present United States and that the English grants of Carolina and Virginia were invasions of Spanish territory. Traces of the original Spanish map remain in place names: "Guanahani or S. Salvador" named by Columbus, "Bahama" island and "Canal de Bahama" discovered by Ponce de León, "Los Martyrs" and "C. de Carlos" named by him, 1513. "Tegesta Prov." for peninsula Florida, which dates from Menéndez, 1566, "Chicora" named by Vásquez de Allyon, 1521, "Ochile" and "Ocali," etc., named by DeSoto 1539-41. The French name "R. de May" appears at the mouth of the St. Johns River, named by Ribaut, 1562.

Joannes de Laet map from the period of 1625-1630.

The "Canal de Bahama" marked on the 1660 map of Florida by Pierre Du Val, son-in-law of the French cartographer Nicholas Sanson.




CANADA ou NOUVELLE FRANCE
NOUVEAU
MEXI
FLORIDE
FLORIDA
GOLFE DE MEXIQUE
Septentrion
Ligne Tropique
du Cancer
Apalachi Montes
Apalache
FLORIDE FRANÇOISE
GUINIE
Ontarraronons
Attouandaronons
Erie ou du Chat
Lac Erie
Lac Ontario
Lac Huron
Lac Alemipigon
Lac Superieur
Lac Illinois
Lac Dauphin
Lac Mitchigan
Lac Tracy
Lac Frontenac
Lac St. Louis
Lac St. Sacrement
Lac Champlain
Lac Orleans
Lac Ste. Claire
Lac Conty
Lac Ste. Therese
Lac Ste. Pierre
Lac Ste. Marie
Lac Ste. Anne
Lac Ste. Claire



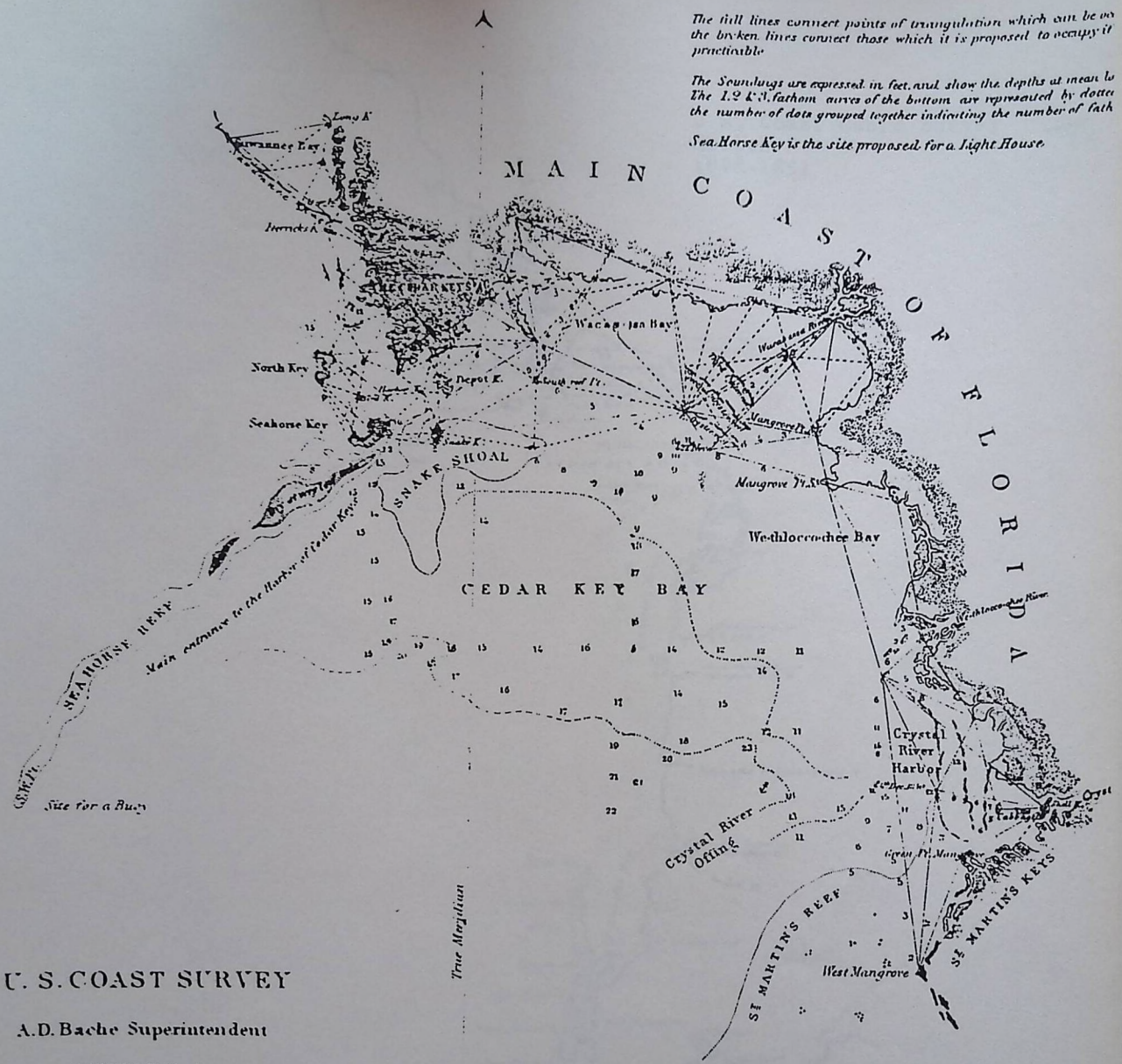
The British empire in America 1733 by Henry Poppe.

Note: The shape of Florida is quite different than in 1985. There appear to be islands or keys off the main land of the present day Crystal River.

The full lines connect points of triangulation which can be oc
the broken lines connect those which it is proposed to occupy if
practicable

The Soundings are expressed in feet, and show the depths at mean lo
The 1.2 & 3. fathom curves of the bottom are represented by dotte
the number of dots grouped together indicating the number of fath

Sea Horse Key is the site proposed for a Light House.



U. S. COAST SURVEY

A. D. Bache Superintendent

SKETCH F. No. 4

onnoissance of Vicinity of CEDAR KEYS

COAST OF FLORIDA

by

F. H. Gerdes Assist. U. S. Coast Survey

1851

(1851)

Stations.	Lat.	Long. W. from Greenwh. Obs.	Determined by
Depot K. Cupola	29°06'53	82°57'10"	F. H. Gerdes. U.S.C. Survey.
Off. Quart.		82°56'12	Capt. Graham U.S. Top. Eng.
Seahorse K. W. Pt.		82°58'25	F. H. Gerdes U.S.C. Survey.
Anch. 22 Nov. 1851	29°05'15"	82°48'56.5	"
4 Dec.		82°42'27	"

NOTES.

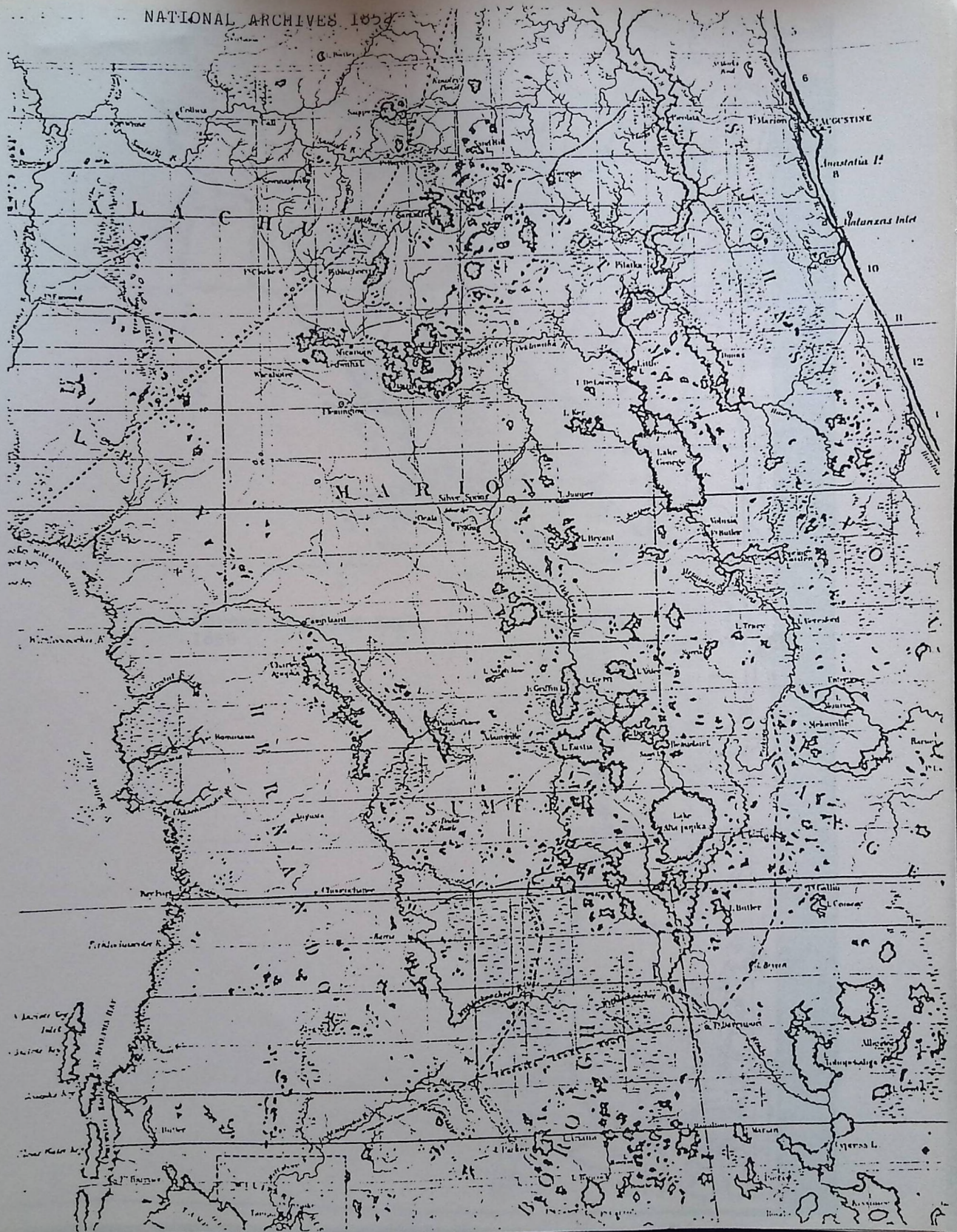
The extensive flat called SNAKE SHOAL is
ed from description and information receive
Capt. S. Johnson Branch Pilot. ST. MARTIN'S
is very shoal and full of dangerous Rocks man
are bare. It extends from 6 to 10 miles Westwa
the shore, and about 30 miles Southward tow
Anclote keys.

Statute Miles

U.S. Coast Guard Survey
Sketch F
1848-1851



NATIONAL ARCHIVES 1024


ALACHUA
MARION
PUTNAM
ST AUGUSTINE
Matanzas Inlet
Orange
Lake George
Silver Springs
Ocala
Micanopy
Newnansville
Lake Kanapaha
Lake Santa Fe
Lake Sampala
Lake Orange
Lake Dorr
Lake Eustis
Lake Griffin
Lake Harris
Lake Apopka
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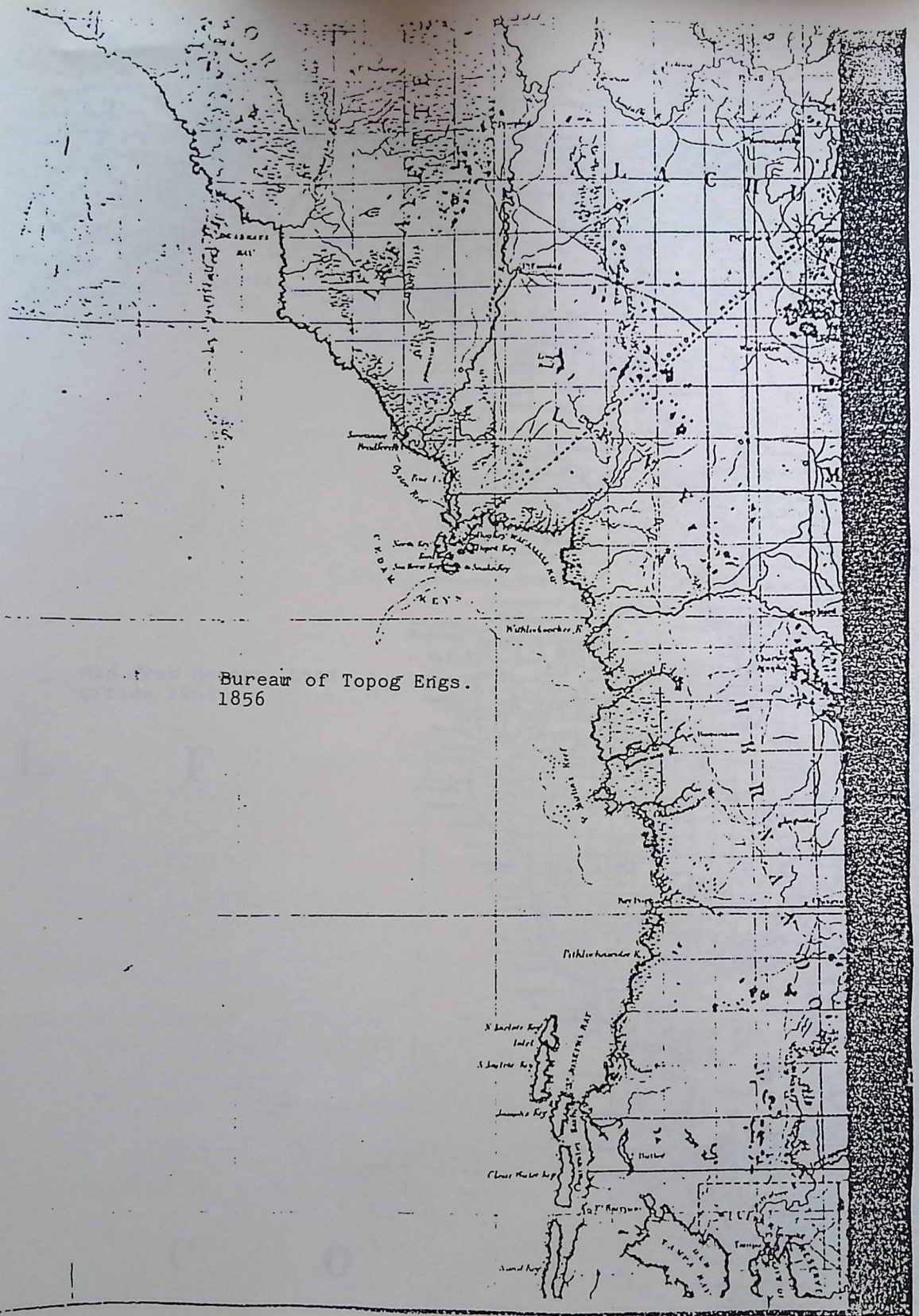
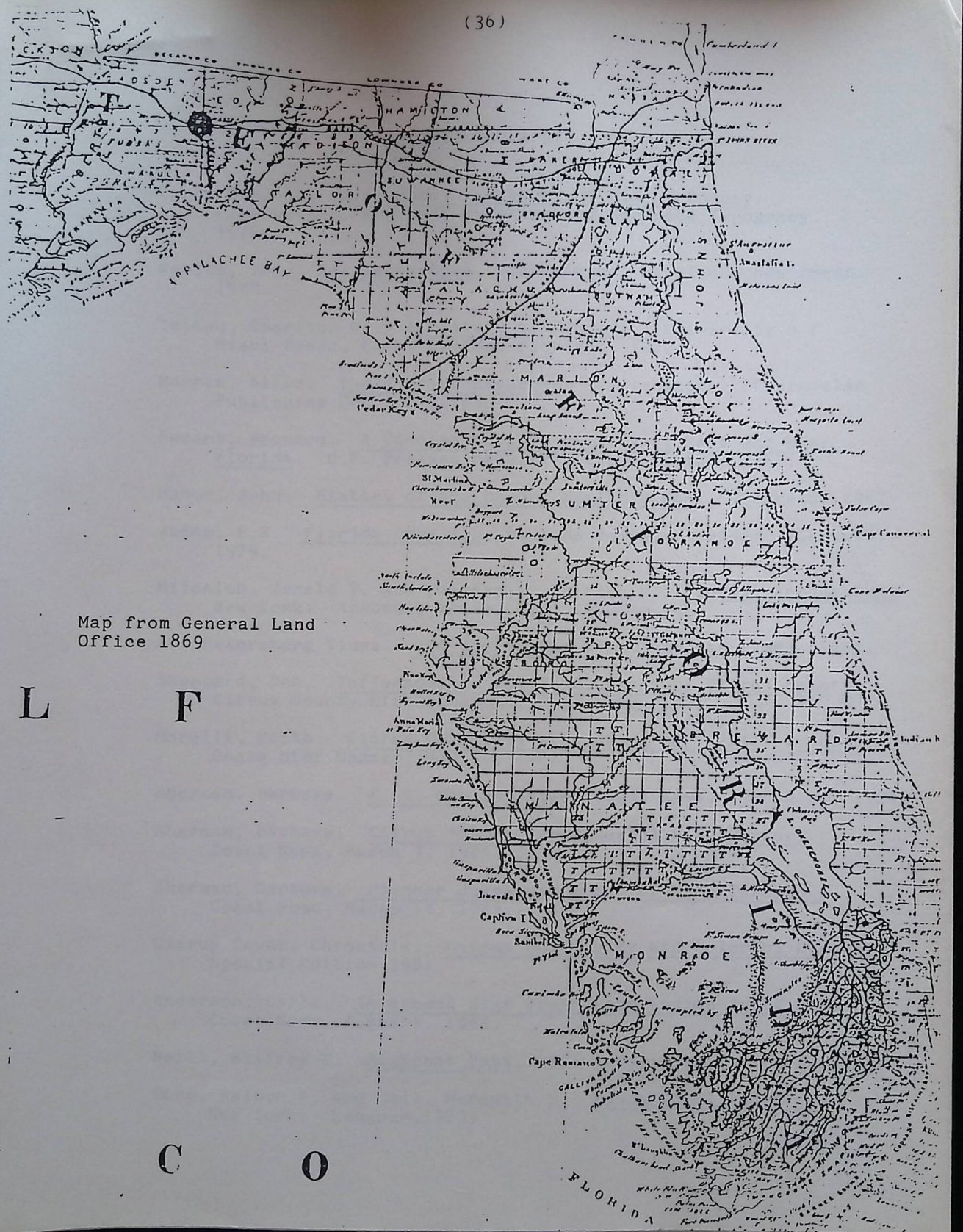
Lake Winnemissett
Lake Monroe
Lake Monroe
Lake Monroe



Bureau of Topog Engs.
1856



Map from General Land Office 1869

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ORAL HISTORY

Very special thanks to all of those wonderful people who contributed to this work by sharing old family records, letters, and personal pictures. Their recollections and memories were invaluable. The following people contributed to this history:

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Phernette Kennedy
Vada Yeoman
Ruth Snyder
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Fred Copeland
Willie Joyner
Samuel Joyner
Ernestine Bertine
Rev. John Watkins
Mr. Johns

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED CITY OF CRYSTAL RIVER 201 WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITIES, CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA

Performed by the

Florida Department of State
Division of Archives, History, and Records Management

Marsha A. Chance
Survey Archaeologist

Mildred L. Fryman
Historian

September 1978

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1. INTRODUCTION

In July, 1978, the Florida Department of State, Division of Archives, History, and Records Management performed an archeological and historical survey of the proposed City of Crystal River 201 Wastewater Management Facilities. These facilities included 15 pumping stations, 74,300 linear feet of transmission and force mains, and a 5 acre tract adjacent to the present sewage treatment plant. The purposes of the survey were to locate all archeological and historical sites within the 201 project area, assess their significance in terms of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and determine what impact, if any, the proposed facilities would have on them.

The survey was conducted by Marsha A. Chance, Survey Archeologist, and Mildred Fryman, Historian, for the Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties of the Division of Archives, History and Records Management. Equipment and a field vehicle were provided by the Bureau, while maps of the proposed facilities were furnished by Glace and Radcliff, Inc., of Winter Park, Florida.

No archeological or historical sites were discovered within the 201 Project areas. Therefore, it is the opinion of the authors that the proposed Crystal River 201 Facilities will have no effect on any sites listed, or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The assistance and co-operation of Mr. John Morrison, City Manager, and Mr. Joe Goldback of Glace and Radcliff, Inc. during the field portion of the survey are gratefully acknowledged. Also, the staff of the Division of Archives, History and Records Management assisted in reviewing this report, and in typing the manuscript.

2. DESCRIPTION OF SURVEYED AREA

Crystal River is located in Citrus County, on the Gulf Coast of Florida.

The Crystal River locale may be described as a predominantly spring-fed riverine environment. There are numerous bays, streams, and manmade canals which drain the surrounding low wetlands. These wetlands are interspersed with higher, sandy, pine flats and hardwood hammocks. The area also includes extensive marshes at the interface of the Crystal River system and the Gulf of Mexico.

For the purpose of further discussion, the survey area has been divided into categories according to the degree of disturbance which has occurred. The categories include major, intermediate, and minor ditching and grading, as well as undisturbed.

3. PROCEDURE

Current knowledge of aboriginal settlement and land usage patterns indicate that archeological site location is largely predictable. The variables upon which such predictions are based are primarily environmental. Within the surveyed area all locations which were dry and of higher elevation or which supported hardwood forestation were given particular attention. In addition, all surface disturbances

resulting from bulldozer activity, animal trails and burrows, fire lanes, or land clearing were examined for evidence of cultural remains. Only minimal subsurface testing was performed. Those areas of heavy inundation or vegetation were necessarily less intensively surveyed.

4. ENVIRONMENT

The environment of an area, including geological and biological factors, is of paramount significance in the reconstruction of past human behavior or culture. Non-industrial cultures are extremely dependent upon their physical and biological environment, and the examination of environmental factors is thus a necessary part of archeological research.

The City of Crystal River lies in the western portion of the Coastal Lowlands physiographic zone, the Gulf Coastal Lowlands, and is flanked by the Coastal Swamp and an unusual region of drowned karst (Puri and Vernon 1964). The land is generally low and poorly drained. According to the Florida General Soils Atlas, the surface soils in the surveyed areas are of two principle types. To the east lies the Broward-Boca Association of "...nearly level somewhat poorly drained sandy soils underlain by limestone and poorly drained soils with loamy subsoil underlain by limestone." To the west is the Fresh Water Swamp Association of "...nearly

level very poorly drained soils subject to flooding (Division of State Planning 1975:11)." Both of these soils have a long hydroperiod, and are not conducive to human inhabitation. They are now frequently covered by fill to support construction.

The vegetative communities encountered during the survey included pine-palmetto flatwoods, hydric hardwood communities, tidal marsh lands, and combinations of these. Those portions of the new facility which will not be within the right-of-way of an existing road or railroad, however, are all in areas of dense hydric hardwoods and subject to frequent flooding. At the time of the survey, heavy summer rains had inundated these tracts to a considerable extent. Because of the degree of inundation to which they are subject, it is felt that these areas were probably not occupied by or extensively used by the aboriginal populations.

5. REGIONAL PREHISTORY

In Florida, the prehistoric period ended with the arrival of the Spanish in the early 1500's. Prior to that time, however, non-literate aborigines had inhabited the state for at least 10,000 years. During this time span, numerous cultures evolved a variety of social organizations and adaptions to their environment.

In 1949, John M. Goggin defined ten major cultural traditions for prehistoric Florida. Goggin defined a cultural tradition as:

> ...a distinctive way of life, reflected in various aspects of the culture, perhaps extending through some period of time and exhibiting normal cultural changes, but nevertheless, throughout this period showing a basic consistent unity. In the whole history of a tradition certain persistent themes dominate the life of the people. They give distinctiveness to the configuration. (Goggin 1949:17)

Goggin also defined cultural areas for the state. The present survey area lies within Goggin's Central Gulf Coast area, which extends from the Aucilla River to Tampa Bay.

In the Central Gulf Coast Area, Goggin recognized two prehistoric cultural traditions: the Archaic and the Gulf. The Archaic Tradition is now considered to begin approximately 10,000 years ago and last until ca. 1000 B.C. The Archaic record in Citrus County is sparse.

The Gulf Tradition, on the other hand, is well represented in the vicinity. Five culture periods have been defined within the Gulf Tradition of the Central Gulf Coast. These periods are: Deptford; Swift Creek; Weeden Island I, Weeden Island II; and Safety Harbor.

The Deptford period (1000 B.C. - 0 B.C.) was marked by the introduction of sand-tempered ceramics into the area and the first appearance of burial mounds. It is also possible that limited use of domesticated plants occurred

during the Deptford period.

The Swift Creek period (A. D. 0 - A. D. 500), is defined largely on the basis of changes in ceramic styles. During this period, complicated stamped ceramics became common. The Swift Creek period witness an elaboration of mortuary practices and participation in the wide spread Hopewellian exchange network. The first occupation at the Crystal River site (8 Ci 1) probably occurred during this period.

The Swift Creek period was followed by the Weeden Island period (A. D. 500 - A. D. 1200). This period has been divided into two subperiods on the basis of a major shift in ceramic styles. Elaborate mortuary practices continued through the Weeden Island period but there appears to have been a decrease in the amount of exotic material utilized in these practices. Undoubtedly corn agriculture was utilized on a limited basis to supplement a diet based on wild plant and animal resources.

The latest prehistoric period in the Central Gulf Coast area is known as the Safety Harbor period (A. D. 1200 - A. D. 1600). At this time, there is evidence of influence from cultures which were part of the Mississippian cultural pattern. Pyramidal temple mounds appear during this period, although burial mounds also continued in use. The Tocobaga indians encountered by DeSoto in the Tampa Bay area possessed a Safety Harbor culture. In most areas of the southeastern

United States, the late prehistoric period was marked by a dependence upon intensive maize agriculture, but this does not appear to have been true in the Central Gulf Coast area.

The semi-agricultural Gulf populations probably utilized the small hammocks which dot the poorly drained region for cultivation. Intensive agriculture however, would have been impossible in the coastal and riverine ecosystems which prevail in the Crystal River area (Goggin 1949).

The best known archeological site in Citrus County is the Crystal River Mound complex, now a state park. Early excavations were conducted there in 1906 and 1918 by C. B. Moore, and the region was discussed by Willey in 1949 (Moore 1907, 1918; Willey 1949). In 1953 the site was again investigated by Ripley Bullen, who suggested that the site was occupied during three time periods including Swift Creek, Weeden Island I, and Weeden Island II. Other sites in the vicinity also seem to have been occupied during these periods. It would seem that the Crystal River complex and surrounding areas were probably occupied from about the time of Christ until approximately 1600 A. D. (Bullen 1953:34). Artifact comparisons have shown an apparent relationship between the Crystal River site and the Hopewell and Adena cultures of the Ohio River Valley. A few sites in the vicinity seem to date from earlier periods, but they have not been thoroughly examined. Bullen has hypothesized (1961) that habitation on Wash Island (between Crystal River and the Gulf) dates from

about 750 B. C.

After about A. D. 1200, the Safety Harbor culture seems to have evolved from its predecessors. The Weeden Island ceramic tradition was carried on in a more haphazard fashion, and more influence from the Glades Area to the south occurred. Many of the non-ceramic artifacts from the Weeden Island period continued to be used as well.

6. HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS STUDY

Documentary research yielded sufficient information to permit evaluation of the historical significance of the project tract. The sources indicated no aboriginal sites other than those inventoried in the Florida Master Site Files. However, several sites and features related to the last decade of Florida's territorial period (1821-45) and the first years of statehood (1845+) came to the researcher's attention. In Township 18 South, Range 17 East, Section 18, SE¼ of SE¼, a settlement (house and agricultural field) existed in 1846. In Section 17 of the same township, another settlement also existed at that date. Also, two structures, apparently a store and a house, stood in the south half of Section 21. These homesteads were the result of a campaign to settle central Florida in the wake of the Second Seminole War (1835-42). The exact location of these structures could not be established through documentation. These sites should be

regarded as historically significant. It is unlikely that above ground evidence of their existence has survived. If their precise locations were known, and if examination of subsurface remains seemed likely to provide useful information, then these sites probably would be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places within the "Site" category guidelines. Such new data seems unlikely to materialize, but awareness of these sites should inform developmental activities within the project area.

In 1836 a road leading to Fort Clinch on the Withlacoochee River from Tampa and Homosassa ran north and south through the project area (in Sections 16, 21, 22, 27 and 34). Another trail branched from that road towards the southwest and terminated near Hunters Spring in Sections 16 and 21. A third path formed a junction with the north-south road in Section 22 and led off to the east through Section 23. Surveyors labelled this as the "road to Camp Izard" or the road to Withlacoochee Ferry (or) Bridge." These roads doubtless came into being during the Second Seminole War and conveyed military traffic. They do not constitute sites of sufficient significance to be considered eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Documentary research indicates that no sites of historical significance relating to later periods of Crystal River's development seem subject to impact during project

implementation due to the nature of projected activities. Nevertheless, the planned wastewater management facilities will crisscross and occupy land in a community with roots stretching to the earliest years of the region's habitation.

Historical Background

Recorded European maritime activities along Florida's coasts commenced early in the sixteenth century as Spanish explorers cruised Atlantic and Gulf waters. Overland expeditions soon followed as various persons probed Florida's interior. Documentary evidence suggests no European sites within the project tract related to such activities during the Spanish (1513 - 1763, 1783 - 1821) and British (1763 - 1783) colonial periods of Florida history.

Settlement in the American territory of Florida (1821 - 1845) focused on the northern third of the peninsula. The spread of white homesteads and plantations forced Florida's nineteenth century Indian inhabitants, the Seminoles, onto reservations in the central section of the territory. Conflict resulted as the Seminoles' resentment increased and as whites manuvered for the complete ouster of the Indians from the peninsula. Late in 1835, the so-called Second Seminole War broke out over these and related issues. For a full discussion of the Second Seminole War, see John K. Mahon, History of the Second Seminole War, 1835-1842 (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1967). One secondary source (Dunn 1976:15) suggests that an associated incident occurred

at Crystal River. According to that account, Osceola, a strong spokesman for the faction wanting war with whites, assassinated Charley Emathla, an advocate of emigration to the west at Crystal River. Primary documentations fails to pinpoint this episode's geographic location (Sprague 1848 (1964):88). During the war, military expeditions evidently traversed the area around the head of Crystal River, for roads labelled "to Camp Izard" and "to Ft. Clinch" appeared on a survey map compiled in 1846 but not on that drawn a decade earlier (Florida DNR, Land Title Section, Survey Plat T 18 S, R 17 E, 1838, 1846). Documentary study indicates that no military encounter of significance occurred in or near the project area. Traffic through the area helped acquaint prospective settlers with its advantages. The springs at the head of Crystal River, features which doubtless attracted the earlier Indian inhabitants to the area, certainly must have come to the attention of military travellers.

In the wake of the Second Seminole War, central Florida lands became available for settlement. Influential persons who feared further Indian hostilities obtained passage of legislation which made homesteads available to persons over twenty-one who were capable of bearing arms and who agreed to construct a house and to cultivate at least five acres of it. Settlers quickly took advantage of the Armed Occupation Act of 1842. At least twenty-five persons received permits to settle the Crystal River area before the end of

1843 (see appended chart for a partial list of these persons). Two of the earliest permits involved land in the project area. Patrick McFeely, a recent Florida arrival, built a home and cleared land in T 18 S, R 17 E, S½ of SE¼ of Section 17 and N½ of NE¼ of Section 20. In 1846, a creek in the latter section, later called Miller's Creek, was known as McFeely's Creek. Just to the west of the McFeely's settlement lay the lands acquired in 1843 by John Beggs, who had lived in Florida since 1839 (same township, SE¼ of Section 17 and SE¼ of SE¼ of Section 18). Those two persons still lived in the area in 1846 but do not appear on the 1850 census of the area. (Sources for the above: U. S. 28th Cong. 1st Sess. House Doc. No. 70, 1844; U. S. 30th Congr. 1st Sess. Sen. Ex. Doc. No. 39, 1848; Florida DNR, Land Title Section, Tract Book Vol. 14:288-94; Florida DNR, Land Title Section, Field Notes Vol. 131:336, 369; U. S. Bureau of the Census, 7th Census, 1850, Population Schedule, Florida, Benton County; Florida DNR, Land Title Section, Armed Occupation Permit File Nos. 140, 141.)

The other persons among the Crystal River settlers who chose land in the project area arrived in 1843 and remained at least until 1846. One of these men, Neil Ferguson, operated a store near Hunters Spring, a main headwater spring for the river (Florida DNR, Land Title Section, Field Notes Vol. 131:337, 371; Florida DNR, Land Title Section, Tract

Book Vol. 14: 288-94). A road led from that site to the main road from Tampa in 1846 (Florida DNR, Land Title Section, Survey Plat of T 18 S, R 17 E). Ferguson apparently came from Leon County, Florida where he resided as late as July, 1842 (Territorial Papers of the U. S. Vol. XXVI:497). State land records fail to indicate whether or not Samuel Richmond, a Florida resident since 1836, built a home on his grant in T 18 S, R 17 E, NW¼ of Section 33 (Florida DNR, Land Title Section, Field Notes Vol.131, and Tract Book Vol. 14). A secondary source indicates that he probably did so (Stanaback 1976:14). Richmond's permit file (Florida DNR, Land Title Section, Armed Occupation File No. 498) indicates that he had near neighbors in 1843 but their names are unreadable. A man named James Imrie acquired land around Williams' Spring (T 18 S, R 17 E, lots 2, 3, and 8 of Section 20 and SW¼ of NW¼ of Section 21). (See Florida DNR, Land Title Section, Tract Book Vol. 14: 288-94).

In 1846 and 1851, Major John D. Parsons, a Second Seminole War veteran who settled at the mouth of the Weeki-wachee River (Bayport) in 1842, made major land purchases in the area (Florida DNR, Tract Book Vol. 14:288-94; see also U. S. 30th Congr. 1st Sess. Sen. Ex. Doc. No. 39, 1848). Three Alachua county pioneers, all members of the Dell family, also acquired land in the project area during the 1840s (Florida DNR, Land Title Section, Tract Book Vol. 14:288-94).

The next wave of settlement activity evidently occurred in the late 1850s. Records for Hernando County, created in 1843 and known as Benton County from 1844 to 1850, burned in a courthouse fire in 1877. Citrus County came into being in 1887. In the intervening years, central Florida proved to be an excellent area for cattle ranching and also attracted persons desiring to cultivate sugar cane. In the absence of roads and railroads, the rivers of the area served as transportation and communication routes. The pace of settlement increased as reflected by the establishment of a post office at Crystal River in 1857 (Bradbury 1962). This indicates that the neighborhood contained enough settlers to warrant a central, accessible postal drop. Perhaps Ferguson's store served as that station. A secondary source (Dunn 1976:58) declares that in 1861, only two houses, those of John E. Allen and Easly (variously Easley and Early) stood in Crystal River; James Miller lived about a mile down the river, according to this source. This source also states that the first building erected after 1861 was Ferson's "storehouse" and that a fish house also stood in the area (Dunn 1976:58).

Easly Allen acquired title from the state of Florida to forty acres of land in T 18 S, R 17 E, SW¼ of NE¼ of Section 21 along the road to Tampa. John Allen obtained in 1862 public land across the river in the SE¼ of Section 20. Another Allen - William E. - in 1863 acquired state lands in

the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 18. James Miller, in the early 1860s, received title to Lot 4 in the northwest quarter of Section 20. (See Florida DNR, Land Title Section, Tract Book Vol. 14: 288-94. Other persons purchased from the state available land primarily adjacent to those tracts acquired by private individuals in earlier decades. (These persons may have purchased portions of the latter tracts from private owners; in the absence of deed records prior to 1878, this essay focuses on the initial acquisition of public land by private owners.)

In 1873, postal service to the region began again (Bradbury 1962), a sign of renewed interest in central Florida. In the 1870s, nine persons, at least one of whom (James Miller) already lived in the vicinity, acquired land in the project area from the state (Florida DNR, Land Title Section, Tract Book Vol. 14:288-94). It is possible that at least some of them timbered their holdings, for activity in this industry increased during that decade. One of those persons, Austin Mann, at a later time served as a officer of a railroad which came into the Crystal River area in 1888 (Florida DNR, Land Title Section, Tract Book Vol. 14:288-94; Pettengill 1952:86).

In 1881, a traveller recorded that a small settlement lay at the head of the Crystal River with James Miller as its principal storekeeper (Dunn 1976:77). This "small but flourishing hamlet" (Robinson 1882:132) shipped moderate

amounts of cotton, sugar, syrup, fruits and vegetables and some cedar timber to the outside world; the cedar went to nearby Cedar Key for use in pencil manufacturing (U. S. 47th Congr., 1st Sess. Sen. Ex. Coc. No. 131, 1882:5-6). Obstructions in the river and at its mouth limited such traffic to vessels with very shallow draft (Ibid.). In 1884, the town received a corporate charter (List of Municipal Corporations 1939). By 1885, one hundred families lived in this community, supported basically by engaging in the cattle, citrus, and lumber industries (Webb's . . . Florida 1885). Completion of the Silver Springs, Ocala and Gulf Railroad then under construction through Crystal River to Homosassa occurred three years later, ending the town's dependence on river transportation (Homasassa . . . 1885:11; Pettengill 1952:86). The United States Corps of Engineers continued to examine the obstructed river and harbor but improvements seemed less urgent after the arrival of the railroad in 1885 (U. S. 51st Congr. 1st Sess. House Doc. No. 1, Pt. 2, 1889: 1356ff.). Some cotton and syrup continued to be shipped out of the area, but cedar and citrus were major economic resources (Ibid.). Turpentine, resin, fish, and oysters joined the list of commercial items shipped out of the village by 1900 (U. S. 55th Congr. 2d Sess. House Doc. No. 2, 1897:1582; U. S. 56th Congr. 1st Sess. House Doc. No. 396, 1900:2083). The community numbered about eight hundred persons in 1900; a factory making cedar slats, Dixon Crucible Company, operated

by 1896 (see above reports). Sites associated with the activities of the 1870-1900 period in Crystal River appear not to be impacted by the proposed project.

Documentary investigations focused on nineteenth century growth and development of Crystal River. Economic and land use patterns established in that period continued to exist in the twentieth century. The project which generated this study indicates that the community continues to enlarge, requiring further alterations of the natural environment by man.

ARMED OCCUPATION ACT PERMITS ON THE CRYSTAL RIVER

Permit #*	Date	Issued To	Delivered To	Remarks
443	1843	James R. Tuten	same	single man
444	1844	Hampton Tuten	same	single man
498	1843	Samuel Richmond	Issac Garrison	single man
505	1843	Wm. H. Stull	William Cooley	single man
662	1843	Thomas H. Nitherton	same	single man
663	1843	Simon Baker	same	single man
664	1843	George Myers	Neil Ferguson	single man
665	1843	James D. Canagan	same	single man
666**	1843	Neil Ferguson	same	single man
761	1843	John Kates	James Imrie	single man
762	1843	Charles Matthews	James Imrie	single man
763	1843	John O. Conner	James Imrie	head of family
764	1843	William Galbreath	James Imrie	single man
765	1843	Leander Moore	James Imrie	single man
766	1843	George Bell	James Imrie	single man
767	1843	Joseph Brunell	James Imrie	single man
768	1843	Alexander Frazier	James Imrie	single man
778	1843	B. R. Lignowski	same	head of family
779	1843	Henry B. Fitts	same	single man
792	1843	William Usener	same	single man
805	1843	John Davis	same	single man

Source: U. S. 28th Congress. 1st Session. Vol. III. House Document No. 70. "Actual Settlements in Florida under the Armed Occupation Law." January 23, 1844.

*In all the above permits, the location of the settlement was given as "Crystal River" or "Near Crystal River". The land in question was surveyed in 1838 but a resurvey was deemed necessary in 1846.

**Portions of permit #666 were sold to John Parsons in 1846. See U. S. 30th Congress. 1st Session. Senate Executive Document No. 39. "Report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office." Portion entitled "An abstract of permits granted under the acts for the armed occupation of Florida." April 28, 1848.

NOTE: All the above permits were issued through the Newansville office of the General Land Office.

Not listed were permits 140 (1842) and 141 (1843) issued to Patrick McFeely and John A. Beggs, respectively. See Armed Occupation Permit Files, Land Title Section, Bureau of State Lands, Florida Department of Natural Resources, located in Elliot Building, Tallahassee.

7. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The portion of the Gulf Coastal Lowlands near the city of Crystal River has long been recognized as an area used extensively by aboriginal populations. The known sites are located adjacent to waterways which provide easy transportation as well as abundant food sources to the aboriginal populations. This basic settlement pattern probably extended back through Archaic times.

The areas surveyed for the proposed 201 Facilities do not contain any previously recorded archeological sites. The surveyed areas are also not near any of the numerous waterways of the area, and most of the surveyed areas are within the rights-of-way of paved roads. These roads can be described in the following way:

1. Those with major ditching and grading disturbance -- U. S. Highway 19 is the major thoroughfare through Crystal River. Both sides of the highway are occupied by commercial businesses and parking lots. The construction of the road has resulted in considerable disturbance, and no archeological material was evident. The railroad right-of-way is also an area of major disturbance, since it has been constructed on fill dirt.

2. Those with intermediate ditching and grading disturbance -- This category includes State Road 44 east and State Road 44 south. State Road 44 south is inland, and is

bordered by businesses and homes. State Road 44 east partially winds through a salt marsh, and is constructed on a foundation of fill dirt. No cultural materials were recovered near roads of the intermediate category.

3. Those with minor ditching and grading disturbance -- Tallahassee Road, U. S. 98, from the Holiday Inn sewage treatment plant to State Road 495 has not been subjected to noticeable filling and grading, nor have N. E. 10th Street, N. E. 5th Avenue, or Crystal Street. These rights-of-way and their immediate surroundings were surveyed intensely. However, no archeological material was recovered.

4. Those with no disturbance -- These areas include the acreage to be annexed west of the existing treatment plant, as well as the block between Citrus Avenue and the railroad track. The latter block was very low, supported hydric vegetation, and was inundated at the time of the survey. The five acre treatment plant site was also quite wet with one hammock on the south side which did not yield archeological material.

It has been stated that the aboriginal occupants of the Crystal River area are known to have chosen locations adjacent to the riverine system for habitation. It has also been shown, through other archeological evidence, that aboriginal populations normally utilized high, well-drained sites as opposed to lower, wetter locations. The surveyed area incorporated only one region of relatively higher elevation,

upon which no sites were found.

It may be concluded then, that the proposed 201 Facility construction will not endanger the cultural resources of Citrus County. First, no material was recovered by surface collection or subsurface testing. Second, any sites which may have existed in the areas of fill or road construction have been destroyed. And third, those areas which are not in road or railroad rights-of-way are too wet to support occupation or significant utilization. Therefore, it is the opinion of the authors that the Crystal River 201 Facilities Plan may be implemented without jeopardizing any archeological or historical sites eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or otherwise of value to the city of Crystal River or of Citrus County.

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NOTE: Hernando County land records were destroyed in a fire in 1877.

CRYSTAL RIVER

RIVER OF HOPE, ADVENTURE AND LIFE

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MARCH 22, 1972

CRYSTAL RIVER, RIVER OF HOPE, ADVENTURE AND LIFE

Weeka-hiica, a Seminole-Creek word meaning clear and shining water was first shown on a Taylor war map in 1839.[1] A survey made by A. H. Jones in August of 1846 translated this to Crystal River. This river originates from Crystal Springs, which has a flow of 26,000 gallons per minute. There are seven other springs in the vicinity which abound in both salt and fresh water fish.[2] The Springs remain at 74° year round, and according to local legend Indians paid annual visits to the Springs for their medicinal benifits.

One source of curiosity has been the shy and gentle manatee who periodically visit the river. Vestigal toenails indicate clearly that this is a terrestial animal that has adapted to marine life.[3]

Crystal River is the home of the oldest inhabited community in North America. The active life of the Crystal River site appears to have been from 200BC to 1200AD. Where the Indians came from is buried in the dawn of history. A stela, with a human head incised on it indicates direct connections with

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[1]THE FLORIDA HANDBOOK 1963-64, Compiled by Allen Morris, The Peninsular Publishing Company, Tallahassee, Florida.

[2]FLORIDA, A guide to the Southernmost State, written and compiled by the Federal Writers project of the Work Projects Administration for the State of Florida, Oxford University Press, N.Y. 1939.

[3]Daniel S. Hartman, FLORIDA'S MANATEES, National Geographic., Vol.136, #3, September 1969.

Southeastern Mexico. Why they moved here is unknown, but one thing is sure, like all men, they searched for a new home with hope, and through hardships and adventure they found a good life on the Crystal River. The last inhabitants were a robust people, Brachcephalic, extremely high headed and of medium stature. The extremely bony ruggedness of the Indians is attributed to their marine diet, which was undoubtedly extra rich in phosphates. The abundance of food gave these peoples time for ceremonial life. Some of their most decorative artifacts were buried with their dead, indicating that not only were there considerable energies directed toward funery and religious rites, but there must have been some degree of craft specialization. Where did these peoples disappear to? this is unknown. There is no sign of inhabitation past 1200AD, they became one of the lost three tribes of Florida. Expeditions were made by F. L. Dancy in 1859 who gave the first written description of the mounds.[4] Clarence B. Moore excavated the large burial mound in 1903,[5] 1906,[6] and 1917.[7] Gordon R. Willey,

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[4]BRINTON, 1859, pp.179

[5]CERTAIN ABORIGINAL MOUNDS of the Florida Central West Coast, Vol.12, pt.2., Clarence B. Moore, Journal of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

[6]CRYSTAL RIVER RE-VISISTED, Clarence B. Moore, Vol.13;pt.3., Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

[7]NORTHWESTERN FLORIDA COAST RE-VISISTED, Clarence B. Moore, Vol.16, pt.4., The Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadephia.

Antonio J. Waring Jr. and Rufus Nightingale made a collection of sherds in 1949.[8] Hale G. Smith, of the University of Florida, and James B. Griffin, of the University of Michigan, made strategic tests in February of 1951. The State of Florida made two additional tests in June of 1951.[9]

The date of the first European settlement is hard to pinpoint, but in 1837, during the Seminole War, Sgt. Clendening was reported killed at Crystal River.[10] It is very possible that unrecorded settlement started during the 1830's, early settlers often did not stay in one place long enough to set official roots. In 1846 Neil Furgason (SP?) was settled on Hunter's Spring, permit 665. He is an ancester of Neil D. Ferguson, an Ocala attorney. John A. Beggs was the owner of permit 141 on Turners Creek. Who Turner and Hunter were is not known. Patrick McFeeley was settled on McFeeleys Creek.[11]

Warren Shines Paul came to Crystal River with his father Will H. Paul in March of 1861. In the settlement there were two houses at that time, occupied by John E. Allen and Easley Allen. James Miller lived one mile northwest of the River. One of the first buildings constructed in Crystal River after the Pauls arrived was a sort of warehouse used to store goods

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[8]ARCHEOLOGY OF THE FLORIDA GULF COAST, Gordon R. Willey, Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Vo.113., Washington.

[9]THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGIST, Vol.6., March 1953, #1

[10]A conversation with Thomas Knotts at him home in Yankeetown, Saturday, March 4, 1972

[11]A Survey made by A. H. Jones, Deputy Surveyor, August 1846.

brought from Cedar Key by boat, which were then transported to Ocala by wagon. There were three roads from Crystal River at that time; one to Homosassa, the second to the lakeswhere the present location of Inverness lies, and the other to Ocala.[12]

In April of 1862 Paul reported he went into the Home Guard, a State Company. The Company was composed of 75 to 80 old men and boys. (This is evident as Paul was not yet 13 years old.) The Captain of the Company was Dr. Andrew Eldren Hodges, M.D. who lived on the Withlacoochee, and who had been farming one mile north of Crystal River when the Paul family moved to Crystal River. The Company was divided into three squads; one was stationed on the Withlacoochee River, one on the Rocks on the Crystal River and the third located themselves on an island near the mouth of the Homosassa River.[13]

On July 29, 1862 the Schooner Beuregard sighted a sloop rigged ship standing near the mouth of the Crystal River; Captain Stearns, with an armed crew of seven started in pursuit. About three other Confederate vessels were sighted moving in from a nearby key, a squall obscured everything from view, the boat crew were lost. On the night of June 3, 1863 a Federal launch captured a Confederate cotton barge loaded with 30 bales of upland cotton and 9 bales of sea-island cotton near the mouth

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[12]Extracted from a story reconstructed from twenty-two pages of notes made during an interview with Warren Shines Paul by A. F. Knotts and dated March 21, 1922 - Tom Knotts, 1966

[13]Ibid

of the Crystal River. Using a refitted Confederate sloop, Federal troops reconnoitering up the Crystal River on June 15, 1863, noted a log breast work guarding a detachment of Confederates. A brief skirmish ensued with eleven Confederate troops fleeing into the swamp. A shot fired by the Southern officer was not returned as there was a woman among the fugitives.[14]

The Battle of Shell Island was evidently a high point of the war along the Gulf Coast. It was some time in 1864 that Bill Day proposed to decoy the "blockaders" into Shell Island where the local forces could kill or capture them without unduly exposing themselves. The blockade vessel was off the mouth of the Homosassa River about 3 to 4 miles. 25 or 30 men went to Shell Island in the Buckshot, an open boat of 10 tons, and Day's sloop of 25 or 30 feet. When the party in the two boats got to Shell Island they moored the Buckshot to the Island and the party went ashore. Day took the sloop and proceeded out the river as if to sneak by the "blockaders". When some distance out, he pretended something was wrong with his rigging on the mast, and gave the appearance that his boat was adrift. A boat was lowered from the "blockader" while he was doing this and the men rowed towards Day. He then slid down the mast and headed his boat for shore, and the "yanks"

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[14]FLORIDA A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, Florida Civil War Centennial Committee, 1960/65, publisher, Florida Library and Historical Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.

were close behind. Day ran his sloop for Shell Island and when he got there he jumped out and ran for cover in the underbrush where his friends were waiting. The pursuing "yanks" followed him ashore and were immediately faced with gunfire. Three or four were killed and two wounded by the barrage, the others were captured. One of the captured was a negro and he was hanged to a tree out near the cemetary. Captain Ireland of Boston, Massachusetts, died of his wounds and was buried in the cemetary. The other wounded man, an Irishman, got well, and he and the other men were sent as prisoners to the interior. In the Springs of 1865 Captain Hodges disbanded the Company.[15]

Although there is no written proof that the residents of Crystal River carried on salt making during the war it is most probable that they did participate in this money making project. The Federal blockaders made continuous sorties against the salt makers, but with the many coves, creeks and small rivers on the Crystal River the salt makers would be very well protected. With salt selling for $1.00 per pound, a man and his family could make a lot of money, plus the bonus of relieving the man of his obligation to fight in the Confederate army.[16]

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[15] A. F. Knotts, op.cit. p. 2

[16] STORY OF FLORIDA, by Rembert W. and Eleanor B. Patrick and Hester G. Fisackerly, publisher, The Steck Company Publishers, Austin, Texas. p.206

The first Post Office was opened before the Paul family came to Crystal River. In 1910 the Post Office building was located on the corner of Citrus Avenue and Mill Street. (Mill Street is now Highway 19) It was later moved to the building that is now the home of the Suncoast Sentinel until 1961 when the present building was dedicated. The postmasters were:

John E. Burkett - April 20, 1857
John E. Allen - August 4, 1857
Jeremiah A. Allen - December 8, 1860
Nickabud Barco - September 12, 1873
Samuel McBride - February 10, 1880
Harvey Hartman - October 28, 1886
Elwood F. Leffler - June 17, 1891
Ann E. Allen - June 1, 1893
Jennie S. Huron - June 2, 1897
Charles Miller - April 10, 1907
Grace Moon - 1940
Gene Allen - December 30, 1966.[17]

From March 29, 1867 until September 12, 1873 the Post Office was closed.[18]

In 1883 J. D. Bennett, M.D. came to the Fairmount settlement near Crystal River, this is now known as Connell Heights. He and his wife worked hand-in-hand for their fellow-man, taking an active part in health and education needs of the community. His writing on the treatment of hemorrhagic fever were followed by the worlds best physicians who considered him one of the most experienced and authoritative in this treatment.[19]

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[17] Dedication Program for the new Crystal River Post Office November 25, 1961

[18] A Manuscript by Brenda Nichols, "History of Crystal River Florida", May 1965, p.3

[19] INDUSTRIAL REVIEW OF CRYSTAL RIVER, 1910, Crystal River News, Crystal River, Florida.

The first school Mrs. Bennett taught in was a one room building opposite the present Baptist Church. She taught grades one through nine and averaged 25 students.[20] Friday May 22, 1903 saw the close of school exercises with Mrs Bennett and Miss Rose Hammond as teachers in the new two story school building.[21] The Crystal River High School was built in 1934, not correct with the gym being built in 1956. 1970 saw the construction of a new Primary School and a new High School.

The first ice plant was built by J. B. Cutler, and was located opposite Dr. S. Miller, M.D. office. It remained there until it burned down some 30 years later and the existing ice plant was built.[22]

The area around the present American Legion Beach, and adjoining what was known in 1910 as Michigan town, was a hive of industries that sprung up because of the abundance of timber in the area. The Oxford Crate Company employed over one hundred men and shipped their product all over the State and to Cuba. The Cedar Mill of the Joseph Dixon Crucible Company with its hundreds of employees engaged in gathering cedar logs and manufacturing them into stock of "Dixon's Pencils."[23]

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[20] From an interview with Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Edwards at their home in Crystal River, Sunday February 20, 1972

[21] A program of the closing exercises of the Crystal River School May 22, 1903. Owned by Mrs. A. D. Williams, Sr.

[22] INDUSTRIAL REVIEW OF CRYSTAL RIVER, 1910, Crystal River News, Crystal River, Florida.

[23] Ibid.

The Bank of Crystal River opened its doors for business in August of 1907 in the building that presently is the home of the Crystal River Bank. In 1910 the building housed the bank and C. A. Miller and Company, a general grocery store. The cashier of the bank was Albert S. King who was born in Lecanto in 1874. The amount on deposit at December 31, 1909 was $49,336.51.[24] With the Florida land bust in 1928 the bank was forced to close its doors and the citizens had to carry their business to either Ocala or Inverness.[25] In 1954 The Crystal River Bank opened its doors, and although they have remodelled the bank building to create more space, business has demanded more modern and efficient service. To meet these demands a new bank building is scheduled to be opened in the latter part of 1972 with more than double the present floor space. The bank now has $12 million on deposit and increases its number of depositors by 175 to 200 per month.[26]

There were several hotels in Crystal River in the 1910 era, but the most famous was the Dixon House, a landmark until just a few short years ago. The Dixon House would draw under

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[24] INDUSTRIAL REVIEW OF CRYSTAL RIVER, 1910, Crystal River Press, Crystal River, Florida.

[25] From an interview with Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Edwards at their home in Crystal River, Sunday February 20, 1972

[26] From a telephone conversation with Mr. B. Dumas, President Crystal River Bank. Monday March 14, 1972

its roof men prominent in the business world, whose financial rating was such that they could cast the cares of their professions to the four winds for several months each winter. Mr. and Mrs. T. N. Burket of Lincoln Nebraska were always one of the first to arrive, and did so for some 38 years. In 1919 the waters of the Crystal River were so transparent that the bottom, 10 to 15 feet below the surface could be destinctly seen. Mr. Burket landed a 151 lb tarpon from the Crystal River in 1919 and his wife was equally proud of the 26 lb channel bass she hooked on a bamboo rod. According to Hubert S. Spurr, fishing did not have to be expensive as can easily be seen by the following:

Alder Pole	.00	
Light Cotton Line	.10	
Medium Sized Trout Hook	.01	
2 Medium Size Shiners	.00	
Total	.11	.27

The Eubanks Livery Stable and Blacksmith Shop was kept busy by resident and tourist. Mr. Eubanks was proud of his 6 seat Buick automobile, the first automobile that would run in Crystal River. Tourists were taken to see the many sights and beauty spots.[28]

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[27]Fred A. Bishop, CRUISES ON CRYSTAL RIVER, The American Angler, January 1919

[28]From an interview with Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Edwards at their home in Crystal River, Sunday February 20, 1972

The river has seen many changes since man first discovered its beauty and bounty. The Indians lived out their destiny on the placid river that periodically becomes a monster when in the path of a hurricane. The early settlers reached their peak and, because of the lack of economic controls in the government of the day, dwindled to a few hardy souls that are the back-bone of this thriving community today. In less than ten years Crystal River has turned from a sleepy fishing village to one of the fastest growing cities in the State. A recreation area is on the drawing board to be located on Highway 44 and another large shopping center is planned for 1973 on Highway 19.

However much industry and commerce expands, the quiet river remains, a constant reminder that when we are gone, it will remain. It will hold to itself all the hopes, all the adventures, and all the lives that it has held in its life giving water.

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A conversation with Thomas Knotts at his home in Yankeetown, Saturday, March 4, 1972

A Survey made by A. H. Jones, Deputy Surveyor, August 1846

Extracted from a story reconstructed from twenty-two pages of notes made during an interview with Warren Shines Paul by A. F. Knotts and dated March 21, 1922 - Tom Knotts, 1966

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Industrial Review of Crystal River

1910 1910

A Graphic Description, with Illustrations, of the Advantages of Crystal River, Florida, to Homeseekers, Tourists, Hunters, Anglers, Business Men, Sportsmen, Boat Men, Truckers, Farmers, Stock Raisers, and Lovers of an Ideal Climate.

Press of the Crystal River News
Crystal River, Florida

Reprinted For Publication by
Citrus County Historical Society, Inc.
June, 1994

The Boston Dry Goods Store

Ladies' Dress Goods, Clothing, Shoes, Hats, Ladies' and Gents' Furnishings



Ladies' Ready-to-Wear Garments Agents for Ralston Health Shoe

The Boston Store A. OTTOI, Prop.

Crystal Poultry Yards

PURE BRED BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS
WHITE LEGHORNS AND RHODE ISLAND REDS

J. T. RAWLS, PROPRIETOR

Crystal Dairy

PURE JERSEY MILK
CREAM AND BUTTER

J. T. RAWLS, PROPRIETOR

A Brief Review of Crystal River and Citrus County, Florida

IN PRESENTING to our readers this Industrial Review of Crystal River, we feel that we are not overdrawing a single picture we present. It has been our aim throughout the work to tell the plain truth, and not by word or picture mislead any one. As members of the Board of Trade of Crystal River, and as citizens of the town and of Citrus County, we have the utmost confidence in our town and county. This Review is not sent to you with an idea of getting you to simply invest your money here, but we want you to come and make your home with us and help us to make Crystal River and Citrus County bigger and better.

This section is particularly adapted to the cultivation of vegetables of all kinds. Some of the best lands in the State of Florida are to be found along the shores of Crystal River, and these lands are not owned by any large real estate company, but can be purchased from the individual owner at prices which will allow a person of even small means to secure a home among us. There are still thousands of acres of virgin forest in this section, and there is splendid opportunity here for parties wishing to engage in the lumber business, and the farmer and manufacturer can both be supplied with sites.

We have excellent transportation facilities by both rail and water. Our town is location at the head of Crystal River, eight miles from the Gulf of Mexico, the great southern water highway, and on the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, forty miles south of Ocala.

The educational and religious advantages of Crystal River are not excelled by any town of the same size in the State, and throughout the entire county you will find good schools and churches. The entire citizenship of Citrus County is composed of industrious, God-fearing people, and we want you to come and be one with us.

Any information pertaining to Crystal River and Citrus County will be gladly furnished by addressing the Secretary of the Board of Trade, Crystal River, Florida.

EXCELLENT EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

We are aware of the fact that a great many of our readers know but little of our educational advantages. We maintain a "free system of public schools" second to none in the South. No town in the State affords facilities for primary and secondary education superior to Crystal River. The course of instruction is the same as adopted by the Board of Public Instruction for the entire county, and is thorough and so arranged as to adopt the best thought of the essential studies.

The teachers are experienced and competent, the expenditures liberal, and as a result the school ranks with the best.

Our children—poor and rich alike, all of them—are provided with "free text-books" and tuition without cost, and in fact everything for use in school is furnished by the county school board and local board of trustees. Therefore, it is cheaper to keep children in school here than to have them stay at home for the reason they are taught to care for public and otherwise educated.

Both the county board of public instruction and the local board of trustees give much time and thought to the organization and management of the schools and other manifold duties incident to the conduct of so excellent a system.

Another noticeable educational progress is the handsome $4,500 school building, with three apartments, plastered throughout and otherwise neatly and well finished. The rooms are seated with patented desks and furnished with general supplies.

The length of school term is eight months and the people of Crystal River take great pride in their school. Recognizing that the school is the hope of the com-

A. D. WILLIAMS

Dealer in General Merchandise,
Hay, Grain and Produce

Glass and Crockery Ware, Guns and Ammunition, Fishing Tackle, Our Specialties

Cold Drink Parlor In Connection

Crystal River, Fla.

L. S. BLACK

FRESH MEATS
and GROCERIES

Crystal River, Fla.

CRYSTAL ICE CO.

J. B. CUTLER, Proprietor

MANUFACTURERS OF

PURE ICE

Cold-Storage Warehouse Run In Connection With Plant

CRYSTAL RIVER, FLORIDA

JOHN JUHAN

M.. Juhan is not old enough to have made much history, having barely passed his majority, but he appears to have started on the right road to success, honor and prosperity. Born in Ocala, Fla., twenty-two years ago, he and his sister were left orphans at a tender age with a widowed mother of scanty means for his support. Dr. H. M. Taylor, formerly of this place, was attracted by the lad, and employed him as clerk in a drugstore here while a mere youth. Dr. Taylor showed a keen insight into character, for Mr. Juhan proved to be an efficient clerk, and by his politeness, affability and tact he established a profitable business for his employer.

As a reward for his services on retiring from practice here Dr. Taylor sold a one-half interest in the drugstore to Mr. Juhan on credit, as the necessities of his family whose only support he was did not permit him to hoard money from a clerk's salary. Within a short time the debt was paid to the last cent, the stock was increased, the store was painted and brightened to the aspect of thrift and enterprise.

His pretty sister has married happily and well, and a little one now prattles on a proud uncle's knees. The mother is living in comfort with her dutiful son, who has nobly borne the heavy burden placed upon the shoulders of a beardless youth. If he have an enemy the enemy keeps the secret, for no tongue was ever heard to speak ill against Johnnie; but all agree in kindness spoken of him. There are some whose reputation would have been saved had their biographies been written at the age of twenty-two, and not thereafter, but we predict that in later years when some one shall again assume the task of the writer he will be able to truthfully unfold bright pages of history of a useful man, a good citizen and a true husband, for such is the crown of a noble son.

COLONEL NICKABUD BARCO

Colonel Barco is universally known as the "town booster of Crystal River." No other man among us has talked more at home and abroad, to the press and to individuals, in private and in public, of the advantages of his home town than Mr. Barco.

Recently a circuit court judge came rushing into Crystal River looking for that man Barco. He said: "I was at the Tampa Bay Hotel on my way to Cuba when I overheard a loud voice declaiming to a large crowd concerning the beautiful waters, fertile soil, fine fishing, bountiful hunting, inexhaustible minerals, agreeable climate and good people of Crystal River. I was much impressed, as also the others appeared to be, and sought his acquaintance, and promised him that on my return from Cuba I would certainly come to his town. So that is why I am here, and I want to say that in Colonel Barco you have the best 'town booster' in the State, and I find since my sojourn here that all he says is true. You have a nice town, a fine climate and beautiful waters. I intend to remain with you for some time."

This is only one instance of Mr. Barco's effective missionary work. He has labored in season and out of season for deeper water, and in conjunction with others succeeded in securing a six-foot channel and an appropriation by congress for a new survey to find a project a ten-foot stage He has also exerted his untiring efforts to secure another railroad to our town, and success will sooner or later crown his efforts, as it is very probable that the Seaboard will extend its line here, having already, under the auspices of Colonel Barco and Colonel J. B. Cutler, who is a practical railroad man, recently made a survey from Otter Creek to this place. If every man in Crystal River would do the same amount of intelligent work as Mr. Barco we would soon have a city rivaling in beauty and wealth any of our sister towns.

Mr. Barco was born in Lake City, Fla., some years ago, but as soon as he discovered Crystal River he migrated to it and has resided here since. He has seen the town grow and prosper from a small postoffice village, when mails would come to it at irregular intervals on an average of once or twice a week by water from Cedar Key, when the postmaster would pour the mail on the floor and the neighbors would gather in to pick out their mail from the pile while the postmaster would look on, until it is now a thriving, hustling little city of twelve hundred souls, six daily mails, pressed brick bank and store buildings, hard-surfaced streets and flag sidewalks, more manufacturing industries than are to be found in any other town of its size in the United States, with as good educational advantages and a religious and moral atmosphere as are enjoyed by any other community.

Mr. Barco has engaged in various industries with success in all—merchandise, lumber, turpentine, fruit and real estate. He is the best-informed and most successful real estate man in the county and has consummated more deals, counted in dollars, than any other three or four men in this section. He knows everybody in the county, every land line, the adaptability of every character of soil and its location. He has been a member of the town council for years and always take an active part in politics. He served as treasurer of Citrus county for ten years.

Mr Barco is surrounded with a happy family, with a house full of bright, clever and robust boys. He often takes the whole crowd on a camp with him, and on such occasions the only difference perceptible between him and the boys is in stature.

Mrs. Barco is an estimable, gentle, christian woman.

HON. J. F. STEVENS

The subjects of some of our sketches were immigrants to this State, but Hon. J. E. Stevens is

a home boy, having been born in the adjoining county of Marion. His parents equipped him with a good education, which has advanced him to many positions of trust and honor, the duties of which he has discharged with a rare fidelity. After serving with credit to himself in one of the county offices of Marion he came to Crystal River, which he has since made his home. If he never does anything more, he made a fortune when he married the beautiful daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Griggs of Oxford, Fla.

Mr. Stevens engaged in the mercantile business for some time, which he abandoned to accept a lucrative position with the Crystal River Lumber Company of this place, which he filled until the mill closed down in 1907. He then entered a partnership with with Mr. J. K. Eubanks to conduct a wholesale fish and oyster business under the firm name of the Crystal Fish and Oyster Company, of which Mr. Stevens is manager.

Two years ago his friends induced him to enter the race for the office of circuit court clerk of this county. His campaign was pitched on a high plane and he made a clean race, but was defeated by his opponent, Hon. Walter F. Warnock, the present incumbent. This defeat was no discredit to Mr. Stevens, however, for it was a known fact that no man in the county could have beaten Mr. Warnock.

Mr. Stevens is now serving his third term as mayor of Crystal River. In his first race he won over two opponents and in his second race defeated one opponent, his administration giving such general satisfaction that he had no opposition for the present term.

Mr. Stephens is also justice of the peace for this district, having been elected to this office without opposition. In his official capacity he acts without fear or favor, and with the co-operation of Mr. Quitman Hay, marshal of Crystal River and deputy sheriff of Citrus county, he has cleared the town of blind tigers and other undesirable places, and it is no exaggeration to say that we have as good and law-abiding citizenship in our little town as will be found anywhere.

CRYSTAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

On the night of January 10th, 1907, all the property of the Crystal River Publishing Company went up into flames. This corporation had with more or less success published at Crystal River the "Crystal River News," which issued several special industrial editions that were a credit to the town and to the authors of the publications.

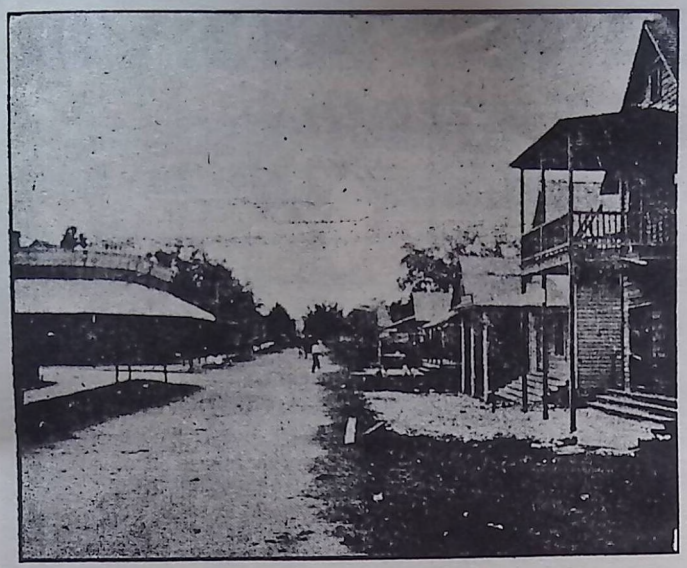
The loss by fire was total, not a dollar of insurance for protection, but the friends of the "News" in and out of the county immediately subscribed stock to the amount of $2,000.00, and organized the Crystal Publishing Company, which took up and continued the publication of tne "News." Mr. A. S. King was the first editor and publisher of this paper. John E. Bell, of Missouri, succeeded him. Mr. C. A. Miller afterwards became manager, and he was succeeded by the present manager, Mr. G. W. Hyde, in the first part of 1909. Mr. Hyde secured some months ago the services of Mr. P. B. Bowie, former foreman of the job printing department of the Ocala Star, as editor of the News, and foreman of the mechanical department of the paper and job printing. The Crystal Publishing Company immediately took long strides towards success and prosperity. Mr. Hyde is a thorough business man and a good financier, and Mr. Bowie, who married the foster daughter of Major Butler of the Citrus County Chronicle, who is acknowledged by the press of the State as without a peer as local editor, has permanently settled here with his family, and he is right up in the forefront in his profession. The plant of the News is modern and up-to-date, with two job presses run by gasoline power. A photograph will be seen in this magazine, showing Mr. Hyde, Mr. Bowie, and four printers, Messrs. Stafford, Temple, Snow and McCord, with the old janitor, in front of the home of the News, built expressly for the News. This magazine, under tne auspices of the Board of Trade, was entirely manufactured by the Crystal Publishing Company.

The hotels of Crystal River are now enjoying an unprecedented tourist season, and all manner of inducements are being held out to the home-seeker to come and live with us.

L. S. SPARKMAN

CASH GROCER

CRYSTAL RIVER, FLORIDA



Street Scene in Crystal River

He brought with him to the Fairmount settlement, near Crystal River, in 1883, a wife of ten years, having married Miss Luella Huron, of Avon, Ind., who proved such a congenial and resourceful companion in moulding the home-life and establishing the high educational standard and spiritual reverence among the good people of our county. Two estimable daughters have blessed their union—Mrs. R. J. Knight of Clearwater, Fla., and Mrs. Montanus of Springfield, Ohio. These two daughters could be proudly held up as models in any home for the proper manner of bringing up children, and it it must be a comfort to the venerable couple to contemplate in their declining years the fruits of their piety and habits of rectitude during a long pilgrimage of earthly trials and vicissitudes.

Dr. and Mrs. Bennett have worked hand-in-hand for their fellow-man, both taking an active and efficient part in educational and church work. They have taught under the pine trees of balmy Florida the life of the Master to the youth of this county, which has made them better men and better women. She has taught in the public schools of the county and he has managed their affairs as a school official for a score of years. They established a normal school in their very home and money was no prerequisite to entrance there.

The freeze of over a decade ago destroyed a bearing orange grove, the bulk of the property of Dr. Bennett. He again submitted and came from Fairmount to Crystal River, where he has since resided. In his unostentious way he has practiced his profession in this county for 28 years with more success in maladies peculiar to this section than any other physician. Perhaps it is not going to the extreme to assert that there is not a man living who is better authority on that dreaded and fatal disease, hemorrhagic fever. He never absents himself, day nor night, from the bedside of the patient at needful moments, and has lost but one case in all his experience. His writings on the treatment of this disease have been published in the best medical journals of the world and his methods are followed by the best physicians. Many a person cheerfully acknowledges his rescue from death by the skillful hand of Dr. Bennett. He answers promptly the call of the white and the black, the rich and the poor, and no debtor was ever made to feel the pecuniary necessities of Dr. Bennett.



View of One of the Big Springs

GULF FISH & OYSTER CO.

Wholesale Fish and Oysters

The House Which Guarantees You Entire Satisfaction



We have the exclusive control at this point of the "VAC-JAC" Oyster Carrier, the most sanitary carrier on the market, complying in every respect to the National Pure Food Law. Oysters packed in this carrier retain their natural flavor and reach you in perfect condition. : : : :

Our supply of fish are received daily from our own fiish-eries and we guarantee to ship our customers nothing but the freshest and best of stock. Give us your order.

Gulf Fish & Oyster Co.

C. A. MILLER CO.

MERCHANTS

Crystal River, :-: Florida

BANK OF CRYSTAL RIVER

ORGANIZED AUGUST 1907

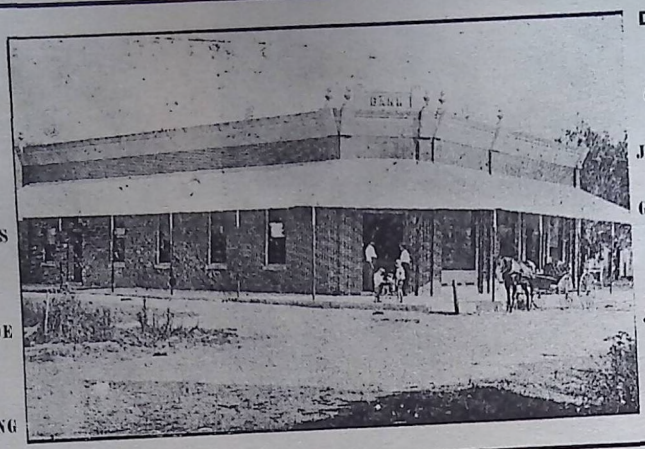
OFFICERS

C. E. HERRICK
President

JAMES T. RAWLS
Vice-President

GEORGE W. HYDE
Vice-President

ALBERT S. KING
Cashier



DIRECTORS

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JAMES T. RAWLS

GEORGE E. LONG

M. WENRICH

JOHN H. BROWN

C. E. ALLEN

GEO. W. HYDE

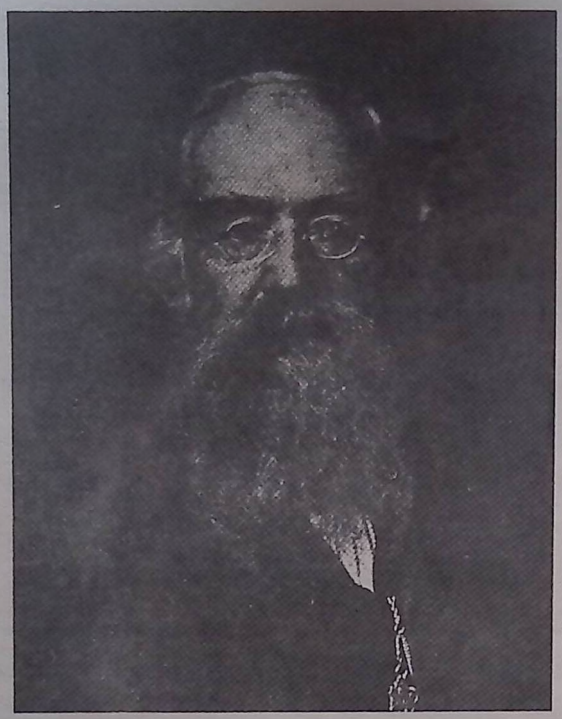
CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED

DIXON HOUSE

Crystal Rivers Leading Hotel



CRYSTAL RIVER, :-: :-: FLORIDA



Doctor J. D. Bennett

DR. J. D. BENNETT

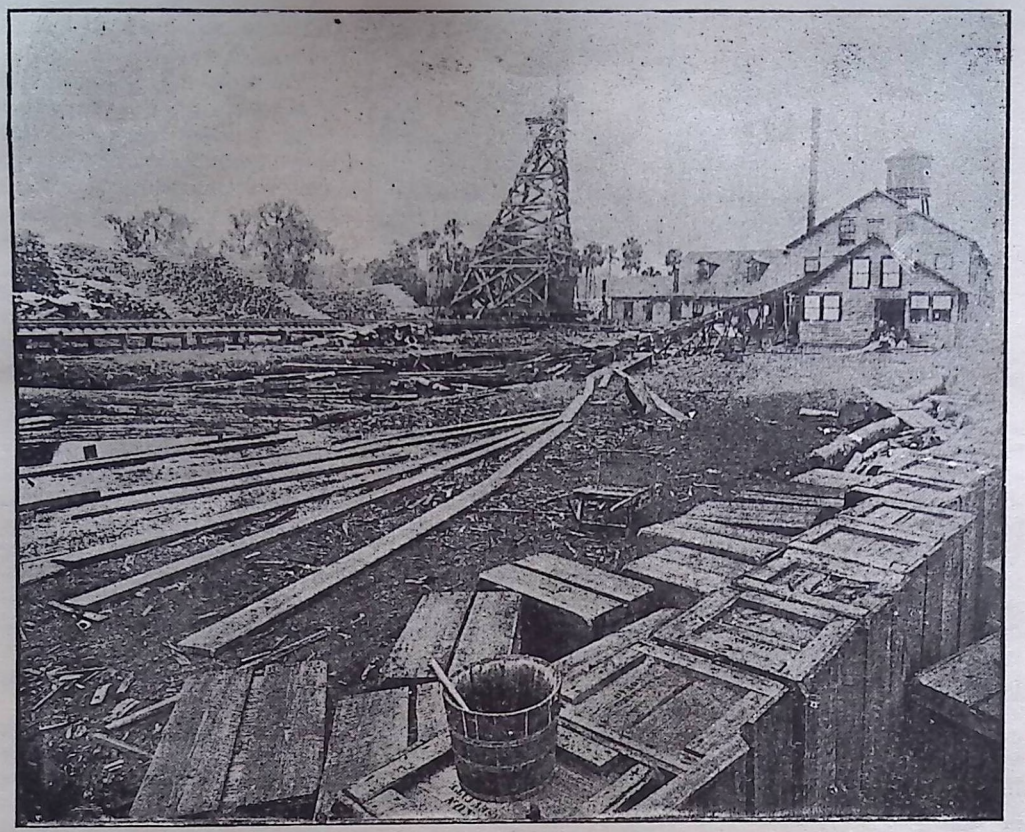
In 1840 Dr. J. D. Bennett first saw the light of day in the grand old State of Missouri. The admission of this State into the Union gave rise to the Dred Scott case, with reference to the slave traffic. The final decision of the Supreme Court of the United States determining the rights of slaveholders directly involved States' rights, and the difference of opinion in this respect among the people of the States precipitated the Civil War. At the outbreak of this war Dr. Bennett had just arrived at his majority and was attending college at Fulton, in that State. Educated, well-read and zealous in the cause which he believed to be right, his young blood was ready to be shed in defense of the Southland in its claim for States' rights. Entering the Confederate army as a private, he served with distinction and was advanced to the sergeancy.

When the cause that he and like believers had submitted to the arbitrament of arms was lost he yielded to the decision and turned his useful life to the study of medicine. He graduated from the St. Louis Medical College and began the active practice of his profession in Illinois—a State that had so recently and successfully engaged in the antagonistic conflict with him. This fact was early evidence of the broadness of his mind. His physical constitution had become weakened by pulmonary trouble and frequently recurring hemorrhages of the lungs admonished him that he must soon seek the milder clime of the country for which he had in battle offered his life. Although the Southland had lost all her property, her prestige, the flower of her youth, and even her liberty, she still possessed her life-giving and health-restoring climate, and in Citrus county, Florida, Dr. Bennett was made hale and strong. He is now enjoying robust health and a life of usefulness at the age of three-score-and-ten.



Driveway in Crystal River

CRYSTAL RIVER'S INDUSTRIES.



Seven miles from the Gulf of Mexico on the headwaters of the beautiful river of the same name is the thriving town of Crystal River, with its factories, financial and mercantile establishments.

Prominent among the manufacturing plants here may be mentioned the following:

Cedar Mill of the Joseph Dixon Crucible Company, which has been in constant operation for the past twenty-seven years, with its hundreds of employees engaged in the gathering of cedar logs and their manufacture into stock for "Dixon's Pencils."

The Oxford Crate Compnay, manufacturers of vegetable and orange crates, which has been operating here for the past five years with its large force of employees. This factory is under the active management of the owners with a corps of efficient workmen, all of whom are hustling and wide-awake men. The product of this factory stands first in its class, as is evidenced by their rapidly-increasing business and the many carloads of stock shipped to Cuba, in addition to supplying in a large degree the demands from the orange and vegetable growing part of the State.

The Ox Fiber Factory, which manufactures fiber from the cabbage palm. This plant employs many men engaged in the gath ering of the material in addition to the factory employees. Their product has ready sale and they contemplate doubling the present capacity of the plant withln a few months.

The Crystal Ice Company, under the management of its hustling owner, Mr. J. B. Cutler, is another thriving enterprise. The product has a ready sale to our large fish houses and to supply out of town and local customers. This plant has recently doubled its capacity to respond to the rapidly increasing demands made upen it.

Eleven mercantile establishments, with an annual business of over two hundred thousand dollars, carry everything necessary for the comfort of man in



View of Crystal River—Dixon Mill in the Distance

whatever condition of life, and many of the luxuries to attract the nimble sixpence. The endeavor is to have everything in stock that may be called for, and in this they are highly successful.

The Bank of Crystal River does a general banking business. This bank is absolutely a home institution and its officers and directorate are among our most conservative business men. Notwithstanding the strenuous financial times since its opening for business (August, 1907), it has continued to climb and shows a very nice deposit and surplus, as will be seen from their advertisement on another page.

Two millinery parlors, in which may be found at all times attractive and latest styles of goods usually found in stores of this kind for the delight of the women folks.

Four wholesale fish dealers are located here, doing a large business in the collecting and shipping of fish and oysters, as well as supplying the local demands. The owners of these enterprises are hard-working business men and their shipments aggregate many carloads each day.

Four barber shops are located here and all receive their share of work in their line. They are happy and prosperous.

The soft-drink parlors supply the thirsty with their refreshments and are always busy dispensing to their many customers the delectable and satisfying beverages always to be found in places of this nature.

Two large and prosperous turpentine farms are located near here, employing a large force of men in this manufacturing industry. The product from these farms is all shipped from Crystal River via the Atlantic Coast Line Railway to Jacksonville and other cities.

Thirty-five motor propelled crafts ply our river These boats range in size from small skiff boats to the larger ones of sixty feet and over. Many of these boats are equipped for pleasure and the sportsman can hire them for a fair price per day.

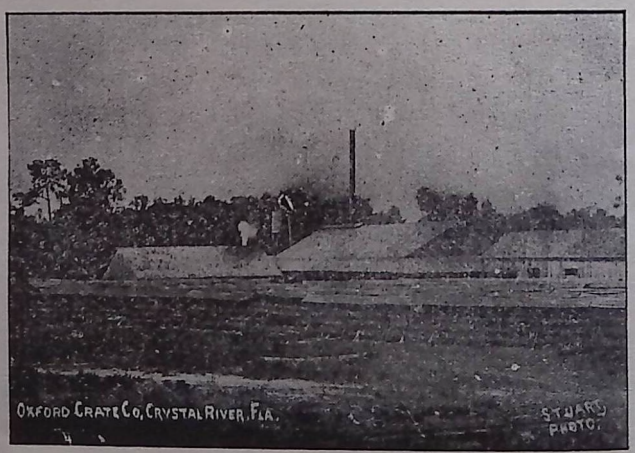
Hard roads and streets make driving a plasure whether in the town or to distant places, it being possible to travel many hundreds of miles in the swift-moving automobile or on motorcycle.

One marine railway, capable of handling vessels of eighty feet in length, with additional boat yards for the repairing of smaller boats, will be found in active operation.

One canning factory will be operated within the next few months with a large and competent force of men to can vegetables and oysters.

Numerous hotels and boarding houses are here to accommodate the most exacting. The tables are supplied with the best the market affords and the feed is preared by accomplished chefs, assisted by corps of experienced cooks and assistants.

Shell Island, situated at the



juncture of Crystal River and the Gulf of Mexico, has cottages for the accommodation of the tourists who wish to be near the tarpon fishing grounds, and for the accommodation of the many who spend their summers and winters on the coast to bring again the blush of health to their cheeks and the elasticity of step which only perfect health gives.

Beautiful Crystal River, with its millions of fish for the entertainment of the sportsman tourist, its hundreds of large springs to delight the eye of sight-seers, and with its tropical growth crowning the banks make this an ideal place for those who fly the cold and rigorous North and wish to bask in the sunny clime of this Gulf coast. The anti-seining law, enforced for the past few months, shows the happiest results in the great increase in numbers of the game fish in our river. It is the usual thing now for an hour's troll to result in a catch of from 25 to 50 pounds.

While the manufactured products that are shipped from our town annually easily reach the million mark, the impression should not be gained that we are only a "mill town." Such is widely divergent from the facts. We have six churches, two schools, a board of trade, a village improvement society, and there cannot be found a quieter town of more law-abiding citizens in the State. The farming industries and the number of tourists are doubling yearly.



View of the Dixon Cedar Mill

To close this sketch of Crystal River's industries without mention of the Crystal River News would make this review far from covering the field. The News is now far advanced in its fourth volume of publication and enjoys a patronage commensurate with which Crystal River supports all deserving industries. Its covers Citrus county as to local happenings, and it is far from being the mouth-piece of any clique or ring and fearlessly expresses itself on any question of public import. It is an important industrial factor.



Drying Sheds of the Oxford Crate Company

FACTS ONLY ARE STATED

It has been the earnest endeavor of the Crystal River Board of Trade to see to it that only facts appear in these pages, realizing that it would serve no good purpose to misstate or color any of the conditions, as the sole object is to bring good people here who wish to find a place as described in this magazine. If it were not as stated, we know the cheat would soon be discovered and we would gain nothing. We live in what we think is a fine section for trucking, gardening, farming, stock-raising, fishing, hunting, etc., and invite others to come and share with us, to work with us, to play with us and to prosper with us. There is enough for all.

Within two miles of Crystal River, just a pleasant ride or bicycle run or brisk walk, through a delightfulful pineywoods, there is a sulphur spring 1,600 feet deep, hot as one could bear to bathe in, gushing through a pipe, leaving prismatic colors all about. At this place a company was boring for oil, and after striking several springs with more or less sulphur, which they despised and passed, they came upon this one, which would not be disregarded, and has stopped work for the time being. This is a most interesting place to visit and on the way one can stop at "The Wishing Well" and drink the wonderfully clear water while wishing your dearest wish. It is quite as efficacious as the famous Blarney stone, if not more so.

Village Improvement Society

In April, 1907, a few of the ladies of Crystal River, becoming tired of seeing their town so far behind other small places, and feeling that something ought to be done to improve the appearance of the place, called a meeting to be held at The Strathcona Inn. A very few responded, but nothing daunted, the few organized a society to be called "The Village Improvement Society of Crystal River," adopted a code of rules and regulations and elected the following officers: President, Mrs. N. Barco; vice-president, Mrs. Paul Boellert; secretary, Mrs. Alfred Rushton; treasurer, Mrs. Jack Cutler.

The first meeting of the Village Improvement Society was held at Mrs. Barco's, where the men of the town were conspicuous by their absence. This was afterwards explained by the fact that, being business men, they could not attend in the afternoon. The hour of meeting was then changed from afternoon to evening, since when those interested have attended.

The members of the V. I. S. flatter themselves that had there never been a V. I. S. there would never have been a Board of Trade, which would have been a serious loss to the city, that body having accomplished many material benefits to the city since its inception.

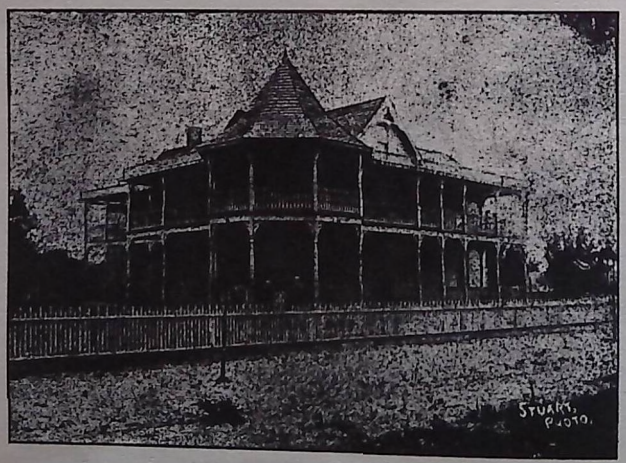
The V. I. S. started in by clearing the streets and planting trees, live oaks alternated with palmetto palms, and, though the trees are young, already they are a great improvement and out streets look more finished and comely. There are great schemes already in the minds of the members, which include a railway park with a drinking fountain, benches, flower beds and shade trees. While the first idea of the society is to promote the



Residence of W. N. Knight



Residence of J. T. Rawls



Residence of R. J. Knight



Residence of C. E. Herrick



Residence of Colonel Nic Barco



Street Scene In East Crystal Avenue

health of the town by good sanitary and hygienic conditions, being assisted therein by the active co-operation of the municipal authorities, they love beauty and the beautiful.

We desire to be the aggressive foe of dirt-loving disease breeding bacteria, and look to the physicians of the town to bring their knowledge to bear on the case and suggest the best means to remove the abuse. We would also like to interest the children in the good work. Let them help to plant flowers and pick up waste paper flying about the sidewalks. Their little hands can do much to help. Later on, when some of our desires are realized, we can look forward to a library, where people coming in from the country to trade can rest and leave their children should they so desire. But our work will be thorough, systematic and far-reaching, as cleanliness in one street will not keep contagious diseases from lurking in bad cesspools, outhouses or cellars near by. Our motto is, "Mens sana in copore sano," assert the society.

A HOME PRODUCTION

This Magazine is a production of Crystal River talent. All the writing was done by home people. The photographs from which the cuts were made were taken by an amateur artist of Crystal River. All the printing and mechanical work was done in the office of the Crystal River News. The cuts were the only part of the publication not done in Crystal River. Most publications of this character are gotten up by out-of-town people—by those who make it a business to "write-up" a town—and the photographs are made and printing done usually by large houses. These naturally should make a better appearance than our humble effort, but they have not the personality permeating them that this has; nor are they likely to be as correct, because they are not written by those who know the facts as well as do home people.

The Ideal Fishing Place



Sir Izaak Walton's happiest dream could have been more than fully realized had he motored out from the crystal springs, the source of Crystal River, eight miles from where it empties into Crystal Bay, near the Gulf, at sunrise on a fine Florida winter morning.

On account of the clearness of the waters they were given the name of "Crystal." So crystal are the numerous springs, rivers and bays that you can see thousands of sea animals for a great distance about you.

Gliding down the limpid stream, you pass many bayous, creeks and small bays that literally teem with fishes of all kinds.

Turning out into Salt River, three miles from town, the most magnificent landscape scenery meets the pleased eye. More than five hundred islands, ranging in size from a few square feet to several acres, studded with stately palmettos towering above the luxuriant sawgrass, suggests to the imagination a Florida Venice surpassing that of Italy. Narrow channels of boating water meander among these spots of beauty. The venerable crane stands sentinel on almost every point, and the Gulf heron, or white aigrette, and other plumed birds decorate the horizon, while the friendly pelican, drifting on the ripples of the silvery waves, floats into courtship of ease. The bold fishhawk and eagle flounce upon their prey, and the bellow of the alligator, not unlike the roar of a lion, forces upon the panorama an aspect of the sublime. The interlying shell-bars are laden with oysters, had for the trouble of picking them up.



A Day's Catch in Crystal River

In the meantime, by dragging your troll or casting your fly, you have taken 25 or 30 pounds of bass and red fish.

The late Legislature of Florida enacted a law to prohibit the taking of food fish from our waters, except with hook and line and cast net. This law is being rigidly enforced and has resulted in greatly increasing the number of fish in our waters, so that those who fish with hook and line for a livelihood average 100 pound per day.

Aside from the sport, the fish and oyster business here affords a great revenue to those who engage in the commercial branch of it, shipping many carloads each week. The three fish houses obtain their supply outside of the rivers in the Gulf.

Among the principal food fishes taken from our waters may be mentioned the black bass, bream, carangoid or cavally, catfish, drumfish, grouper, mackerel,

jewfish, mullet, pompano, sailor's choice, shad, sheepshead, shiner, blackfish, grunt, red fish, red snapper and mangrove snapper.

Ducks darken the waters.

To the real sportsman or sportswoman there remains the great kingfish, or tarpon, or tarpum. The sportsman who has not landed one of these monsters has in store a great pleasure. We cannot better close this article than by reproducing a paragraph of a local paper describing an actual occurrence:

"Mrs. C. C. M. Hunt, of Palmyra, N. Y., is continuing her good luck catching tarpon. She has caught many weighing over 100 pounds. Her husband is a good second, but she lays him away in the shade. It is fine sport to see the mammoth fish struggling against the strength and skill of a handsome woman. Mr. Hunt can scarcely refrain from offering her assistance, but a look from a piercing eye is enough to quell the restive but well-disciplined husband. Now the fish runs out with the line; now she pulls him in; now he jumps high out of the water, ten or twelve feet; now he comes with his black, wide-open mouth —ca-chug! into the water; and thus the combat wages for from ten to twenty minutes, until endurance and science overcome the sea king and he is hauled in"



Crystal River High School

Trucking and Farming Around Crystal River

An official of the Federal Government was once upon a time sent to Florida to investigate and make a report as to the character of the soil, its productiveness and desirability for farming. He reported that it was worthless, being nothing more than a bed of sand that would not produce anything. This official now rests in peace (at least he is dead), but Florida is in full bloom. We have Sanford for celery, Lawtey and Starke for strawberries and Hastings for Irish potatoes. These places have become famous simply because the people who settled there have turned their attention to the channels of industry mentioned and have made fortunes out of their occupations. The same character of soil exists all over the Florida peninsula. There is not a county in the State that will not produce as good celery as is raised at Sanford, as fine potatoes as are raised at Hastings or as luscious strawberries as are grown at Lawtey.

Citrus county is no exception. There is poor land in Citrus as there is in every county of every State or empire in the world; but, on the other hand, there is as much good land as you will find in any other county in the State. We have red clay, gray sandy lands, black loamy sandy lands, muck lands, hammock



Scenery on Crystal River

and piney lands, lands with clay subsoil, and all kinds of lands, limestone and shell lands—lands that will produce anything, including oranges, grapefruit, figs, bananas, etc.

J. H. Stratner, three miles from Crystal River, has a small orange grove that produces as fine oranges as can be found in the world. At Inverness, which is the county seat of Citrus county and distant eighteen miles from Crystal River, orange and grapefruit groves flourish. At Ozello, a few miles from Crystal River, Enoch Brown has a fine fig orchard.

Some of the truckers about here are now bringing to our town as fine specimens of beans, tomatoes, etc., as you will see in any market. J. B. Cutler cultivated celery last season on a small scale and found that our soil is as well adapted to it as the lands at Sanford, where he once resided, and as a result of his experiment he organized a stock company and is now growing an immense tract of it. There are two other farms of celery growing here nicely. There are several fields of cabbage growing here now to the satisfaction of the most critical and exacting cultivator of this vegetable.



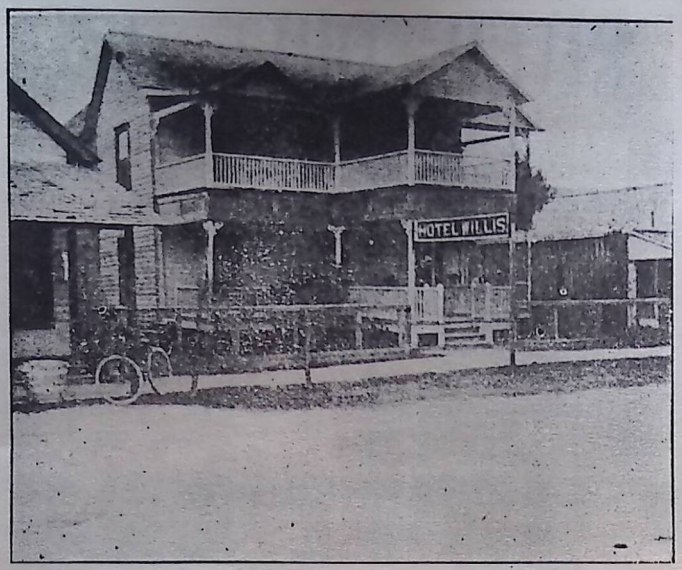
Sweet potatoes are a staple crop that produces as much as 300 bushels to the acre. White Bermuda onions never grew on soil better than here. Sugar-cane reaches 28 and 30 joints and yields a syrup of fine flavor. We challenge the State for a better and healthier yield of grapes than Messrs. W. H. Espey, James McMahon and Morris Wenrick grow. Mr. Bellamy, of Inverness, on his irrigated farm, produced early the past season on six acres as many cucumbers as any other farmer in the State. Colonel T. P. Lloyd and F. M. Dampier, who have irrigated farms in Inverness, prove that Citrus county has as fine land as there is in Florida.



A Crystal River Team

Major George Butler of Inverness, Mrs. G. H. Stratner, Mrs. W. H. Espey and Miss Mattie Bradley can show as good results from poultry yards as anybody else anywhere:

Mr. James T. Rawls is demonstrating with his modern dairy of blooded cows and cleanly scien-



The Hotel Willis

tific methods what can be done in this line. He is making a great success. Mr. C. A. Miller and Mr. R. D. Smith have planted a "model truck farm" this season, and it is worth going miles to see. Mr. George W. Hyde proved the past season that as many dollars' worth of watermellons could be grown to the acre here as elsewhere. Mr. J. J. Priest has been doing this also for years.

There is five times as much trucking and gardening being done here now as there was two years ago, and the prospects are that this will soon develop into an agricultural district in a short time. Certain kinds of peaches do well here, and so do pears. The usual garden crops grow in prolific abundance.

Mr. Gilman Williams is grafting the natural growth of hickory shrubs with pecan buds, which are developing wonderfully well, and will be bearing in a few years. What formerly required twenty or twenty-five years' time to find out you had nothing by the old pecan method, now takes but five years at the outside to have a paying pecan grove. Mr. W. H. Espey had one of these budded trees to yield six pounds of nuts after the third year. The shipping facilities are ample.

Lands at present are low in price, but are increasing. Good farms in woods can be purchased at from five to ten dollars per acre. From ten to twenty-five acres make a good farm. Hard surfaced roads are being rapidly constructed, and will soon pass every man's land. Any homeseeker wishing to locate with us will be protected by the Board of Trade. The Board of Trade will, without charge, select a tract of land, and see that the title is good, and put the seeker into direct communication with the owner. We want homeseekers and homebuilders, men who will work and do something. Nobody can make anything anywhere without work. Hard, well directed labor here will make any man handsome returns. A home-builder needs some money, not much, but some. He can sell his acres North and invest here in double the number of acres of better land, and farm the year round, raising several crops per year on the same land with large yields. Farming is pleasant all winter, and on account of the Gulf breezes is not unpleasant in summer. Taxes are very low. There is no farm far from a church or school house, and school books and education are free.



The Strathcona Inn

CRYSTAL RIVER DRUG CO.

DRUGGISTS

FISHING TACKLE

CIGARS AND TOBACCO

Post Cards and Souvenirs

AGENTS FOR HAWKS' LENSES

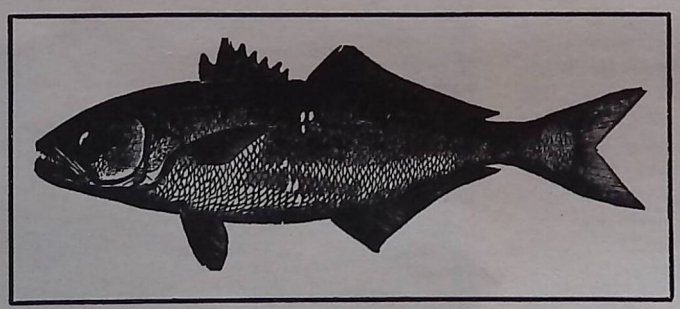
FULL LINE NUNNALLY'S CANDIES

J. E. STEVENS

J. K. EUBANKS

Crystal Fish and Oyster Co.,

Wholesale and Retail Dealers



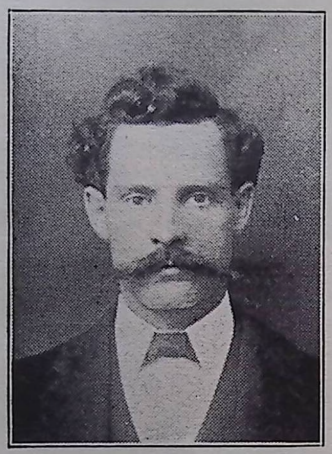
PROMPT SHIPMENTS

CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED

GIVE US YOUR STANDING ORDERS

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT, R. L. TURNER.

The subject of this sketch is one of the most remarkable young men in educational circles in the state. He was born near South Dunnellon, in this county, in 1872. With no particular advantages, save unusual vim and vigor, he has steadily advanced and may really be classed among our self-made men. His parents were not wealthy but in good circumstances, and they did all in their power to give him a good education. He aspired to be a teacher in the public schools,



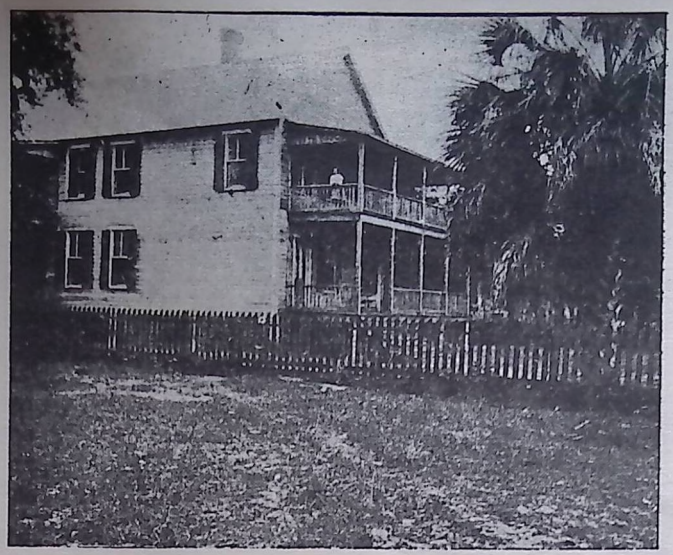
R. L. TURNER

and prepared himself for that work, attending the Normal School at Jasper, and Stetson University, and he had not taught long before it became generally known that he was a born educator.

At no time since he began his career as teacher has he been otherwise than successful. In 1900 the people saw in him the timber for a County Superintendent of Public Instruction, and he was elected as such by the voters of Citrus county, and has held that important office since and will probably continue to hold it as long as he desires. By economical methods and safe investments he has accumulated considerable property which yields him a handsome income, and is safe from want. As superintendent, he is thoroughly devoted to the work. We venture to assert that he expends two-thirds of his salary for the betterment of schools and advancement of teachers and pupils. Nearly every educational association held in Florida finds him there and, being a fluent speaker, he never fails to make a good impression, and is a power in such meetings, his sincerity and self-evident devotion to education always securing the plaudits of his hearers.

Of late, he has become interested in agricultural education and many a farmer's boy in Citrus county will be aided by it. So enthusiastic is he in this particular, that he will send a boy from each school district in the county to enter the agricultural department of the State University next year for three months, bearing all expenses himself.

Mr. Turner is continually on



Residence of Gilman Williams



N. Barco's Orange Grove, in Crystal River



Crystal River Driveway

the road looking after the interests our schools, and we have known him to light out on a bitter cold night in December, 1906, twenty miles from home and determined to reach there by daylight, after successfully settling a minor difference in a country school. He wants perfect harmony to exist in all of the schools and he always secures it. While he is not inclined to be too arrogant or authoritative, neither is he too lenient or lax in his duties.

A teacher under him must come up to the standard set by him—or walk the plank. Every school and every schoolhouse in the county is a monument to his untiring energy, perseverance and determination to better educate the youth.

Citrus county will never get a better superintendent in every respect than R. L. Turner, and while he has been seriously spoken of as State Superintendent, our people would by no means consent to such a change. He belongs here in Citrus county and will be kept here, if the wish of our people is obeyed.

JAMES T. RAWLS

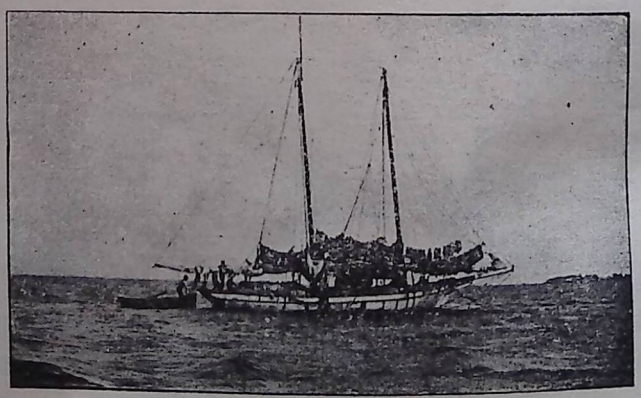
Mr. James T. Rawls comes from a family of good old Virginia stock, having been born in that State some forty-five years ago. He was happily married to a Miss Mollie Jones of the same State, an accomplished woman of intellectual qualities, possessed of lovable attributes and a sweet disposition.

They early came to Florida, where Mr. Rawls has continuously held executive positions which commanded handsome compensation. He superintended the construction of the large manufacturing plant of the Crystal River Lumber Company here and controlled its operation until the late panic forced it to close down.

Having provided himself with a comfortable home in our town, and believing in the future of Crystal River, he sought to engage in enterprises on his own account. He soon became half-owner in the Crystal River Drug Company, half owner in the Gulf Fish and Oyster Company and a large stockholder in the Bank of Crystal River. All of his investments have been judiciously made and are yielding him satisfactory revenues.

The people have honored him with the first vice-presidency of the Bank of Crystal River, elected him to the board of county commissioners and placed him in the council chamber. His industry never permits him an idle moment, and the belated pedestrian may see the dim flicker from the midnight oil in his residence and know that Mr. Rawls sits there working out his business affairs or improving his methods by scientific research.

If the human face is a correct index to character, Mr. Rawls is a good man, for his expression is as innocent as that of a child. He enjoys the reputation of being just in his dealings and fair in his opinions, and we label him as one of our very best citizens.



Sponger Off Crystal River



George W. Hyde

employes. His relation to them is rather that of father to children than boss of hirelings. Out of his hearing he is often mentioned by whites and blacks as "The Father." No service is too menial for him to perform for them, and the least of them can always have his patient ear. Having himself experienced positions in the Divine plan wherein the Fates run the gamut of human feelings from sorrow to joy there is not a chord in the heart of man whose vibration does not find a response in his. As tender as a woman on right occasions he becomes bold at the approach of fraud or deceit or injustice, and the perpetrator is made to regret. No man can shift more quickly from his shoes to the other fellow's in controversy or misunderstanding, and he will insist on "talking the matter out" until there is nothing left to hang a disagreement on.

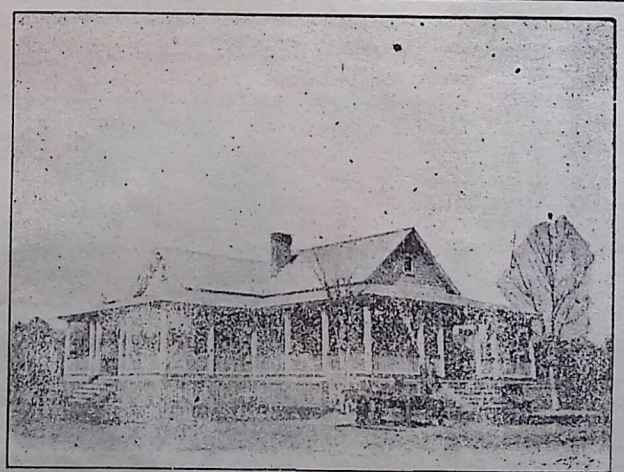
His busy industry has not withheld him from his civic duties, and he is always present with his share and more of public enterprise. He sits in the council chamber as its president, and is also president of the Bank of Crystal River. It is to his known integrity, good business judgment and popularity that this institution owes much of its wonderful success. Not a dollar has been lost to the stockholders in bad loans, overdrafts or bad management. His is not a policy for the dollar only, but uses the bank as a useful educator to teach the people to save that they may be spared the misfortune of poverty in old age. He also early let it be known that this bank was for the upbuilding of Crystal River and Citrus county, and the many application for attractive loans made by outsiders have nobly but firmly been denied.

Mr. Herrick is a gentleman, in all the word implies.

When a visitor calls on him, whether of low or high degree, Mr. Herrick has nothing else on hand so important as to make the caller glad he came. In sickness and in death all the assistance he can render is cheerfully given. This same kindness is shown to all, to all races of people, to children and to the lower animals. He views the world and its ages and weakness with a broad mind and charitable heart, and it appears to the observer that his greatest happiness comes from the realization of having alleviated some suffering, bettered some condition, directed some erratic, softened some sorrow, sympathized with the bereaved, and shared in their joys.

GEORGE W. HYDE

Thirty years ago Mr. George W. Hyde was born in Georgia, one of seven or eight sons and one sister, children of a Presbyterian minister of the old school of Puritanic beliefs and practices, who adhered strictly to the rule of Solomon "spare the rod and spoil the child." At his death the good father left not much of this world's goods, but



Offices of Jos. Dixon Crucible Company



John Juhan

endowed his children with a rich legacy of education and splendid character. These boys have nobly faced the battles of life, and neither they nor their sister have known the want of an immediate dollar.

Mr. Hyde is not such a man as would likely be chosen for a diplomat, for his plain, open manner is sometimes mistaken for brusqueness; but rather he is the person you would select for your executor or administrator, when you wish to be sure in advance that your property will be distributed just exactly as your will might designate. He has had much experience in the banking business in Georgia, and when the Bank of Crystal River was organized here the stockholders naturally turned to him to direct its mechanical workings, with the result that it has as good a system of books and accounting as any other bank in the state, and he is now honored with the office of second vice president.

When the Crystal Publishing Company was tottering on its last legs, and its stock had dwindled in value to twenty cents on the dollar, the stockholders forced on Mr. Hyde the position of manager, and within less than a year he placed it on a sound business and financial basis, employing as many as five mechanical men at a time, and today the stock is worth one hundred cents on the dollar, with bright prospects for the future.

Mr. Hyde is an expert accountant, and is a member of the National Association of Accountants and Bookkeepers.

He is half owner of the Gulf Fish & Oyster Co., one-fourth owner in the Shell-Island Company, a large stockholder in the Bank of Crystal River, also in the Crystal Publishing Company. For some years he has been assistant manager of the Crystal River plant of the Joseph Dixon Crucible Company, and brings to this institution loyal and intelligently expended labors. He has accumulated real estate, believing in the future of Crystal River, and has made it money-earning, and carries a nice rent roll. All his investments are made to pay.

He takes great interest in outdoor sports, but is not attracted by the glare and limelight of cities. He loves to live right jam up to nature.

Mr. Hyde is not what might be termed a ladies' man, nor is he a beaubrummel, but all admit that he would make a good husband, and that he would more than likely also make a good wife. He is a cheerful giver to all charities and public enterprises, and never shirks his full duty in all affairs. In every business transaction he lives up to his part of the agreement to the letter, and the other fellow is pretty apt to live up to his. He is on the outside just as on the inside, and it is no trouble for anybody to know his position on any proposition. While he appreciates the approval of his fellow man for acts done, yet he will not fawn nor quibble nor compromise nor sue to gain the too oft coveted respect of his neighbor. Mr. Hyde is a valuable factor in a community, and the more you learn of him the better you will like him.

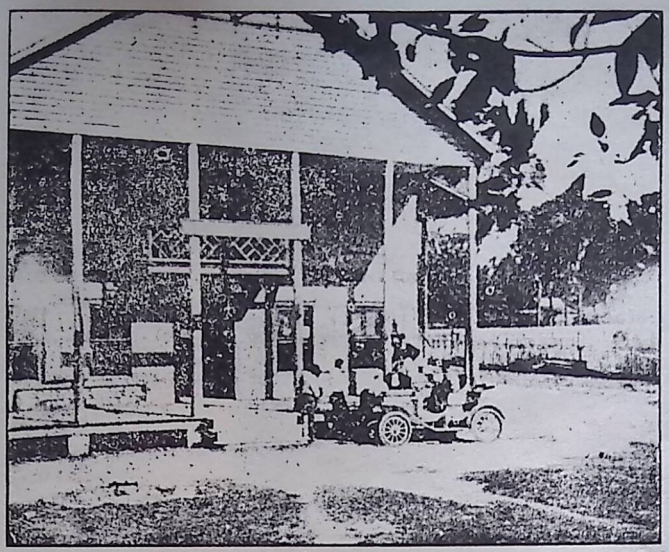
Fishing in Crystal river with rod and line can not be equaled.



Presbyterian Church

The Old Country Store. Gilman Williams, Manager

Dry Goods, Groceries Shoes, Hats,



Caps, Hardware, Boat Supplies

Crystal River, Florida

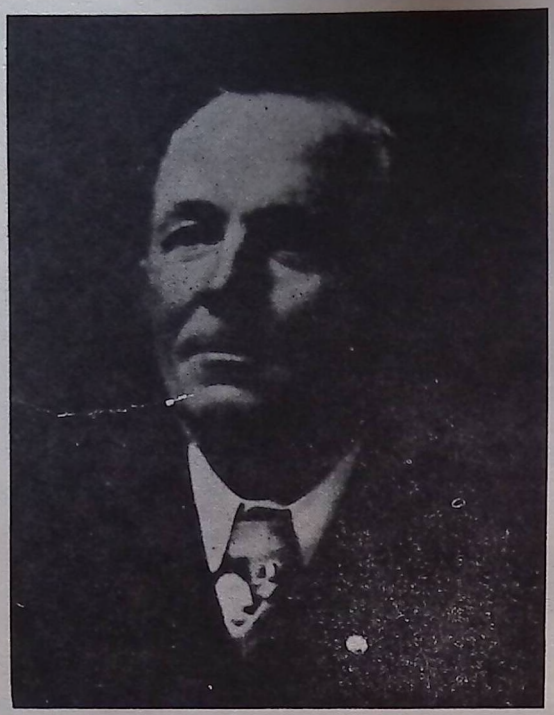
The Racket Store

Dry Goods, Shoes, Hats, Notion ,

Hardware

Ladies' and Gents' Furnishings

W. D. EDWARDS, Proprietor

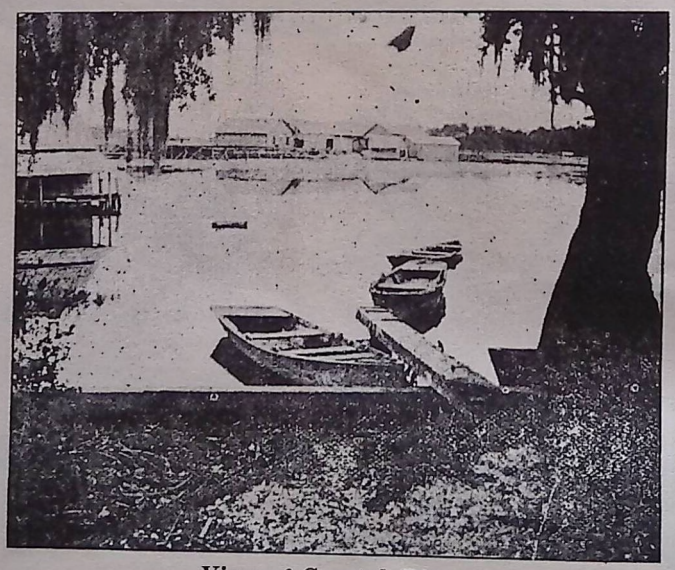


C. E. Herrick

C. E. HERRICK

A score of years ago Mr. C. E. Herrick gave up a position in Tampa that paid eighteen hundred a year to come to Crystal River to accept a place at the Cedar Mill, then owned and operated by Williams, for a consideration that sometimes did not yield him $40 per month. But he was a born cedar man, and saw the future of Florida cedar, and having a keen foresight worked for the future instead of being satisfied with the mediocre present. His first reward was the hand and heart of the fair daughter of the owner of the mill, who has blessed him with a family and memories and a home and happiness that will cheer him through life. His next reward was the complete control of the cedar mill interests as general manager. The plant was sold to the Joseph Dixon Crucible Company, a large corporation of New Jersey, with its chief office and vast manufacturing interests at Jersey City. As manager of all of Dixon's interests in Florida, he has accumulated for them thousands of acres of the choicest cedar lands in the state, and the good will of all the people. He began at the bottom, and worked up, familiarizing himself with every detail, in and out of the mill, connected with the successful manufacture of wood coverings for lead pencils, from the stump to the packing case. Perhaps there is no man who knows more about this division of the industry than he. Give him the three dimensions of a cedar log and he will without the use of a pencil or table tell you the cubical contents in feet and inches. He will tell you how many gross of pencils the log or cord of wood will turn out. He will inspect the bark of a tree and say whether the wood is straight grained or otherwise, and whether it is soft or hard. He knows from experience by geographical location where the best cedar grows. From the age of thirty to fifty, his present years, he has devoted the best period of any man's life to this one study. Capable, competent, industrious, loyal, he has spent the flower of his manhood, full of nervous energy, in selecting the best of the best cedar supply for years to come for the manufacture of lead pencils. The best cedar in the world for pencils is grown in Florida, and having by his superior knowledge and acumen gathered the best of this he has been a prime factor in building up that reputation the Joseph Dixon Crucible Company enjoys around the globe for its famous pencils.

Since early youth Mr. Herrick has had control of labor, and for thirty-five years he has had the respect and confidence and love of his



View of Crystal River



A Group of Fine Jersey Cows Belonging to Mr. J. T. Rawls

munity, the citizens have created under the law a sub-school district and pay a special tax of three mills in addition to the regular county school tax The Crystal River News gives full credit for the success of the school to the judicious management of the educational boards, to the county superintendent and the hearty co-operation of patrons and the earnest work of the teachers.

ALBERT S. KING

Albert S. King, cashier of the Bank of Crystal River, city clerk assessor and treasurer, is a native born Floridian, born on a farm at Lecanto, Citrus county, March 25, 1874. He received a common school education in the rural schools, after completing the common school courses he entered the State Schools where he received Normal training. For five years he was engaged as a teacher in the public, schools four years of which time he was principal of the Lecanto graded school. His commercial training was received in Savannah with the Richmond Business College and in Tampa with the Tampa Business Colloge, where he graduated in the commercial and banking departments. For two years he was assistant postmaster in the Crystal River postoffice Upon the opening of the Bank of Crystal River in August 1907, he was elected cashier, which position he has filled acceptably to the directors and the stockholder. In June 1906, he was unanimously elected town clerk, assessor and treasurer, which position he has held ever since without opposition. Springing from a good southern family, of good reputation and an excellent character he is looked upon as one of the town's leading business men.

Report of Condition of Bank of Crystal River Dec. 31st, 1909.

RESOURCES.

Loans and discounts	$32,321 66
Furniture and fixtures	4,785 24
Due from banks	6,147 29
Cash in vault	6,082 32
	$49,336 51

LIABILITIES.

Capital stock	$15,000 00
Surplus fund	800 00
Undivided profits	1,726 31
Deposits	31,777 23
Cashier checks outstanding	32 97
	$49,336 51

I, A. S. King, Cashier of the Bank of Crystal River, do solemnly swear that the above statement of the condition of said bank at the close of business on the 31st day of December, 1909, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

A. S. KING, Cashier.

Correct attest.

C. E. HERRICK,
JAS. T. RAWLS,
GEO. W. HYDE,
Directors.

STATE OF FLORIDA,
CITRUS COUNTY.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this January 5th, 1910.

[SEAL] J. B. CLARK,
Notary Public.

M. H. BAUM
FREDERICK VAN ROY

Established 1890

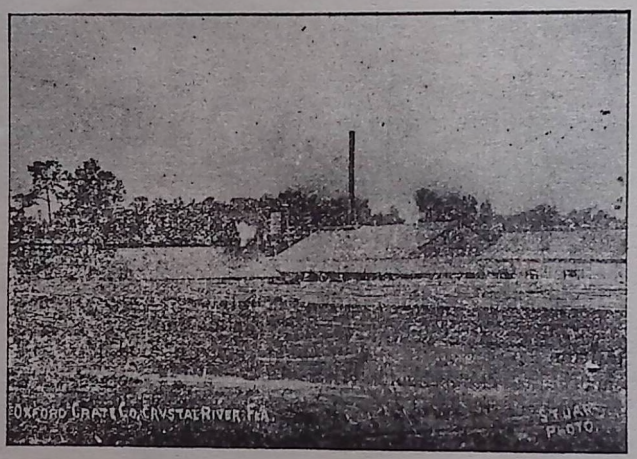
All Contracts Subject to Fires, Strikes and Unavoidable Delays

Oxford Crate Company

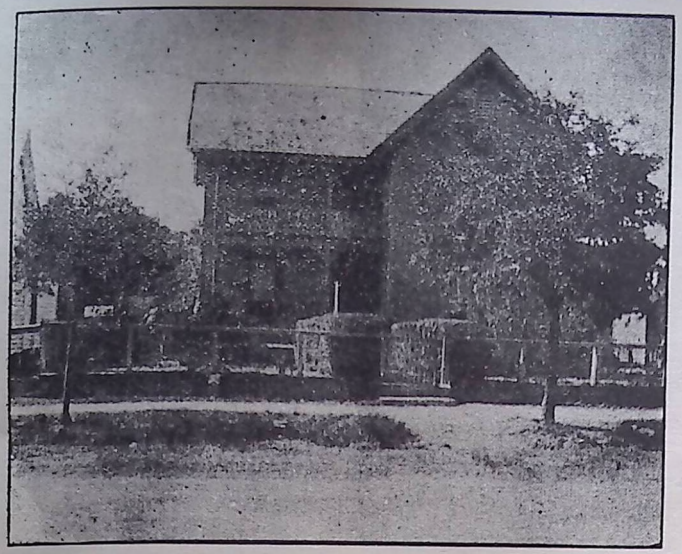
Manufacturers of High-Grade Orange Boxes, Six-Basket Tomato Carriers, Peach Crates, Celery, Egg Plant and Other Fruit and Vegetable Crates.

CRYSTAL RIVER, FLORIDA

Cable Address, "BAUM, CRYSTAL, FLA."



THE OXFORD CRATE COMPANY, composed of Maurice Herbert Baum and Frederick Van Roy, are manufacturers of Orange Boxes, Tomato Carriers, Peach Crates, Celery and other Vegetable and Fruit Crates. Mr. Baum commenced the business twenty years ago at Oxford, Fla., and before moving here adopted the above firm name. The company has been here for eight years, and can obtain a sufficient amount of timber within reasonable distance to last from fifteen to twenty-five years longer. This company bears the reputation of making the best-looking and most substantial Crates in the State. They employ about one hundred men during the season and pay weekly. They ship to Cuba and to other States, although they enjoy a large trade in Florida.



Residence of Mrs. Thos. Hoy

CHARLES A. MILLER

Mr. Charles A. Miller comes from that sturdy stock of Pennsylvania Dutch, descendants from honest folk of Holland, who have made the State of Pennsylvania one of the best agricultural districts of the world. Born some forty years ago of good parents, he early in young manhood came to our county through the advertising of Senator A. S. Mann. Mr. Miller, with a colony of others, settled at Fairmount, about three miles from Crystal River. He had aufficient means to purchase a farm and erect a two-story house. Nobody in Citrus county had ever cultivated land as he did before that time, nor has it been done since. When he cleared land he took out everything—root and branch. When he plowed he plowed deep—ten or twelve inches. The other farmers would smile, and they skimmed the surface, but when harvest time came and went his barn was full, his larder was full, and every merchant in town owed him for produce.

The orange fever was epidemic in Florida twenty years ago, and Mr. Miller soon had a bearing grove, the pride of the neighborhood. When laden with the first crop of golden fruit a frost of one night made him twenty thousand dollars poorer than when the sun went down. With that pluck and grit and industry that have characterized him through life, he turned his attention to farming and trucking and soon recouped a large portion of his lost fortune. He tilled the soil by day and hauled his produce to market by night. The only assistance he had was his small son, Albert, whom he never kept from school a half day. Albert received as good an education as the schools of the county afforded and now occupies a creditable position of trust with the Southern Express Comyany—a reward to the father for duty done his son.

The social life of this colony was without much formality, but in many a pleasant gathering of these (some twenty) families did they enjoy amusement. Mr. Miller was a bachelor then, but young, and his commodious quarters were usually the meeting place for cane-grindings, candy-pullings, dancing and socials. They were enjoying simple life in a genial clime among gentle people.

Many are the reminiscences of this happy living. Many of the girls saw a nice abiding place at the home of Bachelor Miller, but began to think him arrow-proof, until pretty Miss Vassie of Ontario, Canada, shot her dart straight to the mark, while teaching school in our county. The matter was satisfactorily arranged by the minister and they have ever lived a happy couple—one more example to prove that



Five Handsome Sons of Col. and Mrs. N. Barco



One of Crystal River's Beautiful Driveways

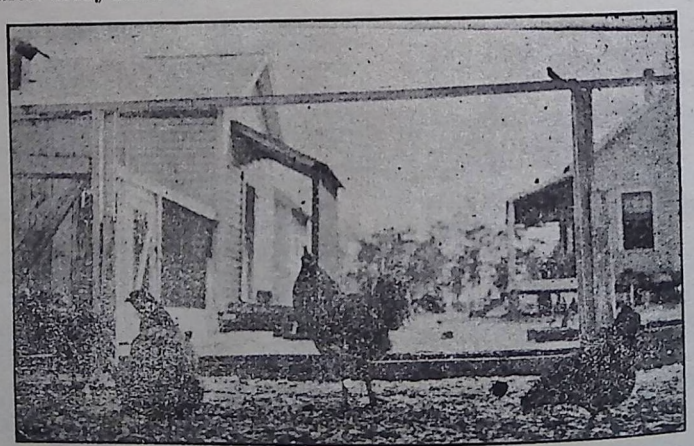
marriage is not always a failure. Their children are polite and well brought up and will make useful men and women.

In recent years Mr. Miller moved to Crystal River and entered the mercantile business. The same industry, honesty and perseverance that have attended him through life have brought him success in this venture, and he now occupies a fine brick building and is one of the leading merchants. He has always taken an active part in public affairs, having been a school official for eighteen years and postmaster for many years in connection with his other business. In all these years he has never been absent from more than one or two meetings of the school board. The same promptness finds him in the chair at every meeting of the Board of Trade, of which he is president and has been since its organization, and at the meetings of the town council, of which he is a member.

His love for tilling the soil still clings to him, and he and Mr. R. D. Smith have now one of the prettiest truck farms in the county, on which may be seen a variety of vegetables—onions, celery, cabbage, lettuce, strawberries, etc. The land is perfectly prepared and the rows are as straight as a gun barrel, evidencing the same methodical, exact character of the man he is. It is not an uncommon sight to see Mr. Miller in the night time, after business hours, with his lantern in hand, setting out plants or watering them, or preparing ground for more, long after many another man is enjoying his bed of ease. With the same pluck, industry, fair-dealing, "stick-at-it" qualities others can do what he has done and is doing, and there is not many better places in which to do it than in Citrus county all over.

Take it all in all, there cannot be found in Citrus county a better citizen than Charlie Miller. Punctual in his appointments, faithful to his trusts, tolerant of the opinions of others, dutiful to his family, true to his friends, public-spirited in affairs of the community, honest in his dealings, sympathetic with mankind, Mr. Miller pursues the even tenor of his life. When David Crockett made his triumphal march through Philadelphia men in all walks of life elbowed one another to "grasp the hand of an honest man—the noblest work of God." Charlie Miller is an honest man!

The idea that the burning of the Dixon cedar mill would ruin Crystal River has been entirely given up by our people here. Every merchant expresses himself as surprised by the volume of business he is doing this, which is considered the dullest season of the year. While the fire was a great loss to Crystal River the town is built on too firm a foundation to be permanently hurt by such a disaster. There is not an able bodied man in the town who wants work that it idle.



Scene in Poultry Yard of C. E. Herrick

L. D. GIBBONS

Boat Yards and Machine Shop

Motor and Sail Boats Built, Gverhauled
and Repaired

Gasoline Engine Repairing

General Machine Work

SHOPS AND YARDS

GIBBONS ISLAND

CRYSTAL RIVER, FLORIDA

HOTEL WILLIS

Open all the Year

Modern Hotel, First Glass Service, Airy Rooms
Special Attention to Tourists

J. W. WILLIS, Prop.

Crystal River, Florida

MILLER & SMITH

GROCERIES
DRY GOODS

CRYSTAL RIVER, FLORIDA

Industrial Review of Crystal River

1910 1910

A Graphic Description, with Illustrations, of the Advantages of Crystal River, Florida, to Homeseekers, Tourists, Hunters, Anglers, Business Men, Sportsmen, Boat Men, Truckers, Farmers, Stock Raisers, and Lovers of an Ideal Climate.

Press of the Crystal River News
Crystal River, Florida

A. D. WILLIAMS

Dealer in General Merchandise,
Hay, Grain and Produce

Glass and Crockery Ware, Guns and Ammunition, Fishing Tackle, Our Specialties

Cold Drink Parlor In Connection

Crystal River, Fla.

L. S. BLACK

FRESH MEATS
and GROCERIES

Crystal River, Fla.

CRYSTAL ICE CO.

J. B. CUTLER, Proprietor

MANUFACTURERS OF

PURE ICE

Cold-Storage Warehouse Run In Connection With Plant

CRYSTAL RIVER, FLORIDA

A Brief Review of Crystal River and Citrus County, Florida

IN PRESENTING to our readers this Industrial Review of Crystal River, we feel that we are not overdrawing a single picture we present. It has been our aim throughout the work to tell the plain truth, and not by word or picture mislead any one. As members of the Board of Trade of Crystal River, and as citizens of the town and of Citrus County, we have the utmost confidence in our town and county. This Review is not sent to you with an idea of getting you to simply invest your money here, but we want you to come and make your home with us and help us to make Crystal River and Citrus County bigger and better.

This section is particularly adapted to the cultivation of vegetables of all kinds. Some of the best lands in the State of Florida are to be found along the shores of Crystal River, and these lands are not owned by any large real estate company, but can be purchased from the individual owner at prices which will allow a person of even small means to secure a home among us. There are still thousands of acres of virgin forest in this section, and there is splendid opportunity here for parties wishing to engage in the lumber business, and the farmer and manufacturer can both be supplied with sites.

We have excellent transportation facilities by both rail and water. Our town is location at the head of Crystal River, eight miles from the Gulf of Mexico, the great southern water highway, and on the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, forty miles south of Ocala.

The educational and religious advantages of Crystal River are not excelled by any town of the same size in the State, and throughout the entire county you will find good schools and churches. The entire citizenship of Citrus County is composed of industrious, God-fearing people, and we want you to come and be one with us.

Any information pertaining to Crystal River and Citrus County will be gladly furnished by addressing the Secretary of the Board of Trade, Crystal River, Florida.

EXCELLENT EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

We are aware of the fact that a great many of our readers know but little of our educational advantages. We maintain a "free system of public schools" second to none in the South. No town in the State affords facilities for primary and secondary education superior to Crystal River. The course of instruction is the same as adopted by the Board of Public Instruction for the entire county, and is thorough and so arranged as to adopt the best thought of the essential studies.

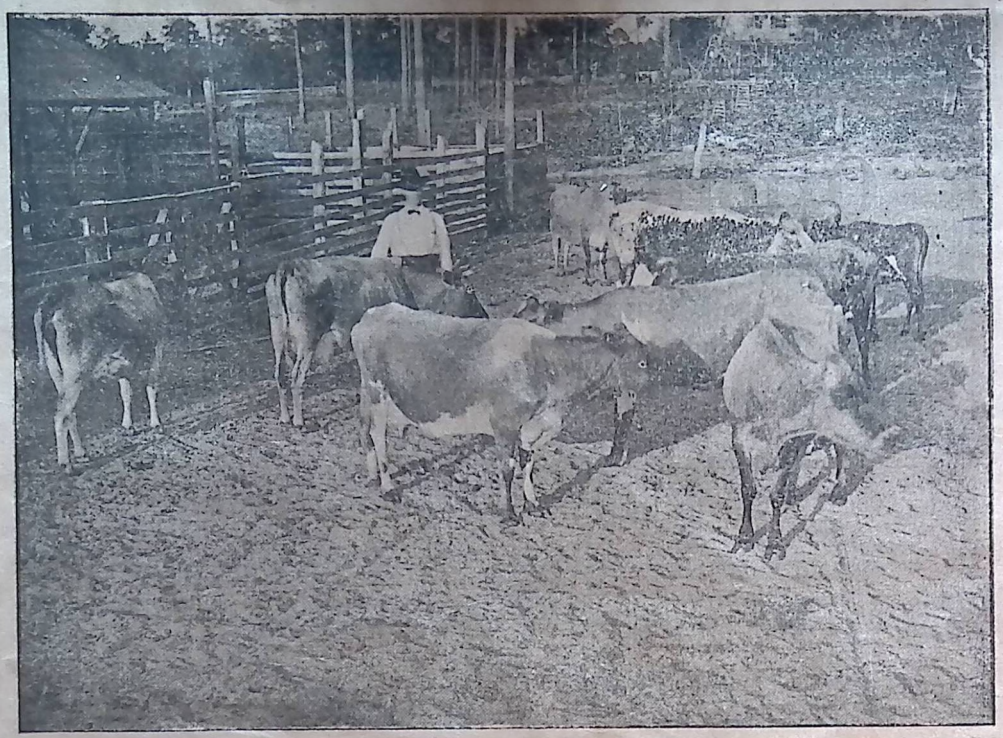
The teachers are experienced and ccompetent, the expenditures liberal, and as a result the school ranks with the best.

Our children—poor and rich alike, all of them—are provided with "free text-books" and tuition without cost, and in fact everything for use in school is furnished by the county school board and local board of trustees. Therefore, it is cheaper to keep children in school here than to have them stay at home for the reason they are taught to care for public and otherwise educated.

Both the county board of public instruction and the local board of trustees give much time and thought to the organization and management of the schools and other manifold duties incident to the conduct of so excellent a system.

Another noticeable educational progress is the handsome $4,500 school building, with three apartments, plastered throughout and otherwise neatly and well finished. The rooms are seated with patented desks and furnished with general supplies.

The length of school term is eight months and the people of Crystal River take great pride in their school. Recognizing that the school is the hope of the com-



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Surplus fund	800 00
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A. S. KING, Cashier.

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C. E. HERRICK,
JAS. T. RAWLS,
GEO. W. HYDE,
Directors.

STATE OF FLORIDA,
CITRUS COUNTY.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this January 5th, 1910.

[SEAL]

J. B. CLARK,
Notary Public.

M. H. BAUM
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Established 1890

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Oxford Crate Company

Manufacturers of High-Grade Orange Boxes, Six-Basket Tomato Carriers, Peach Crates, Celery, Egg Plant and Other Fruit and Vegetable Crates.

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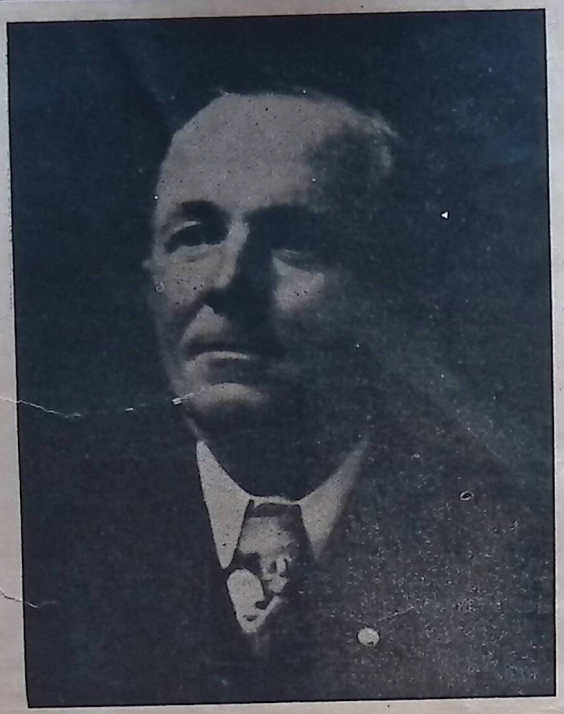

C. E. Herrick

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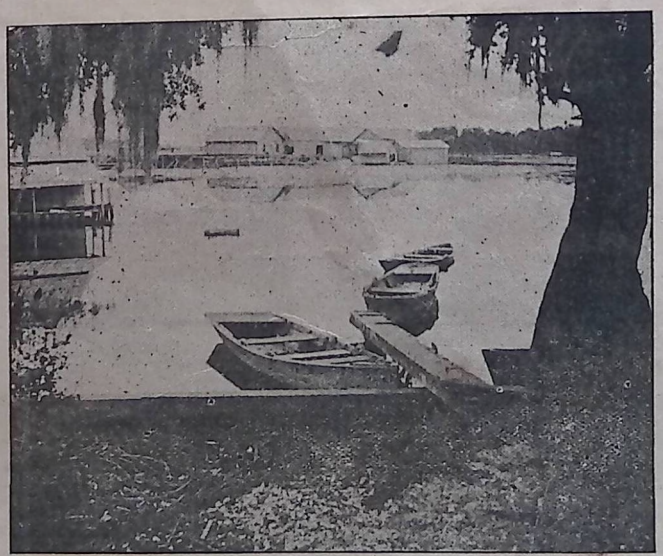
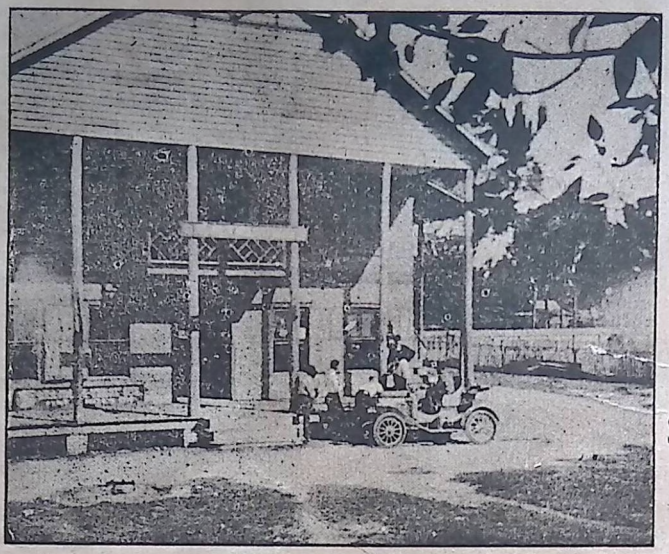


View of Crystal River

The Old Country Store. Gilman Williams, Manager

Dry Goods, Groceries Shoes, Hats,



Caps, Hard-ware, Boat Supplies

Crystal River, Florida

The Racket Store

Dry Goods, Shoes, Hats, Notions,
Hardware
Ladies' and Gents' Furnishings

W. D. EDWARDS, Proprietor



John Juhan

endowed his children with a rich legacy of education and splendid character. These boys have nobly faced the battles of life, and neither they nor their sister have known the want of an immediate dollar.

Mr. Hyde is not such a man as would likely be chosen for a diplomat, for his plain, open manner is sometimes mistaken for brusqueness; but rather he is the person you would select for your executor or administrator, when you wish to be sure in advance that your property will be distributed just exactly as your will might designate. He has had much experience in the banking business in Georgia, and when the Bank of Crystal River was organized here the stockholders naturally turned to him to direct its mechanical workings, with the result that it has as good a system of books and accounting as any other bank in the state, and he is now honored with the office of second vice president.

When the Crystal Publishing Company was tottering on its last legs, and its stock had dwindled in value to twenty cents on the dollar, the stockholders forced on Mr. Hyde the position of manager, and within less than a year he placed it on a sound business and financial basis, employing as many as five mechanical men at a time, and today the stock is worth one hundred cents on the dollar, with bright prospects for the future.

Mr. Hyde is an expert accountant, and is a member of the National Association of Accountants and Bookkeepers.

He is half owner of the Gulf Fish & Oyster Co., one-fourth owner in the Shell-Island Company, a large stockholder in the Bank of Crystal River, also in the Crystal Publishing Company. For some years he has been assistant manager of the Crystal River plant of the Joseph Dixon Crucible Company, and brings to this institution loyal and intelligently expended labors. He has accumulated real estate, believing in the future of Crystal River, and has made it money-earning, and carries a nice rent roll. All his investments are made to pay.

He takes great interest in outdoor sports, but is not attracted by the glare and limelight of cities. He loves to live right jam up to nature.

Mr. Hyde is not what might be termed a ladies' man, nor is he a beaubrummel, but all admit that he would make a good husband, and that he would more than likely also make a good wife. He is a cheerful giver to all charities and public enterprises, and never shirks his full duty in all affairs. In every business transaction he lives up to his part of the agreement to the letter, and the other fellow is pretty apt to live up to his. He is on the outside just as on the inside, and it is no trouble for anybody to know his position on any proposition. While he appreciates the approval of his fellow man for acts done, yet he will not fawn nor quibble nor compromise nor sue to gain the too oft coveted respect of his neighbor. Mr. Hyde is a valuable factor in a community, and the more you learn of him the better you will like him.

Fishing in Crystal river with rod and line can not be equaled.



Presbyterian Church



George W. Hyde

employes. His relation to them is rather that of father to children than boss of hirelings. Out of his hearing he is often mentioned by whites and blacks as "The Father." No service is too menial for him to perform for them, and the least of them can always have his patient ear. Having himself experienced positions in the Divine plan wherein the Fates run the gamut of human feelings from sorrow to joy there is not a chord in the heart of man whose vibration does not find a response in his. As tender as a woman on right occasions he becomes bold at the approach of fraud or deceit or injustice, and the perpetrator is made to regret. No man can shift more quickly from his shoes to the other fellow's in controversy or misunderstanding, and he will insist on "talking the matter out" until there is nothing left to hang a disagreement on.

His busy industry has not withheld him from his civic duties, and he is always present with his share and more of public enterprise. He sits in the council chamber as its president, and is also president of the Bank of Crystal River. It is to his known integrity, good business judgment and popularity that this institution owes much of its wonderful success. Not a dollar has been lost to the stockholders in bad loans, overdrafts or bad management. His is not a policy for the dollar only, but uses the bank as a useful educator to teach the people to save that they may be spared the misfortune of poverty in old age. He also early let it be known that this bank was for the upbuilding of Crystal River and Citrus county, and the many application for attractive loans made by outsiders have politely but firmly been denied.

Mr. Herrick is a gentleman, in all the word implies.

When a visitor calls on him, whether of low or high degree, Mr. Herrick has nothing else on hand so important as to make the caller glad he came. In sickness and in death all the assistance he can render is cheerfully given. This same kindness is shown to all, to all races of people, to children and to the lower animals. He views the world and its ages and weakness with a broad mind and charitable heart, and it appears to the observer that his greatest happiness comes from the realization of having alleviated some suffering, bettered some condition, directed some erratic, softened some sorrow, sympathized with the bereaved, and shared in their joys.

GEORGE W. HYDE

Thirty years ago Mr. George W. Hyde was born in Georgia, one of seven or eight sons and one sister, children of a Presbyterian minister of the old school of Puritanic beliefs and practices, who adhered strictly to the rule of Solomon "spare the rod and spoil the child." At his death the good father left not much of this world's goods, but



Offices of Jos. Dixon Crucible Company

CRYSTAL RIVER'S INDUSTRIES.



Seven miles from the Gulf of Mexico on the headwaters of the beautiful river of the same name is the thriving town of Crystal River, with its factories, financial and mercantile establishments.

Prominent among the manufacturing plants here may be mentioned the following:

Cedar Mill of the Joseph Dixon Crucible Company, which has been in constant operation for the past twenty-seven years, with its hundreds of employees engaged in the gathering of cedar logs and their manufacture into stock for "Dixon's Pencils."

The Oxford Crate Compnay, manufacturers of vegetable and orange crates, which has been operating here for the past five years with its large force of employees. This factory is under the active management of the owners with a corps of efficient workmen, all of whom are hustling and wide-awake men. The product of this factory stands first in its class, as is evidenced by their rapidly-increasing business and the many carloads of stock shipped to Cuba, in addition to supplying in a large degree the demands from the orange and vegetable growing part of the State.

The Ox Fiber Factory, which manufactures fiber from the cabbage palm. This plant employs many men engaged in the gath ering of the material in addition to the factory employees. Their product has ready sale and they contemplate doubling the present capacity of the plant withln a few months.

The Crystal Ice Company, under the management of its hustling owner, Mr. J. B. Cutler, is another thriving enterprise. The product has a ready sale to our large fish houses and to supply out of town and local customers. This plant has recently doubled its capacity to respond to the rapidly increasing demands made upen it.

Eleven mercantile establishments, with an annual business of over two hundred thousand dollars, carry everything necessary for the comfort of man in



View of Crystal River—Dixon Mill in the Distance

whatever condition of life, and many of the luxuries to attract the nimble sixpence. The endeavor is to have everything in stock that may be called for, and in this they are highly successful.

The Bank of Crystal River does a general banking business. This bank is absolutely a home institution and its officers and directorate are among our most conservative business men. Notwithstanding the strenuous financial times since its opening for business (August, 1907), it has continued to climb and shows a very nice deposit and surplus, as will be seen from their advertisement on another page.

Two millinery parlors, in which may be found at all times attractive and latest styles of goods usually found in stores of this kind for the delight of the women folks.

Four wholesale fish dealers are located here, doing a large business in the collecting and shipping of fish and oysters, as well as supplying the local demands. The owners of these enterprises are hard-working business men and their shipments aggregate many carloads each day.

Four barber shops are located here and all receive their share of work in their line. They are happy and prosperous.

The soft-drink parlors supply the thirsty with their refreshments and are always busy dispensing to their many customers the delectable and satisfying beverages always to be found in places of this nature.

Two large and prosperous turpentine farms are located near here, employing a large force of men in this manufacturing industry. The product from these farms is all shipped from Crystal River via the Atlantic Coast Line Railway to Jacksonville and other cities.

Thirty-five motor propelled crafts ply our river These boats range in size from small skiff boats to the larger ones of sixty feet and over. Many of these boats are equipped for pleasure and the sportsman can hire them for a fair price per day.

Hard roads and streets make driving a plasure whether in the town or to distant places, it being possible to travel many hundreds of miles in the swift-moving automobile or on motorcycle.

One marine railway, capable of handling vessels of eighty feet in length, with additional boat yards for the repairing of smaller boats, will be found in active operation.

One canning factory will be operated within the next few months with a large and competent force of men to can vegetables and oysters.

Numerous hotels and boarding houses are here to accommodate the most exacting. The tables are supplied with the best the market affords and the feed is prepared by accomplished chefs, assisted by corps of experienced cooks and assistants.

Shell Island, situated at the

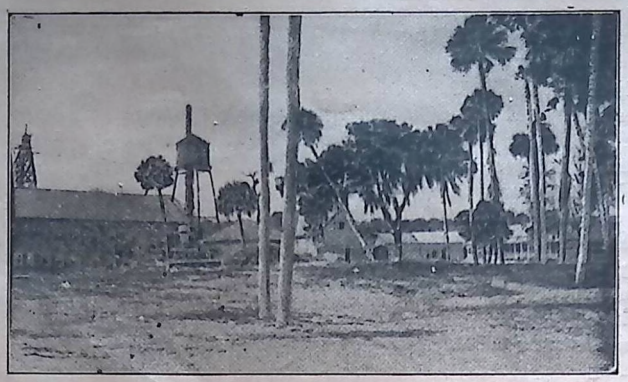


juncture of Crystal River and the Gulf of Mexico, has cottages for the accommodation of the tourists who wish to be near the tarpon fishing grounds, and for the accommodation of the many who spend their summers and winters on the coast to bring again the blush of health to their cheeks and the elasticity of step which only perfect health gives.

Beautiful Crystal River, with its millions of fish for the entertainment of the sportsman tourist, its hundreds of large springs to delight the eye of sight-seers, and with its tropical growth crowning the banks make this an ideal place for those who fly the cold and rigorous North and wish to bask in the sunny clime of this Gulf coast. The anti-seining law, enforced for the past few months, shows the happiest results in the great increase in numbers of the game fish in our river. It is the usual thing now for an hour's troll to result in a catch of from 25 to 50 pounds.

While the manufactured products that are shipped from our town annually easily reach the million mark, the impression should not be gained that we are only a "mill town." Such is widely divergent from the facts. We have six churches, two schools, a board of trade, a village improvement society, and there cannot be found a quieter town of more law-abiding citizens in the State. The farming industries and the number of tourists are doubling yearly.

To close this sketch of Crystal River's industries without mention of the Crystal River News would make this review far from covering the field. The News is now far advanced in its fourth volume of publication and enjoys a patronage commensurate with which Crystal River supports all deserving industries. Its covers Citrus county as to local happenings, and it is far from being the mouth-piece of any clique or ring and fearlessly expresses itself on any question of public import. It is an important industrial factor.



View of the Dixon Cedar Mill



Drying Sheds of the Oxford Crate Company

FACTS ONLY ARE STATED

It has been the earnest endeavor of the Crystal River Board of Trade to see to it that only facts appear in these pages, realizing that it would serve no good purpose to misstate or color any of the conditions, as the sole object is to bring good people here who wish to find a place as described in this magazine. If it were not as stated, we know the cheat would soon be discovered and we would gain nothing. We live in what we think is a fine section for trucking, gardening, farming, stock-raising, fishing, hunting, etc., and invite others to come and share with us, to work with us, to play with us and to prosper with us. There is enough for all.

Within two miles of Crystal River, just a pleasant ride or bicycle run or brisk walk, through a delightfulful pineywoods, there is a sulphur spring 1,600 feet deep, hot as one could bear to bathe in, gushing through a pipe, leaving prismatic colors all about. At this place a company was boring for oil, and after striking several springs with more or less sulphur, which they despised and passed, they came upon this one, which would not be disregarded, and has stopped work for the time being. This is a most interesting place to visit and on the way one can stop at "The Wishing Well" and drink the wonderfully clear water while wishing your dearest wish. It is quite as efficacious as the famous Blarney stone, if not more so.

Village Improvement Society

In April, 1907, a few of the ladies of Crystal River, becoming tired of seeing their town so far behind other small places, and feeling that something ought to be done to improve the appearance of the place, called a meeting to be held at The Strathcona Inn. A very few responded, but nothing daunted, the few organized a society to be called "The Village Improvement Society of Crystal River," adopted a code of rules and regulations and elected the following officers: President, Mrs. N. Barco; vice-president, Mrs. Paul Boellert: secretary, Mrs. Alfred Rushton; treasurer, Mrs. Jack Cutler.

The first meeting of the Village Improvement Society was held at Mrs. Barco's, where the men of the town were conspicuous by their absence. This was afterwards explained by the fact that, being business men, they could not attend in the afternoon. The hour of meeting was then changed from afternoon to evening, since when those interested have attended.

The members of the V. I. S. flatter themselves that had there never been a V. I. S. there would never have been a Board of Trade, which would have been a serious loss to the city, that body having accomplished many material benefits to the city since its inception.

The V. I. S. started in by clearing the streets and planting trees, live oaks alternated with palmetto palms, and, though the trees are young, already they are a great improvement and out streets look more finished and comely. There are great schemes already in the minds of the members, which include a railway park with a drinking fountain, benches, flower beds and shade trees. While the first idea of the society is to promote the



Residence of W. N. Knight



Residence of J. T. Rawls



Residence of R. J. Knight

jewfish, mullet, pompano, sailor's choice, shad, sheepshead, shiner, blackfish, grunt, red fish, red snapper and mangrove snapper.

Ducks darken the waters.

To the real sportsman or sportswoman there remains the great kingfish, or tarpon, or tarpum. The sportsman who has not landed one of these monsters has in store a great pleasure. We cannot better close this article than by reproducing a paragraph of a local paper describing an actual occurrence:

"Mrs. C. C. M. Hunt, of Palmyra, N. Y., is continuing her good luck catching tarpon. She has caught many weighing over 100 pounds. Her husband is a good second, but she lays him away in the shade. It is fine sport to see the mammoth fish struggling against the strength and skill of a handsome woman. Mr. Hunt can scarcely refrain from offering her assistance, but a look from a piercing eye is enough to quell the restive but well-disciplined husband. Now the fish runs out with the line; now she pulls him in; now he jumps high out of the water, ten or twelve feet; now he comes with his black, wide-open mouth —ca-chug! into the water; and thus the combat wages for from ten to twenty minutes, until endurance and science overcome the sea king and he is hauled in"



Crystal River High School

Trucking and Farming Around Crystal River

An official of the Federal Government was once upon a time sent to Florida to investigate and make a report as to the character of the soil, its productiveness and desirability for farming. He reported that it was worthless, being nothing more than a bed of sand that would not produce anything. This official now rests in peace (at least he is dead), but Florida is in full bloom. We have Sanford for celery, Lawtey and Starke for strawberries and Hastings for Irish potatoes. These places have become famous simply because the people who settled there have turned their attention to the channels of industry mentioned and have made fortunes out of their occupations. The same character of soil exists all over the Florida peninsula. There is not a county in the State that will not produce as good celery as is raised at Sanford, as fine potatoes as are raised at Hastings or as luscious strawberries as are grown at Lawtey.

Citrus county is no exception. There is poor land in Citrus as there is in every county of every State or empire in the world; but, on the other hand, there is as much good land as you will find in any other county in the State. We have red clay, gray sandy lands, black loamy sandy lands, muck lands, hammock



Scenery on Crystal River

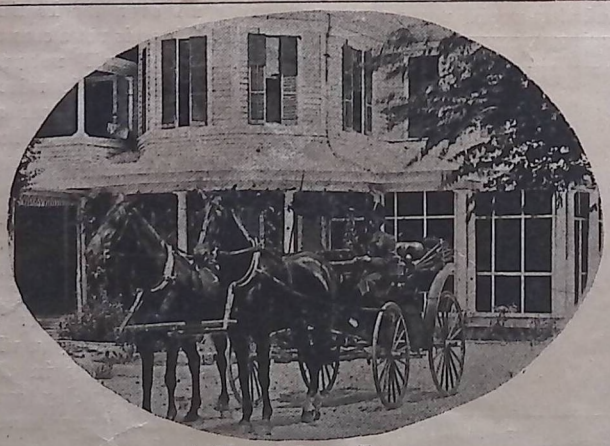
and piney lands, lands with clay subsoil, and all kinds of lands, limestone and shell lands—lands that will produce anything, including oranges, grapefruit, figs, bananas, etc.

J. H. Stratner, three miles from Crystal River, has a small orange grove that produces as fine oranges as can be found in the world. At Inverness, which is the county seat of Citrus county and distant eighteen miles from Crystal River, orange and grapefruit groves flourish. At Ozello, a few miles from Crystal River, Enoch Brown has a fine fig orchard.



Some of the truckers about here are now bringing to our town as fine specimens of beans, tomatoes, etc., as you will see in any market. J. B. Cutler cultivated celery last season on a small scale and found that our soil is as well adapted to it as the lands at Sanford, where he once resided, and as a result of his experiment he organized a stock company and is now growing an immense tract of it. There are two other farms of celery growing here nicely. There are several fields of cabbage growing here now to the satisfaction of the most critical and exacting cultivator of this vegetable.

Sweet potatoes are a staple crop that produces as much as 300 bushels to the acre. White Bermuda onions never grew on soil better than here. Sugar-cane reaches 28 and 30 joints and yields a syrup of fine flavor. We challenge the State for a better and healthier yield of grapes than Messrs. W. H. Espey, James McMahon and Morris Wenrick grow. Mr. Bellamy, of Inverness, on his irrigated farm, produced early the past season on six acres as many cucumbers as any other farmer in the State. Colonel T. P. Lloyd and F. M. Dampier, who have irrigated farms in Inverness, prove that Citrus county has as fine land as there is in Florida.



A Crystal River Team

Major George Butler of Inverness, Mrs. G. H. Stratner, Mrs. W. H. Espey and Miss Mattie Bradley can show as good results from poultry yards as anybody else anywhere:

Mr. James T. Rawls is demonstrating with his modern dairy of blooded cows and cleanly scien-



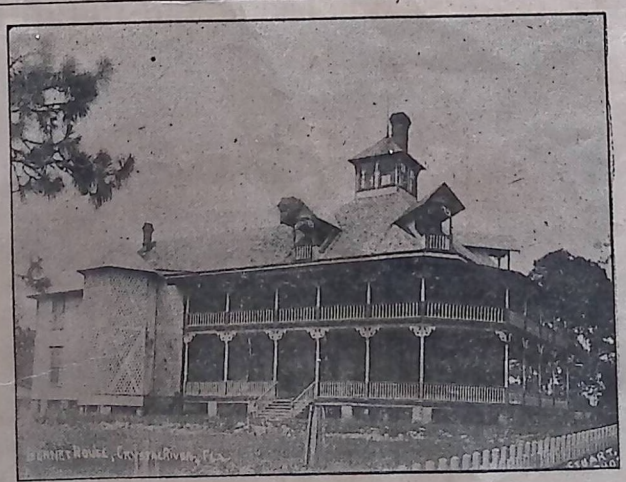
The Hotel Willis

tific methods what can be done in this line. He is making a great success. Mr. C. A. Miller and Mr. R. D. Smith have planted a "model truck farm" this season, and it is worth going miles to see. Mr. George W. Hyde proved the past season that as many dollars' worth of watermellons could be grown to the acre here as elsewhere. Mr. J. J. Priest has been doing this also for years.

There is five times as much trucking and gardening being done here now as there was two years ago, and the prospects are that this will soon develop into an agricultural district in a short time. Certain kinds of peaches do well here, and so do pears. The usual garden crops grow in prolific abundance.

Mr. Gilman Williams is grafting the natural growth of hickory shrubs with pecan buds, which are developing wonderfully well, and will be bearing in a few years. What formerly required twenty or twenty-five years' time to find out you had nothing by the old pecan method, now takes but five years at the outside to have a paying pecan grove. Mr. W. H. Espey had one of these budded trees to yield six pounds of nuts after the third year. The shipping facilities are ample.

Lands at present are low in price, but are increasing. Good farms in woods can be purchased at from five to ten dollars per acre. From ten to twenty-five acres make a good farm. Hard surfaced roads are being rapidly constructed, and will soon pass every man's land. Any homeseeker wishing to locate with us will be protected by the Board of Trade. The Board of Trade will, without charge, select a tract of land, and see that the title is good, and put the seeker into direct communication with the owner. We want homeseekers and homebuilders, men who will work and do something. Nobody can make anything anywhere without work. Hard, well directed labor here will make any man handsome returns. A home-builder needs some money, not much, but some. He can sell his acres North and invest here in double the number of acres of better land, and farm the year round, raising several crops per year on the same land with large yields. Farming is pleasant all winter, and on account of the Gulf breezes is not unpleasant in summer. Taxes are very low. There is no farm far from a church or school house, and school books and education are free.



The Strathcona Inn

CRYSTAL RIVER DRUG CO.

DRUGGISTS

FISHING TACKLE — CIGARS AND TOBACCO

Post Cards and Souvenirs

AGENTS FOR HAWKS' LENSES — FULL LINE NUNNALLY'S CANDIES

J. E. STEVENS — J. K. EUBANKS

Crystal Fish and Oyster Co.,

Wholesale and Retail Dealers

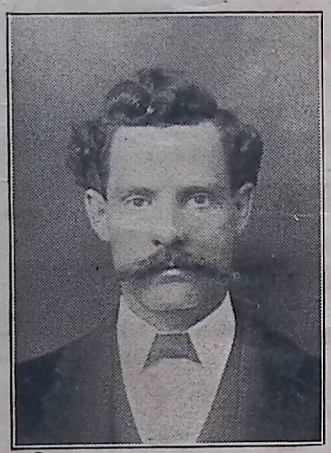


PROMPT SHIPMENTS — CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED

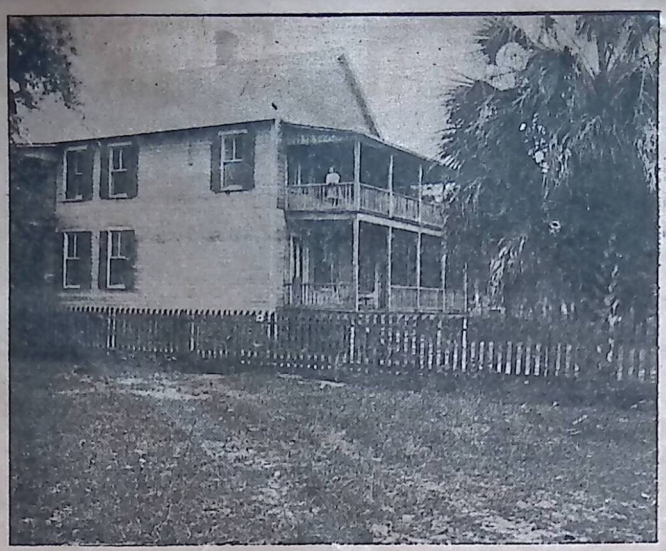
GIVE US YOUR STANDING ORDERS

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT, R. L. TURNER.

The subject of this sketch is one of the most remarkable young men in educational circles in the state. He was born near South Dunnellon, in this county, in 1879. With no particular advantages, save unusual vim and vigor, he has steadily advanced and may really be classed among our self-made men. His parents were not wealthy but in good circumstances, and they did all in their power to give him a good education. He aspired to be a teacher in the public schools,



R. L. TURNER



Residence of Gilman Williams

and prepared himself for that work, attending the Normal School at Jasper, and Stetson University, and he had not taught long before it became generally known that he was a born educator.

At no time since he began his career as teacher has he been otherwise than successful. In 1900 the people saw in him the timber for a County Superintendent of Public Instruction, and he was elected as such by the voters of Citrus county, and has held that important office since and will probably continue to hold it as long as he desires. By economical methods and safe investments he has accumulated considerable property which yields him a handsome income, and is safe from want. As superintendent, he is thoroughly devoted to the work. We venture to assert that he expends two-thirds of his salary for the betterment of schools and advancement of teachers and pupils. Nearly every educational association held in Florida finds him there and, being a fluent speaker, he never fails to make a good impression, and is a power in such meetings, his sincerity and self-evident devotion to education always securing the plaudits of his hearers.

Of late, he has become interested in agricultural education and many a farmer's boy in Citrus county will be aided by it. So enthusiastic is he in this particular, that he will send a boy from each school district in the county to enter the agricultural department of the State University next year for three months, bearing all expenses himself.

Mr. Turner is continually on



N. Barco's Orange Grove, in Crystal River



Crystal River Driveway

the road looking after the interests our schools, and we have known him to light out on a bitter cold night in December, 1906, twenty miles from home and determined to reach there by daylight, after successfully settling a minor difference in a country school. He wants perfect harmony to exist in all of the schools and he always secures it. While he is not inclined to be too arrogant or authoritative, neither is he too lenient or lax in his duties.

A teacher under him must come up to the standard set by him—or walk the plank. Every school and every schoolhouse in the county is a monument to his untiring energy, perseverance and determination to better educate the youth.

Citrus county will never get a better superintendent in every respect than R. L. Turner, and while he has been seriously spoken of as State Superintendent, our people would by no means consent to such a change. He belongs here in Citrus county and will be kept here, if the wish of our people is obeyed.

JAMES T. RAWLS

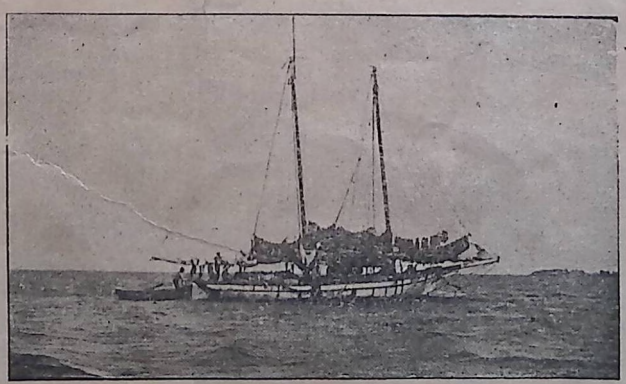
Mr. James T. Rawls comes from a family of good old Virginia stock, having been born in that State some forty-five years ago. He was happily married to a Miss Mollie Jones of the same State, an accomplished woman of intellectual qualities, possessed of lovable attributes and a sweet disposition.

They early came to Florida, where Mr. Rawls has continuously held executive positions which commanded handsome compensation. He superintended the construction of the large manufacturing plant of the Crystal River Lumber Company here and controlled its operation until the late panic forced it to close down.

Having provided himself with a comfortable home in our town, and believing in the future of Crystal River, he sought to engage in enterprises on his own account. He soon became half-owner in the Crystal River Drug Company, half owner in the Gulf Fish and Oyster Company and a large stockholder in the Bank of Crystal River. All of his investments have been judiciously made and are yielding him satisfactory revenues.

The people have honored him with the first vice-presidency of the Bank of Crystal River, elected him to the board of county commissioners and placed him in the council chamber. His industry never permits him an idle moment, and the belated pedestrian may see the dim flicker from the midnight oil in his residence and know that Mr. Rawls sits there working out his business affairs or improving his methods by scientific research.

If the human face is a correct index to character, Mr. Rawls is a good man, for his expression is as innocent as that of a child. He enjoys the reputation of being just in his dealings and fair in his opinions, and we label him as one of our very best citizens.



Sponger Off Crystal River

BANK OF CRYSTAL RIVER

ORGANIZED AUGUST 1907

OFFICERS

C. E. HERRICK
Prestdent

JAMES T. RAWLS
Vice-President

GEORGE W. HYDE
Vice-President

ALBERT S. KING
Cashier



DIRECTORS

C. E. HERRICK

JAMES T. RAWLS

GEORGE E. LONG

M. WENRICH

JOHN H. BROWN

C. E. ALLEN

GEO. W. HYDE

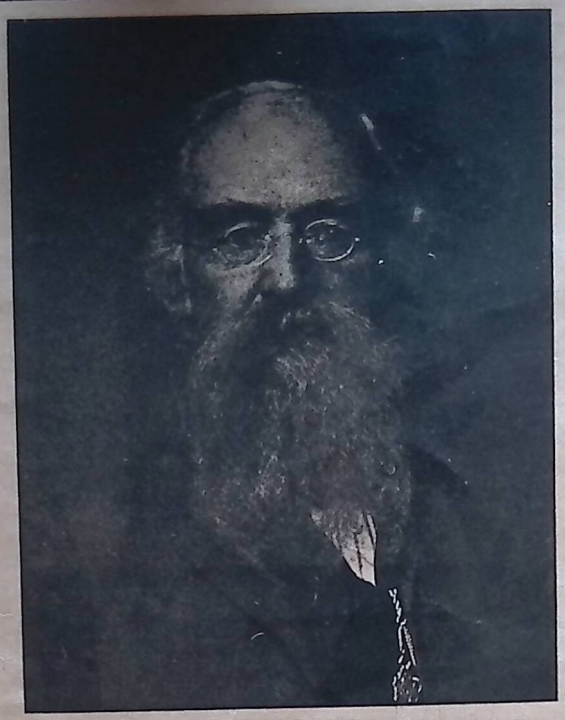
CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED

DIXON HOUSE

Crystal Rivers Leading Hotel



CRYSTAL RIVER, :-: :-: FLORIDA



Doctor J. D. Bennett

DR. J. D. BENNETT

In 1840 Dr. J. D. Bennett first saw the light of day in the grand old State of Missouri. The admission of this State into the Union gave rise to the Dred Scott case, with reference to the slave traffic. The final decision of the Supreme Court of the United States determining the rights of slaveholders directly involved States' rights, and the difference of opinion in this respect among the people of the States precipitated the Civil War. At the outbreak of this war Dr. Bennett had just arrived at his majority and was attending college at Fulton, in that State. Educated, well-read and zealous in the cause which he believed to be right, his young blood was ready to be shed in defense of the Southland in its claim for States' rights. Entering the Confederate army as a private, he served with distinction and was advanced to the sergeancy.

When the cause that he and like believers had submitted to the arbitrament of arms was lost he yielded to the decision and turned his useful life to the study of medicine. He graduated from the St. Louis Medical College and began the active practice of his profession in Illinois—a State that had so recently and successfully engaged in the antagonistic conflict with him. This fact was early evidence of the broadness of his mind. His physical constitution had become weakened by pulmonary trouble and frequently recurring hemorrhages of the lungs admonished him that he must soon seek the milder clime of the country for which he had in battle offered his life. Although the Southland had lost all her property, her prestige, the flower of her youth, and even her liberty, she still possessed her life-giving and health-restoring climate, and in Citrus county, Florida, Dr. Bennett was made hale and strong. He is now enjoying robust health and a life of usefulness at the age of three-score-and-ten.



Driveway in Crystal River

GULF FISH & OYSTER CO.

Wholesale Fish and Oysters

The House Which Guarantees You Entire Satisfaction



We have the exclusive control at this point of the "VAC-JAC" Oyster Carrier, the most sanitary carrier on the market, complying in every respect to the National Pure Food Law. Oysters packed in this carrier retain their natural flavor and reach you in perfect condition. : : : :

Our supply of fish are received daily from our own fiish-eries and we guarantee to ship our customers nothing but the freshest and best of stock. Give us your order.

Gulf Fish & Oyster Co.

C. A. MILLER CO.

MERCHANTS

Crystal River, :-: Florida



Street Scene in Crystal River

He brought with him to the Fairmount settlement, near Crystal River, in 1883, a wife of ten years, having married Miss Luella Huron, of Avon, Ind., who proved such a congenial and resourceful companion in moulding the home-life and establishing the high educational standard and spiritual reverence among the good people of our county. Two estimable daughters have blessed their union—Mrs. R. J. Knight of Clearwater, Fla., and Mrs. Montanus of Springfield, Ohio. These two daughters could be proudly held up as models in any home for the proper manner of bringing up children, and it it must be a comfort to the venerable couple to contemplate in their declining years the fruits of their piety and habits of rectitude during a long pilgrimage of earthly trials and vicissitudes.

Dr. and Mrs. Bennett have worked hand-in-hand for their fellow-man, both taking an active and efficient part in educational and church work. They have taught under the pine trees of balmy Florida the life of the Master to the youth of this county, which has made them better men and better women. She has taught in the public schools of the county and he has managed their affairs as a school official for a score of years. They established a normal school in their very home and money was no prerequisite to entrance there.

The freeze of over a decade ago destroyed a bearing orange grove, the bulk of the property of Dr. Bennett. He again submitted and came from Fairmount to Crystal River, where he has since resided. In his unostentious way he has practiced his profession in this county for 28 years with more success in maladies peculiar to this section than any other physician. Perhaps it is not going to the extreme to assert that there is not a man living who is better authority on that dreaded and fatal disease, hemorrhagic fever. He never absents himself, day nor night, from the bedside of the patient at needful moments, and has lost but one case in all his experience. His writings on the treatment of this disease have been published in the best medical journals of the world and his methods are followed by the best physicians. Many a person cheerfully acknowledges his rescue from death by the skillful hand of Dr. Bennett. He answers promptly the call of the white and the black, the rich and the poor, and no debtor was ever made to feel the pecuniary necessities of Dr. Bennett.



View of One of the Big Springs

a home boy, having been born in the adjoining county of Marion. His parents equipped him with a good education, which has advanced him to many positions of trust and honor, the duties of which he has discharged with a rare fidelity. After serving with credit to himself in one of the county offices of Marion he came to Crystal River, which he has since made his home. If he never does anything more, he made a fortune when he married the beautiful daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Griggs of Oxford, Fla.

Mr. Stevens engaged in the mercantile business for some time, which he abandoned to accept a lucrative position with the Crystal River Lumber Company of this place, which he filled until the mill closed down in 1907. He then entered a partnership with with Mr. J. K. Eubanks to conduct a wholesale fish and oyster business under the firm name of the Crystal Fish and Oyster Company, of which Mr. Stevens is manager.

Two years ago his friends induced him to enter the race for the office of circuit court clerk of this county. His campaign was pitched on a high plane and he made a clean race, but was defeated by his opponent, Hon. Walter F. Warnock, the present incumbent. This defeat was no discredit to Mr. Stevens, however, for it was a known fact that no man in the county could have beaten Mr. Warnock.

Mr. Stevens is now serving his third term as mayor of Crystal River. In his first race he won over two opponents and in his second race defeated one opponent, his administration giving such general satisfaction that he had no opposition for the present term.

Mr. Stephens is also justice of the peace for this district, having been elected to this office without opposition. In his official capacity he acts without fear or favor, and with the co-operation of Mr. Quitman Hay, marshal of Crystal River and deputy sheriff of Citrus county, he has cleared the town of blind tigers and other undesirable places, and it is no exaggeration to say that we have as good and law-abiding citizenship in our little town as will be found anywhere.

CRYSTAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

On the night of January 10th, 1907, all the property of the Crystal River Publishing Company went up into flames. This corporation had with more or less success published at Crystal River the "Crystal River News," which issued several special industrial editions that were a credit to the town and to the authors of the publications.

The loss by fire was total, not a dollar of insurance for protection, but the friends of the "News" in and out of the county immediately subscribed stock to the amount of $2,000.00, and organized the Crystal Publishing Company, which took up and continued the publication of the "News." Mr. A. S. King was the first editor and publisher of this paper. John E. Bell, of Missouri, succeeded him. Mr. C. A. Miller afterwards became manager, and he was succeeded by the present manager, Mr. G. W. Hyde, in the first part of 1909. Mr. Hyde secured some months ago the services of Mr. P. B. Bowie, former foreman of the job printing department of the Ocala Star, as editor of the News, and foreman of the mechanical department of the paper and job printing. The Crystal Publishing Company immediately took long strides towards success and prosperity. Mr. Hyde is a thorough business man and a good financier, and Mr. Bowie, who married the foster daughter of Major Butler of the Citrus County Chronicle, who is acknowledged by the press of the State as without a peer as local editor, has permanently settled here with his family, and he is right up in the forefront in his profession. The plant of the News is modern and up-to-date, with two job presses run by gasoline power. A photograph will be seen in this magazine, showing Mr. Hyde, Mr. Bowie, and four printers, Messrs. Stafford, Temple, Snow and McCord, with the old janitor, in front of the home of the News, built expressly for the News. This magazine, under the auspices of the Board of Trade, was entirely manufactured by the Crystal Publishing Company.

The hotels of Crystal River are now enjoying an unprecedented tourist season, and all manner of inducements are being held out to the home-seeker to come and live with us.

L. S. SPARKMAN

CASH GROCER

CRYSTAL RIVER, FLORIDA

JOHN JUHAN

Juhan is not old enough to have made much history, having barely passed his majority, but he appears to have started on the right road to success, honor and prosperity. Born in Ocala, Fla., twenty-two years ago, he and his sister were left orphans at a tender age with a widowed mother of scanty means for his support. Dr. H. M. Taylor, formerly of this place, was attracted by the lad, and employed him as clerk in a drugstore here while a mere youth. Dr. Taylor showed a keen insight into character, for Mr. Juhan proved to be an efficient clerk, and by his politeness, affability and tact he established a profitable business for his employer.

As a reward for his services on retiring from practice here Dr. Taylor sold a one-half interest in the drugstore to Mr. Juhan on credit, as the necessities of his family whose only support he was did not permit him to hoard money from a clerk's salary. Within a short time the debt was paid to the last cent, the stock was increased, the store was painted and brightened to the aspect of thrift and enterprise.

His pretty sister has married happily and well, and a little one now prattles on a proud uncle's knees. The mother is living in comfort with her dutiful son, who has nobly borne the heavy burden placed upon the shoulders of a beardless youth. If he have an enemy the enemy keeps the secret, for no tongue was ever heard to speak ill against Johnnie; but all agree in kindness spoken of him. There are some whose reputation would have been saved had their biographies been written at the age of twenty-two, and not thereafter, but we predict that in later years when some one shall again assume the task of the writer he will be able to truthfully unfold bright pages of history of a useful man, a good citizen and a true husband, for such is the crown of a noble son.

COLONEL NICKABUD BARCO

Colonel Barco is universally known as the "town booster of Crystal River." No other man among us has talked more at home and abroad, to the press and to individuals, in private and in public, of the advantages of his home town than Mr. Barco.

Recently a circuit court judge came rushing into Crystal River looking for that man Barco. He said: "I was at the Tampa Bay Hotel on my way to Cuba when I overheard a loud voice declaiming to a large crowd concerning the beautiful waters, fertile soil, fine fishing, bountiful hunting, inexhaustible minerals, agreeable climate and good people of Crystal River. I was much impressed, as also the others appeared to be, and sought his acquaintance, and promised him that on my return from Cuba I would certainly come to his town. So that is why I am here, and I want to say that in Colonel Barco you have the best 'town booster' in the State, and I find since my sojourn here that all he says is true. You have a nice town, a fine climate and beautiful waters. I intend to remain with you for some time."

This is only one instance of Mr. Barco's effective missionary work. He has labored in season and out of season for deeper water, and in conjunction with others succeeded in securing a six-foot channel and an appropriation by congress for a new survey to find a project a ten-foot stage He has also exerted his untiring efforts to secure another railroad to our town, and success will sooner or later crown his efforts, as it is very probable that the Seaboard will extend its line here, having already, under the auspices of Colonel Barco and Colonel J. B. Cutler, who is a practical railroad man, recently made a survey from Otter Creek to this place. If every man in Crystal River would do the same amount of intelligent work as Mr. Barco we would soon have a city rivaling in beauty and wealth any of our sister towns.

Mr. Barco was born in Lake City, Fla., some years ago, but as soon as he discovered Crystal River he migrated to it and has resided here since. He has seen the town grow and prosper from a small postoffice village, when mails would come to it at irregular intervals on an average of once or twice a week by water from Cedar Key, when the postmaster would pour the mail on the floor and the neighbors would gather in to pick out their mail from the pile while the postmaster would look on, until it is now a thriving, hustling little city of twelve hundred souls, six daily mails, pressed brick bank and store buildings, hard-surfaced streets and flag sidewalks, more manufacturing industries than are to be found in any other town of its size in the United States, with as good educational advantages and a religious and moral atmosphere as are enjoyed by any other community.

Mr. Barco has engaged in various industries with success in all—merchandise, lumber, turpentine, fruit and real estate. He is the best-informed and most successful real estate man in the county and has consummated more deals, counted in dollars, than any other three or four men in this section. He knows everybody in the county, every land line, the adaptability of every character of soil and its location. He has been a member of the town council for years and always take an active part in politics. He served as treasurer of Citrus county for ten years.

Mr Barco is surrounded with a happy family, with a house full of bright, clever and robust boys. He often takes the whole crowd on a camp with him, and on such occasions the only difference perceptible between him and the boys is in stature.

Mrs. Barco is an estimable, gentle, christian woman.

HON. J. F. STEVENS

The subjects of some of our sketches were immigrants to this State, but Hon. J. E. Stevens is



One of Crystal River's Beautiful Driveways

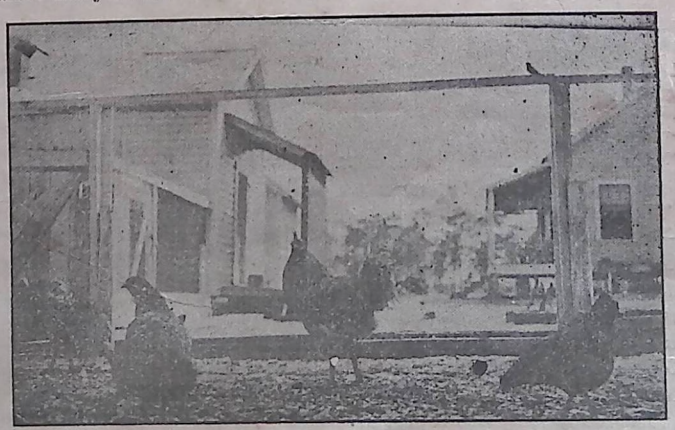
marriage is not always a failure. Their children are polite and well brought up and will make useful men and women.

In recent years Mr. Miller moved to Crystal River and entered the mercantile business. The same industry, honesty and perseverance that have attended him through life have brought him success in this venture, and he now occupies a fine brick building and is one of the leading merchants. He has always taken an active part in public affairs, having been a school official for eighteen years and postmaster for many years in connection with his other business. In all these years he has never been absent from more than one or two meetings of the school board. The same promptness finds him in the chair at every meeting of the Board of Trade, of which he is president and has been since its organization, and at the meetings of the town council, of which he is a member.

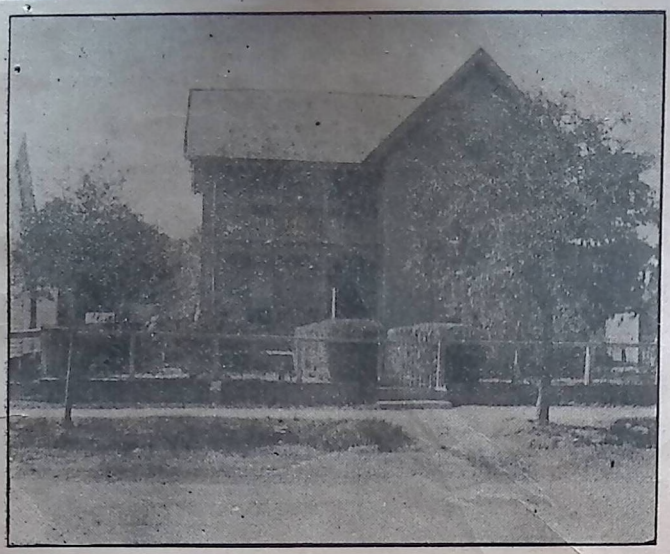
His love for tilling the soil still clings to him, and he and Mr. R. D. Smith have now one of the prettiest truck farms in the county, on which may be seen a variety of vegetables—onions, celery, cabbage, lettuce, strawberries, etc. The land is perfectly prepared and the rows are as straight as a gun barrel, evidencing the same methodical, exact character of the man he is. It is not an uncommon sight to see Mr. Miller in the night time, after business hours, with his lantern in hand, setting out plants or watering them, or preparing ground for more, long after many another man is enjoying his bed of ease. With the same pluck, industry, fair-dealing, "stick-at-it" qualities others can do what he has done and is doing, and there is not many better places in which to do it than in Citrus county all over.

Take it all in all, there cannot be found in Citrus county a better citizen than Charlie Miller. Punctual in his appointments, faithful to his trusts, tolerant of the opinions of others, dutiful to his family, true to his friends, public-spirited in affairs of the community, honest in his dealings, sympathetic with mankind, Mr. Miller pursues the even tenor of his life. When David Crockett made his triumphal march through Philadelphia men in all walks of life elbowed one another to "grasp the hand of an honest man—the noblest work of God." Charlie Miller is an honest man!

The idea that the burning of the Dixon cedar mill would ruin Crystal River has been entirely given up by our people here. Every merchant expresses himself as surprised by the volume of business he is doing this, which is considered the dullest season of the year. While the fire was a great loss to Crystal River the town is built on too firm a foundation to be permanently hurt by such a disaster. There is not an able bodied man in the town who wants work that it idle.



Scene in Poultry Yard of C. E. Herrick



Residence of Mrs. Thos. Hoy

CHARLES A. MILLER

Mr. Charles A. Miller comes from that sturdy stock of Pennsylvania Dutch, descendants from honest folk of Holland, who have made the State of Pennsylvania one of the best agricultural districts of the world. Born some forty years ago of good parents, he early in young manhood came to our county through the advertising of Senator A. S. Mann. Mr. Miller, with a colony of others, settled at Fairmount, about three miles from Crystal River. He had aufficient means to purchase a farm and erect a two-story house. Nobody in Citrus county had ever cultivated land as he did before that time, nor has it been done since. When he cleared land he took out everything—root and branch. When he plowed he plowed deep—ten or twelve inches. The other farmers would smile, and they skimmed the surface, but when harvest time came and went his barn was full, his larder was full, and every merchant in town owed him for produce.

The orange fever was epidemic in Florida twenty years ago, and Mr. Miller soon had a bearing grove, the pride of the neighborhood. When laden with the first crop of golden fruit a frost of one night made him twenty thousand dollars poorer than when the sun went down. With that pluck and grit and industry that have characterized him through life, he turned his attention to farming and trucking and soon recouped a large portion of his lost fortune. He tilled the soil by day and hauled his produce to market by night. The only assistance he had was his small son, Albert, whom he never kept from school a half day. Albert received as good an education as the schools of the county afforded and now occupies a creditable position of trust with the Southern Express Comyany—a reward to the father for duty done his son.

The social life of this colony was without much formality, but in many a pleasant gathering of these (some twenty) families did they enjoy amusement. Mr. Miller was a bachelor then, but young, and his commodious quarters were usually the meeting place for cane-grindings, candy-pullings, dancing and socials. They were enjoying simple life in a genial clime among gentle people.

Many are the reminiscences of this happy living. Many of the girls saw a nice abiding place at the home of Bachelor Miller, but began to think him arrow-proof, until pretty Miss Vassie of Ontario, Canada, shot her dart straight to the mark, while teaching school in our county. The matter was satisfactorily arranged by the minister and they have ever lived a happy couple—one more example to prove that



Five Handsome Sons of Col. and Mrs. N. Barco



Residence of C. E. Herrick



Residence of Colonel Nic Barco



Street Scene In East Crystal Avenue

health of the town by good sanitary and hygienic conditions, being assisted therein by the active co-operation of the municipal authorities, they love beauty and the beautiful.

We desire to be the aggressive foe of dirt-loving disease breeding bacteria, and look to the physicians of the town to bring their knowledge to bear on the case and suggest the best means to remove the abuse. We would also like to interest the children in the good work. Let them help to plant flowers and pick up waste paper flying about the sidewalks. Their little hands can do much to help. Later on, when some of our desires are realized, we can look forward to a library, where people coming in from the country to trade can rest and leave their children should they so desire. But our work will be thorough, systematic and far-reaching, as cleanliness in one street will not keep contagious diseases from lurking in bad cesspools, outhouses or cellars near by. Our motto is, "Mens sana in copore sano," assert the society.

A HOME PRODUCTION

This Magazine is a production of Crystal River talent. All the writing was done by home people. The photographs from which the cuts were made were taken by an amateur artist of Crystal River. All the printing and mechanical work was done in the office of the Crystal River News. The cuts were the only part of the publication not done in Crystal River. Most publications of this character are gotten up by out-of-town people—by those who make it a business to "write-up" a town—and the photographs are made and printing done usually by large houses. These naturally should make a better appearance than our humble effort, but they have not the personality permeating them that this has; nor are they likely to be as correct, because they are not written by those who know the facts as well as do home people.

The Ideal Fishing Place



Sir Izaak Walton's happiest dream could have been more than fully realized had he motored out from the crystal springs, the source of Crystal River, eight miles from where it empties into Crystal Bay, near the Gulf, at sunrise on a fine Florida winter morning.

On account of the clearness of the waters they were given the name of "Crystal." So crystal are the numerous springs, rivers and bays that you can see thousands of sea animals for a great distance about you.

Gliding down the limpid stream, you pass many bayous, creeks and small bays that literally teem with fishes of all kinds.

Turning out into Salt River, three miles from town, the most magnificent landscape scenery meets the pleased eye. More than five hundred islands, ranging in size from a few square feet to several acres, studded with stately palmettos towering above the luxuriant sawgrass, suggests to the imagination a Florida Venice surpassing that of Italy. Narrow channels of boating water meander among these spots of beauty. The venerable crane stands sentinel on almost every point, and the Gulf heron, or white aigrette, and other plumed birds decorate the horizon, while the friendly pelican, drifting on the ripples of the silvery waves, floats into courtship of ease. The bold fishhawk and eagle flounce upon their prey, and the bellow of the alligator, not unlike the roar of a lion, forces upon the panorama an aspect of the sublime. The interlying shell-bars are laden with oysters, had for the trouble of picking them up.

In the meantime, by dragging your troll or casting your fly, you have taken 25 or 30 pounds of bass and red fish.



A Day's Catch in Crystal River

The late Legislature of Florida enacted a law to prohibit the taking of food fish from our waters, except with hook and line and cast net. This law is being rigidly enforced and has resulted in greatly increasing the number of fish in our waters, so that those who fish with hook and line for a livelihood average 100 pound per day.

Aside from the sport, the fish and oyster business here affords a great revenue to those who engage in the commercial branch of it, shipping many carloads each week. The three fish houses obtain their supply outside of the rivers in the Gulf.

Among the principal food fishes taken from our waters may be mentioned the black bass, bream, carangoid or cavally, catfish, drumfish, grouper, mackerel,

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Shell Island, as its name indicates, is formed of shell, and is located in Crystal Bay, at the mouth of Crystal River, eight miles from the town of the same name. The Island contains one hundred acres, and lies in the midst of numerous smaller islands and oyster bars, lending itself to enchanting views of landscape scenery.

Fishing is good the whole year, and every species of fish that inhabit the Gulf waters can be taken. Tarpon fishing, especially, is excellent. In season, ducks literally cover the waters, and oysters in abundance can be had for the trouble of picking them up.

Comfortable cottages have been provided for pleasure seekers, who flock there the year round. The great density of the salt water (denser than the Atlantic coast) affords enjoyable and healthful bathing. The Gulf breezes are pleasant and invigorating, and the climate is as fine as any in the world, and just as healthy.

For rest, health and out-door sports, a better place cannot be found.