

## INDIAN NAMES

Before the coming of white men, Florida was a region of scenic beauty. Gradually in the past years man with his technical knowledge and mechanical tools has changed much of the natural landscape to one that is artificial. Cities and towns have replaced the tropic-like jungle scenes of less than one hundred years ago.

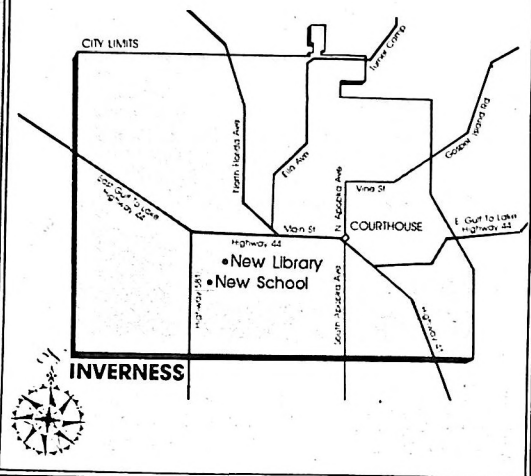
Today there are cities, towns, parks, lakes, and rivers named after Indian tribes and chiefs. These Indian names are a part of the American story--a reminder of a vanished past.

The following is a partial list of names of Seminole-Creek and aboriginal Indian words.

NAME	MEANING
Alachua	jug
Apalachicola	people residing on the other side
Apopka	potato eating people
Apoxsee	tomorrow
Aripeka	name of an Indian chief
Withlo	canoe
Caloosahatchee	strong black river
Chattahoochee	black rock or carved stones
Chillocahatchee	horse creek
Chipola	feast or dance place
Chittahatchee	snake river
Chokoloskee	old house
Cocoochee	wildcat--Indian chief
Contoohatchee	River of Coonti-flower
Scofina	earth or natural bridge
Fenholloway	high footlog
Halpatiokee	alligator river
Hialeah	pretty prairie
Hicpochee	little prairie lake
Hilolo	long-billed curlew
Holopaw	place where something is hauled
Homosassa	place where wild pepper grows
Hypoluxo	round mound
Iamonia	mild, peaceable
Immokalee	tumbling water
Istachatta	red man
Istokpoga	lake where a person was killed in the water
Itchepuckesassa	tobacco field
Itchetucknee	blistered tobacco
Kissimmee	corruption of Tissimnee, and early Indian tribe
Lacoochee	shortened from Withalacoochee
Loxahatchee	turtle river
Natlacha pass	warrior's assistant
Miami	very large or great water
Micanopy	head or topmost chief
Micco	chief
Miccosukce	chiefs of the hog clan
Myakka, Miakka, Mayaca	variants of Miami, very large
Marcossee	little bear
Nocatee	what is it?

NAME	MEANING
Ocheesee	hickory leaf
Ocoee	apricot or vine place
Ochlockonee	yellow water
Ojus	to have, or plentiful
Okahumpka	lonely, or bitter water
Okaloosa	black water
Okeechobee	big water
Okefenokee swamp	shaking water
Oklawaha	bad crossing, or crooked river
Olustee	blackish
Opa Locka	big swamp
Osceola	famous Indian leader
Pahokee	grass water
Palatka	a crossing or ferry
Panasoffkee	deep valley
Pensacola	hair people
Pithlachascotee	river where canoes are made
Sopchoppy	red oak
Seminole	wild, non-domesticated, the Seminole Indians
Steinhatchee	man's river
Suwannee	river of reeds
Tallahassee	old town
Tampa	near it
Thonotosassa	place of many flints
Tohopekaliga	fort
Tomoka (Timucua)	name of early Indian tribe
Tsala Apopka	place where trout are eaten
Umatilla	water rippling over sand
Wacasassa	cattle range
Wakulla	corrupted form of Guacara early Fla. Indian tri
Wauchula	sandhill crane
Weekiwachee	little spring
Welka	tide or intermittent spring
Weohyakapka	walking on water
Wetumpka	sounding or tumbling water
Wewahitchka	water view
Wimico	chief water
Withlacochee	little great water
Wyomehatchee	whiskey creek
Yahala	orange
Yeehaw	wolf

## New Site for Primary School in Inverness



Map Art by Gary O'Connell

**SCHOOL SITE** - The School Board purchased 15 acres of land from the city of Inverness to build a new primary school.

# Inverness school land purchased

By NEALE HUNTER  
Staff Writer

The future of the new Inverness area elementary school got the shot in the arm it needed Tuesday when the school board voted to purchase 15 acres on C.R. 581 for construction of the school.

Superintendent Carl Austin told board members the location was good and the price was right.

"It comes to a point where you're going to have or fish or cut bait," said Austin. "I think we've come to that point."

The land presently owned by the city of Inverness fronts County Road 581, a mile south of S.R. 44. The price is \$11,000 an acre, or \$165,000 for the 15 acres.

Under the advice of board attorney Richard "Spike" Fitzpatrick, the school board voted to purchase the 15 acres with an option to purchase an additional five acres pending on costs of construction.

Other considered sites that had any desirability were totally out of the price range, according to Austin. "Price tags of \$1 million were floating around, and that was completely out of reason."

The land is favorable for a number of reasons, according to Austin. It has water and sewage available, which will also mean savings to the taxpayers, he said. And the location serves the purpose of eliminating the increased over-crowding in Inverness Primary.

"It is in walking and biking distance for literally hundreds of students in that area," said Austin.

The state has given temporary approval to the site pending board approval, said Austin.

The new school will be built according to the education specifications and architectural designs of Hernando and Citrus Springs Elementary Schools. "We will only have to upgrade existing plans," explained Austin. "This expedites the process considerably, saving about three months."

The goal for completion would be the fall of 1988 if everything falls into place, said Austin. He cited possible snags which can't be anticipated, such as the weather, labor, or even shortage of materials. But he maintains he is optimistic about the new school being completed and ready for operation in a year.

## Growth seen in 11 of 13 Citrus schools

By ROY MAYS  
Associate Editor

Growth in pupil enrollment in Citrus County is slowing down.

But attendance figures through the end of September still show increases in 11 of the county's 13 schools.

However, in five of those 11, the increase was less than 20 students.

"This year we realized we were a slow growth district," said business services chief Rick Peppe.

Attendance figures for the period through the end of September show 9,398 students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, including pre-first students at Lakeview School.

That's 3.98 percent more than attended classes the same period last year.

Only two schools showed a drop in attendance this year.

Inverness Middle dropped from 984 students last year to the current 969.

Crystal River Middle dropped from 843 to 761 students.

The Lecanto complex was the big gainer with all three schools ranking one, two, three on the list of pupil

enrollment increases.

Lecanto High gained 121 students this fall for an enrollment of 853. Lecanto Middle gained 56 students for an enrollment of 721. Lecanto Primary gained 75 students for an enrollment of 924.

Moderate increases were posted by Inverness Primary, Floral City School, Homosassa Elementary and Crystal River High.

The following is a school by school list comparing present enrollment to the number of students the same time last year:

- ✓ Citrus High 1,165-1,114
  - ✓ Inverness Primary 693-673
  - ✓ Inverness Middle 969-984
  - ✓ Lakeview School 71-54
  - ✓ Floral City School 450-444
  - ✓ Homosassa Elementary 401-386
  - ✓ Crystal River Middle 761-843
  - ✓ Crystal River Primary 775-741
  - ✓ Crystal River High 969-963
  - ✓ Lecanto Primary 924-859
  - ✓ Lecanto Middle 721-665
  - ✓ Lecanto High 853-732
  - ✓ Hernando Elementary 640-587
- Total enrollment is 9,398 compared to 9,038 the same time last year.

file Schools cc 1985

# Annual Report 1987

## Biggest and best year ever for Citrus schools

### Meet growth, keep standards highest in Florida

By Carl Austin  
Superintendent  
Citrus County Schools

Citrus County's Centennial year has been one marked by challenges, milestones and major achievements for your school system.

In many ways, this has been our biggest and best year ever. This annual report will show you why we feel that way.

To give you a preview, it is my pleasure to outline highlights in the key areas of student successes, growth and expansion, new and expanded programs and special recognition.

In the field of student success, we're still number one.

\*Citrus achievement scores surpass national averages in all subjects from kindergarten through senior high.

\*Statewide assessment results topped the region and were among Florida's best for the 12th straight year.

\*Brain Bowl academic competitions rank our students among the best.

\*Citrus students won major recognition in regional, state and international science fairs.

\*Graduating seniors were awarded more than \$600,000 in scholarships and grants.

In growth and expansion there were major milestones and exciting challenges.

\*The pace of growth was among the fastest in the state and nation.

\*Enrollment passed 10,000 students for the first time thus ending 100 years as a "small" school district.

\*Fourteen new classrooms were added to Lecanto Primary School.

\*A major addition was underway at Crystal River High School.

\*A new county-wide media center was set for opening this Spring making educational hi-tech more accessible to all staff.

\*Pleasant Grove Elementary was under construction and set to open in the fall of this year with 550 students.

\*All new construction was completed at a cost of \$32 per square foot compared to a state average of \$61 per square foot for school buildings.

\*In an effort to seek out the best teachers for our classrooms, the teacher recruitment program was upgraded with more than 400 prospective teachers interviewed from throughout the U.S.

New and expanded programs were offered for toddlers through senior citizens.

\*The district received \$200,000 in grants for our outstanding services for children with special needs from birth

through age five.

\*The county received a \$220,000 PRIME award to enhance middle school programs.

\*A dropout prevention program was implemented.

\*Community education and lifelong learning classes for adult were expanded with a wide variety of classes and programs offered for all ages and interests.

\*Child care programs were begun for working parents.

\*The six county law enforcement training program was enhanced with the addition of a tactical driving course built at Lecanto.

\*A state of the art program for professional improvement of instructional staff was developed and adopted.

\*Partnerships and participation with the business community were expanded.

Special recognition was given in several areas.

\*Lecanto Primary was named a national physical education demonstration school.

\*The district received the best ever ratings in three major Florida Department of Education audits.

\*Citrus Chamber of Commerce recognized top student achievers.

\*The county received state approval for a new management training program.

\*The county was named as having Florida's outstanding school volunteer program.

Gains such as these would not be possible without the strong commitment shown by so many people and groups within our community.

Dedicated teachers, administrators and staff members have worked tirelessly towards these accomplishments. Much of the credit is also due to interested parents, wonderful volunteers, civic and business leaders and to the Citrus County School Board for the support which has made these accomplishments possible.

Most of all, our students deserve praise for their hard work and for the inspiration they provide.

Let me take this opportunity to say thanks to you for helping to make the Citrus County school system the best in Florida.



photo by Jack Lester

## Challenges, hard work and dedication marked century

Before there was a Citrus County, there was a school system.

When the county was formed, Aug. 1, 1887, education was an on-going affair. Schools were being built and tax money, little as it was, paid teacher salaries.

At first, it had been a loose-knit system relying on itinerant teachers. They visited the county, taught among the widely scattered families for several months, then went on their way.

The first formal schools, widely scattered one room wooden buildings, came about at least as early as the 1880s.

There was a school at Ozello in 1880 and one at Homosassa two years later. Both were built on islands in the days before wooden bridges linked the communities

to the mainland.

Floral City built its first school in 1883 while Stage Pond and Mannfield schools were also erected during that decade.

Little in the way of written records have survived of those early days. The first record book of meetings of the Citrus County School Board appear to have vanished into history.

They are neither in possession of the school system, offices of the county government or the Citrus County Historical Society.

This much is known: Eugene A. Harrison was the first school superintendent serving during the first decade of the new county's existence from 1887 until 1897. His other claim to fame was

Please see History, page 8



photo by Jack Lester

# Growth

## The trick is to keep one step ahead and keep building

Keeping pace with a growing county is no easy job for a school system.

Consider the past year in Citrus County.

Recent months have seen the opening of a 14 room addition of Lecanto Primary, the county's largest primary school, at a cost of \$700,000.

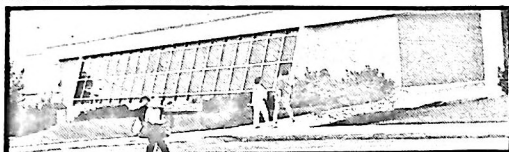
Work is near completion in a \$2.3 million project to remodel and enlarge Crystal River High School.

The doors will open this month on the 12,000 square foot media center in Lecanto built at a cost

In fact, this August a state Department of Education survey team will be in Citrus to plot the needs of the school system for the coming five years. The last time they were here was in 1984 and the plan they drew up then called for five new elementary schools.

Kelly won't even hazard a guess as to what they will foresee in the future this time.

Presently Citrus County schools have space for 12,521 students with an ideal capacity of 11,728 students. As of Jan. 8,



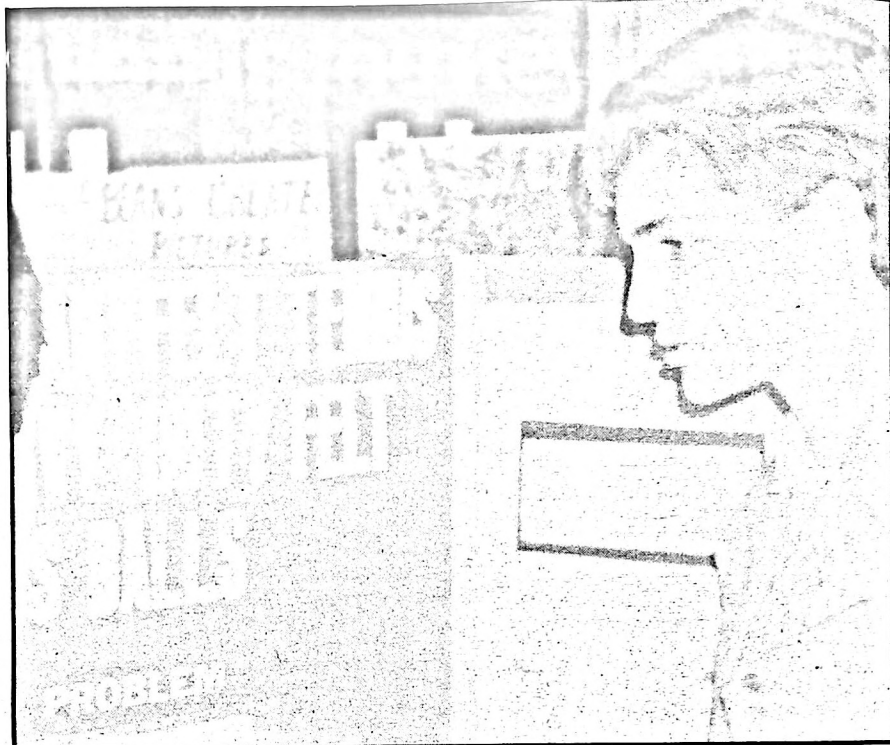
of \$500,000. Near Inverness, construction is underway on the new Pleasant Grove Elementary school which is being built at a cost of \$2.2 million and scheduled to open this fall.

Yet despite all this construction, no breathing spell in the need for new schools is foreseen be Milton Kelly, director of general services.

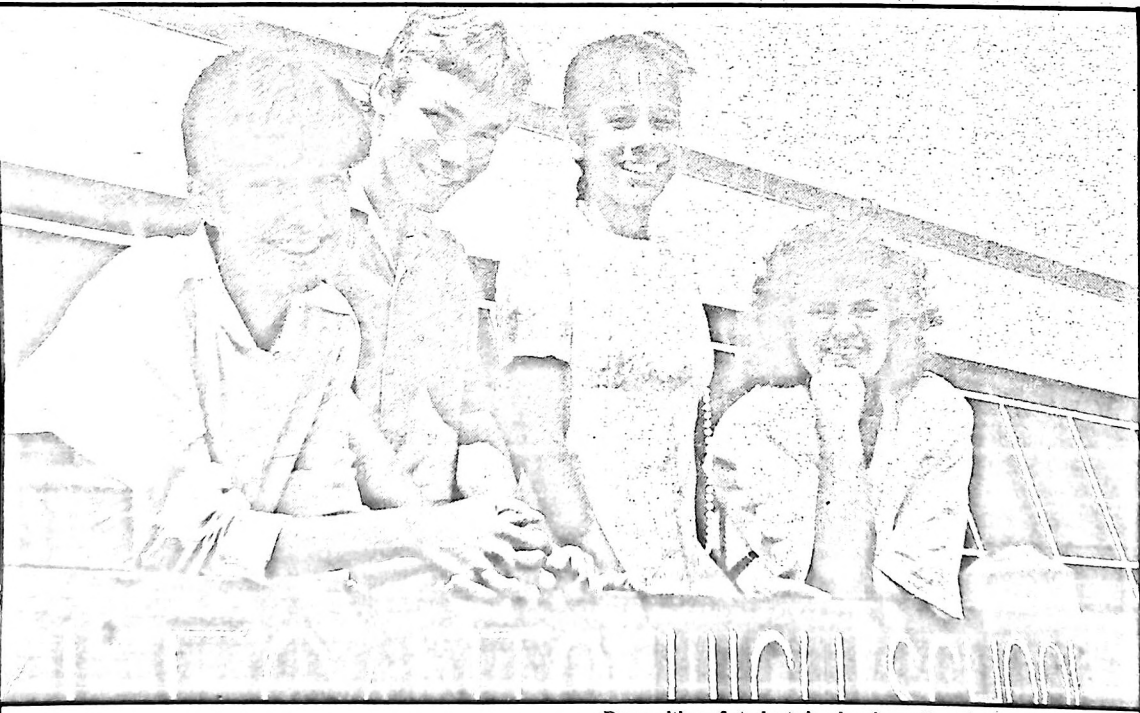
1988, enrollment had topped 10,300.

"Basically most of our school buildings are less than 25 years old," said Kelly. "What we are trying to do is to remain ahead and keep ahead without using portables."

"If we can stay on our building program we have been on, we will stay ahead."



The annual science fair competition at local schools bring out the best in young scientists who compete for recognition and the chance to go on to district, state and national competition. Most Citrus County schools hold science fairs each winter to give the students a chance to improve their project for later events. For several years, students from Citrus schools have gone on to win honors at state and national science and engineering fair events.



Recognition of students is a key ingredient in keep enthusiasm high. Whether it be athletic or academic competition, work in the classroom or out, high grades or high motivation, Citrus students deserve the honors that have been awarded them.

## Volunteers are important to student welfare

Citrus County School Supt. Carl Austin was named in 1987 to receive the Department of Education's School Volunteer Program Outstanding Superintendent Award.

This was the second year in a row Austin was so honored.

In a letter from State Commissioner of Education Betty Castor, Austin was cited for his "leadership and support for citizen participation through district-wide school volunteer programs."

Austin said school volunteers are one reason Citrus schools are among the best in the state.

"One of the best things a volunteer can do is work with a child on a one-to-one basis," said Austin. "This provides a valuable human resource to aid the classroom teacher in making education a more personal thing for the student."

The award was presented last April during a meeting of the Florida School Conference.

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Cause to celebrate

# Citrus schools a source of pride

By David Langer  
Chairman  
Citrus County School Board

Celebrating the centennial of Citrus County and its educational system is a cause for nostalgia and pride.

Nostalgia over what has been accomplished and pride at what is being done now.

But it is also a time to look forward.

For, in as much as Citrus County education has taken great steps forward in the first hundred years, those are accomplishments that are past. Greater challenges lie ahead.

All of those in education take pride in the work of our teachers, administrators and students.

In Citrus County we like to pride ourselves on hiring the best teachers who turn out the best students in the state, students who rank among the highest in Florida on any scale from test scores to scholarships to the nation's greatest institutions of higher education and military academies.

But being the best puts a burden on all of us to maintain our high standards and not fall backward.

That is the job of your school board: to hire the best, put them in the best learning environment and have them work with each student as though the whole school system would be judged by that single child's effort.

It is not an easy job nor are the decisions made always the most popular ones.

But with the help of each and every resident of Citrus County, keeping pace in an age in which technology is changing the very face of education and rapid growth is challenging the fiber of our system, we can keep our county among the leaders in education now and in the future.

The first hundred years has been good to Citrus County and its educational system. With hard work we will not let down those who have done so much to give us what we have today and those who are depending on us for their future.



With more than eight of every 10 Citrus County students riding the bus to school each morning it's important not only to have safe equipment but well trained drivers behind the wheel. Drivers continually better their skills through driver training courses offered in the county and pride themselves on having driven more than a million miles last year without a major accident or serious injury.

## Annual Report 1987

This annual report is published to inform you of the status of education in Citrus County as required by Florida Statue 229.575(2). It has been the work of many people.

The Citrus County School District appreciates the work of those who had a hand in preparing this report.

This document was prepared under the direction of Neal Weiss, executive director of administrative services. Special thanks is given to Jack Lester of Lecanto Primary and who took many of the color photographs. Thanks also to the students who

are members of the photo staff of The Panther Prowl and cartoon club of Lecanto High including Paul Cash, Lori Stevens, Matt Gargano, and Richard Fetron for use of some of the black and white photos and drawings in this report. And to Roy Mays of Lecanto High who wrote many of the stories in this issue and student Jimmy Porter who helped in the layout of the Annual Report.

For additional information or more copies of this report contact the Citrus County School Board office at 1007 West Main Street, Inverness, 1-904-726-1931.

## Buses move 82 percent of Citrus students

Citrus County's school district operates a transportation system that rivals those of many large cities.

Each morning 175 school buses leave compounds in Crystal River, Inverness and Lecanto to pick up students and take them to school.

Because of the county's rural nature, some 82 percent of school students ride a bus to school. The rest walk or are driven by parents.

Before the end of the day, each bus will have traveled more than

40 miles with the fleet logging more than 7,000 miles daily.

Bus transportation is furnished to students who live more than two miles from school, said Ed Murphy, administrative assistant for the school system. Bus travel is also offered students who would have to walk to school over a hazardous route.

Seven buses in the fleet are equipped for use by handicapped students and those travel more than 100 miles each day.

Buses are maintained by the school's own transportation

department at the three bus garages.

Drivers are continually updating their training through a driver education program administered through the school system.

Route scheduling is done through the work of three route coordinators and reviewed by the transportation supervisor.

In the past year the school system transported 8,200 students without a serious injury in more than a million miles logged last year.



photo by Jack Lester

## Seeking

### New teachers apply, but only the best are selected for jobs

Finding and hiring the very best teachers is the challenge met by recruiters from Citrus County.

Citrus currently hires more than 65 new teachers a year. Some are new positions, others to replace teachers who have retired or left the school system.

Recruitment means traveling the state looking for the best said Bill Robinson, director of secondary education for the school system.

In addition to recruiting at the five major state universities in Florida, Citrus participates in an annual Teach-In in June where job seekers from throughout the nation descend on Florida looking for jobs.

And Florida school systems are looking for teachers. Most of the 67 school districts are represented at the Teach-In program and are looking to lure the cream of the crop.

"We tell them (prospective teachers) what kind of programs we have, the best in the State of Florida," said Robinson.

We emphasize the good characteristics of Citrus County, the demographics and resources

for them other than the educational system. As for the educational system, we tell teachers the educational experience here is one of quality education with enthusiasm for teaching by the teachers, principals and administrators."

Robinson said local recruiters "emphasize a team effort. No one is put out in the pasture alone and we have succeeded that way."

There is a critical need statewide in the areas of math, science, special education and media services along with guidance counselors, said Robinson.

"So we go out and find them "

The Teach In is like a great "home show" with each county having a booth displaying the good things that are likely to attract teachers.

"It's great for recruitment but also puts into competition with other counties including the large ones who can hire on the spot."

What makes Citrus stand out is the one to one approach, said Robinson. "They don't become a number but are treated as individuals."

## VO-TECH

### The image is changing as the demands grow

Years ago some people mistakenly believed that a vocational center was just for people who dropped out of high school.

Today, centers such as Withlacoochee Vo-Tech are busy carving an identities of their own.

Withlacoochee Vo-Tech Center is developing its'identity by actively letting the community know of the programs it's offering students from young adult through senior citizen.

Under the direction of Steve Kinard, the school participated in a unique Vocational Fest which showed off the latest in tips from computer to home vegetable gardening planning offered both at the center and through vocational programs at the various public school centers.

Opportunities in vocational training are many and varied in

Citrus County from regular classes for high school students to programs designed around the special interests of senior citizens.

The Vocational Fest was a marketing program for the classes and gave the thousands of interested people who attended an idea of what is offered that appeals to them.

Presently the center serves more than 7,000 residents annually from those high school

student earning a high school diploma and vocational certificates to complete programs in retail marketing and culinary arts.

Business and community leaders are also interested in the vo-tech center because they look to it to fill some skilled positions in the community.



Wondering what to put on the dinner table?

If providing a varied menu for a family causes you headaches, imagine if you were told to expect 6,780 for the noon meal tomorrow.

That's what the food service personnel of the Citrus County School System have to face. And they have to have the food ready for the table five days a week.

"The philosophy of the school system is dedication by the food service workers to make sure each child has a nutritious lunch and that no child goes hungry," said Ron Toft, director of business services and food service for Citrus schools.

Some children lose their lunch money, others forget to bring it and still others may come from large families who may not be able to afford the full price of a lunch.

All are taken care of in this important task of feeding students in Citrus County's schools.

"Our people take a great deal of pride in providing high quality and attractive food to attract and please students they are serving."

In elementary schools, students are served a structured lunch with all the components of a Class A lunch including protein, fruit, vegetable, bread and milk.

At the middle schools students are offered a choice of at least two entrees.

High school students move through a cafeteria line with three or more entrees including hamburger and French fries offered daily. Pizza has proved one of the school students' favorites.

Menus are set up by a committee, said Shirley Poe, food service specialist for the schools.

While menus are designed with the economy of bulk purchases in mind, cafeteria managers at each school are allowed the freedom of shaping the menu at each school.

Food service is a big business employing 114 people, a ratio of one worker to 59 students, said Mrs. Poe. And the food service workers are becoming a highly trained group of skilled employees. All are members of the American Food Service Association which means they take training in various aspects of food handling and preparation.

Last year local food service personnel were honored for 100 percent membership in the national organization and for the largest increase in the number of certifications awarded to individual cafeteria employees.

So next time you wonder what your family, with their varied tastes in food, may want for dinner, keep in mind planning meals for a family of almost

## Brain Bowl tests students' knowledge

With all the excitement of an athletic contest, the annual "Brain Bowl" as it is called, is set to kick off later this month.

This will be the first year Citrus County will field a team in the statewide event which takes place at Disney World in Orlando.

Competition among the three schools began shortly after school started last fall.

At the end of this first season a team of six members including four regular and two substitutes were chosen.

Jeanne Hartley, coach of Crystal River High's team, will be coach of the county team. Coaches during the regular season were Diane Quinton of Citrus High, Mary Nigels and Joan Lubbe of Lecanto.

# Blue flag flies proudly over Lecanto Primary School

There's a large blue flag flying on the pole outside Lecanto Primary this Haragoenes year and it will be there for the next three.

The school was named a demonstration school for its outstanding physical education program.

Lecanto Primary is only of only nine demonstration schools in Florida and among 80 nationwide.

"I want to commend Lecanto Primary for developing this kind of program," said Manny Haragoenes of the Florida

Department of Education.

The program which won recognition for the school involves physical education. Each of the almost 1,000 students receives physical education daily though with only three physical education teachers, it is understaffed to fulfill that goal.

Haragoenes said that the cooperation of classroom teachers in helping out in giving physical education for students is what makes Lecanto Primary unique.

"When a school is bestowed this great honor it means they not only have met certain criteria

but are willing to open their doors to let others from throughout the state and nation who come to see what they are doing and can take ideas back to their schools."

For the next three years the DOE will actively support the Lecanto program and publicize it throughout the nation.

Haragoenes recognized "the strong leadership of Principal Steve Guyler" as well as the physical education teachers and classroom teachers who work with them.



photo by Jack Lester

## Still a student Teachers return to class to sharpen their skills

Students may think teachers are lucky.

They don't have to go to school any more. Homework is behind them. So, too, is worry about grades.

In truth, many of Citrus County's teachers are students as well.

"The philosophy behind the Staff Development Program is that the quality of teaching that goes on in the classroom can only improve as the quality of the teacher improves," said John Headlee, director of staff development and media services.

Some of this teaching of teachers concerns changes in the curriculum. Other programs have to do with the advancing technology used in Citrus classrooms.

"You can buy equipment for a teacher but unless they know how to use the equipment, it is of little use," said Headlee.

That's where the inservice program of the county comes in.

Teachers can be brought up to date on skills they will need in the classroom, how to use new equipment and pass on those skills learned to their students.

"You can put a teacher in the nicest room in the building with the best equipment and employ the best teacher," said Headlee.

"But if they don't know how to use it, it's of no use."

Teachers are constantly upgrading their knowledge in their field of study as well through courses taught in the county through the University of South Florida and University of Florida. Many go on to earn masters degrees or higher without leaving the county. Presently 25 percent of Citrus County teachers have masters degrees and that has increased steadily in the past five years. Professors are saying they have seen the progress. "It seems to have made a difference," said Kirves.

Teachers attend workshops each year to learn more about the type of assignments can best fit their students' needs.

Writing isn't the only thing the students will do in their English program.

They still learn grammar and literature.

"Writing proves they know grammar and how to use it and the assignments strengthen that knowledge," said Kirves.

years since the Teacher Education Committee program started.

"There are lots of new things being thrown at teachers and at an accelerating rate," said Headlee.

Computers are becoming standard in the classroom. This year Citrus County purchased 104

new Apple computers for elementary classrooms alone. "That means 100 elementary teachers will need that training," said Headlee.

New programs such as dropout prevention, sex abuse, drug awareness, suicide and AIDS are areas teachers need to know about so they can deal with the issues in the classroom.

"Keeping up with society in general is a big job," said Headlee.

Teachers no longer just teach, there are other areas that have to be addressed.

"Technology is just sweeping teachers along and hopefully it won't sweep by them," said Headlee. "We were discussing today the changes brought about by VCR's and video tapes for example. Film use is dropping off and in the last year our schools bought no 16 millimeter film projectors but 16 VCRs.

Keeping teachers trained is a major expense and consumes a great amount of time. Some 20,000 to 30,000 man hours yearly goes into inservice programs alone.

"As the county grows, we will see an increase in the number of inservice programs," said Headlee, "and it will grow with the growth of the school system and the increase in the needs of the teachers."

## You never outgrow need to write

After a student graduates from high school he may never use algebra again, nor read a play by Shakespeare or mix chemicals together to get a chain reaction.

But sometime, someplace, everyone will write.

It may be as simple as composing a letter to a friend or as important as writing a resume or letter of application to a prospective employer.

To that end, Citrus high schools are involved in the Writing Enhancement Program for English students in grades 10-12.

The program was first adopted in the state in 1982 but was not implemented in Citrus until the 1984-85 school year.

Today it is taught at all three high schools.

The goal is to teach students to write and convey their thoughts in an understandable manner through their writing.

Each student completes at least one writing assignment weekly. The classes are kept small, no more than 28 students each period, and teachers are given an extra planning period since grading compositions takes time.

Not only do the students learn to write better but the assignments help them learn to organize their thoughts and work and become critical thinkers able to find information from various sources and apply it to their assignment.

"The program started because college professors were complaining that students could not write," said Ron Kirves, coordinator of language arts and social studies for the county.

Since the program has been in

effect, professors are saying they have seen the progress. "It seems to have made a difference," said Kirves.

Teachers attend workshops each year to learn more about the type of assignments can best fit their students' needs.

Writing isn't the only thing the students will do in their English program.

They still learn grammar and literature.

"Writing proves they know grammar and how to use it and the assignments strengthen that knowledge," said Kirves.

# Test results are source of pride

If you have a student in Citrus County schools, you have reason to be proud.

Students in kindergarten through eighth grades and 11th graders took the California Test of Basic Skills (CTBS) in April and their scores were above the national average in every area tested and at every grade level, according to School Supt. Carl Austin.

This is the twelfth consecutive year in which Citrus students have scored among the highest in Florida.

The test covers math, reading, language, science and social studies.

It is designed to show how well students have mastered a subject and evaluate how well a student is doing in school.

The results placed Citrus students from several months to almost two years ahead of their grade level.

School officials judge the test scores as showing how well students are learning here compared to youngsters nationwide.

Citrus students also did well in the Statewide Student Assessment Test, SSAT II, once known as the functional literacy test.

This test is given in the 10th grade and students must pass it before they can graduate from high school.

Last spring 95 percent of Citrus County 10th graders taking the SSAT II passed the math section while 91 percent passed communications skills.

Their math scores placed Citrus second among the state's 67 counties while in Communications, scores here placed the county in the state's top 10 district.

Statewide the percent of passing was 81 percent for math while 86 percent passed communications.

There was little change in this year's scores from last year.

"The consistency is what we see as being important," said Austin. "It points out the high level of performance being achieved by our students year after year."



School spirit shows in Citrus schools. Students rank at the top in the state in scores on achievement tests given in every grade level and for every subject from math to communications.

# How much does it cost to educate a child?

How much does it cost to send a child to school for a year?

Ask any parent.

They'll tell you it can take a big bite out of the household budget.

There are clothes, shoes, paper, pencils, pens and notebooks—just to name a few major expenses directly related to getting your student off to class.

But it's small change when you compare one family's school bills against the cost of sending 10,000 students to the classroom.

That's what Citrus County does every day, 180 days school days out of the year.

For the school system, the cost is measured in teacher salaries and electric bills, textbooks and computers, athletic equipment, paper napkins, desks and a thousand and one other items which go into keeping a modern school running.

In Citrus County, the cost of educating one child for one school year averaged \$3,190.82 last year, according to Pat Marsh, finance director for the school system.

Multiply that by 9,799. That was the average number of students in school last year. You see that education isn't cheap.

During the 1986-87 school year, the Citrus County School Board spent \$31,266,689 of general operating funds.

The state provided \$13,368,265 of last year's funds through the Florida Education

Finance Program and another \$4,185,670 for special programs including transportation, the PREP program in kindergarten through third grades, the enhanced reading program in high school and other special state programs.

Local property taxes brought in \$14,670,759 generated by a millage levy of 6.116 mills for operating purposes. Of that, the state required the county to tax 5.297 mills while .819 mills was levied at the discretion of the Citrus County School Board.

The federal government provided \$78,683 for ROTC programs in the county's three high schools.

Where were these dollars spent?

Salaries and benefits for school, personnel made up the biggest expense of running the school system and cost almost \$26-million.

Purchased services were another \$2.3 million while \$1.7 million was spent on materials and supplies.

And let's not overlook what was spent to keep up with growth.

Last year Citrus County did not open a new school. Yet it spent more than \$2.3 million on construction and capital outlay. Local taxes of .6283 mills provided \$1,508,708 for this purpose. The remainder was

provided through state appropriations.

There were improvements at Inverness Primary and the completion of Citrus High in those expenditures. Construction started on the addition and remodeling of Crystal River High and new dorms were added to the Marine Science Center on the Gulf coast.

At Lecanto there was a new 14 classroom addition to Lecanto

Primary School and ground was broken for a new media center and bus garage both of which are now open.

Speaking of buses, the county spent more than a quarter million dollars on new school buses last year.

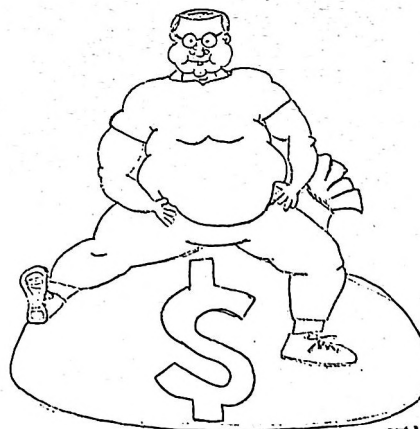
There was additional food service equipment purchased at several schools and renovation of science rooms at all three high schools. The joint use facility with Central Florida Community College and additional work and final bills were paid on the new Citrus Springs Elementary.

Additional services were provided to students through special federal projects such as JTPA, Chapter I, Chapter II, Vocational Education, Adult and Exceptional Student grants. Some \$1,684,337 were received and spent in these programs.

And the Food Service program collected and spent more than \$2-million to provide an average 6,751 meals per day to Citrus County students at 16 sites.

So you think it cost a lot to get your student ready for that first day of school?

Imagine footing the bills for 10,000.



art by Matt Gargano

# Recognition is the key

To getting students interested and involved in math and science

Math?  
"Ugh."  
Science?  
"Give me a break."

There was a time when just the mention of math and science courses brought groans to students in any grade.

But a combination of incentives, innovative programs and recognition for outstanding math and science students has brought a new popularity to these foundations of today's school curriculum.

Last year 875 students participated in a Math Field Day. The number of students in grades six through 12 taking part in school Science Fairs has increased every year for the past seven.

"There's a transition toward more hands on work in science," said Bobbie Dilocker, coordinator for math and science programs in Citrus County.

Science fairs are attracting more students and younger ones.

Because of the hands-on approach to science among even the youngest students, where they actually do experiments rather than just read about them, many of Citrus County elementary schools are holding science fairs.

Older students, beginning in the sixth grade, are eligible to take their winning science projects to the regional and state science fairs.

"The idea of *doing* in the lower grades is to teach the scientific method along with process skills, getting kids *involved* in learning rather than just confine them to doing paper and pencil problems."

Through observation and experimentation, students develop a real interest in science, said Mrs.

Dilocker.

While the number of projects entered in the regional science fair is held at about 150, both the number of projects displayed in the individual schools and the type and caliber of project is increasing.

"We're seeing science projects, not models," said Mrs. Dilocker.

This past year 20 students from Citrus attended the state science fair and two student scientists were invited to participate in the international science fair.

One Citrus student, Shannon Purcell, came away from the international event with an award for her project on groundwater and radon.

There are other benefits of this involvement-oriented approach on science, said Mrs. Dilocker. Students learn how to present their projects to the judges, how to explain their work orally and in written form, to organize their research in timely and understandable fashion.

"Science is more than working in the laboratory," said Mrs. Dilocker.

There have been benefits in other subject areas as well, said Mrs. Dilocker. Research has shown that students who start early with hands-on science experience tend to score higher on later reading and math scores.

"It comes from predicting, observing and making conclusions," said Mrs. Dilocker. "It teaches many of the process skills. Students get more from the observation process than just scientific knowledge. The same goes with math.

For the past three years the Citrus School District has held a Math Field Day each April.

This competition brings together students in all grades, kindergarten through seniors in high school.

Students work in teams of four and do problem solving. The teams are made up from individual classes and each teacher can send one team.

The teams compete against other schools in the county.

At the high school level, problem solving is done by subject (algebra, geometry, trigonometry) rather than grade level.

In the most recent Math Field Day, more than 875 students took part with the help of 75 teachers who volunteered a Saturday to work with their students. The competition brought out more than 200 volunteer parents and that afternoon there were more people arriving for the awards presentation than could fit in the 1,200 seat Curtis Petersen Auditorium at Lecanto.

"These math competitions work their way back to the classroom as well where teachers have the students work in groups to practice critical thinking with other students in preparation for the event," said Mrs. Dilocker.

One of the things the school district is trying to accomplish through the Science Fair and Math Field Day is to give students the chance to be recognized, to make learning a good thing and give them a chance to stand out just as their fellow students who take part in athletics.



Awards are more than just achievement to Citrus County students. They are an expression of accomplishment of a goal—to be the best in the state at whatever they do be it test scores or art competitions, science fair projects or college scholarships.



This information published as required under Florida Statute 229.575 2(e)3(e).

Race	Corporal Punishment	In-School suspensions	Off-Campus Suspensions	Expulsions	Dropouts
White (Non-Hispanic)	1047	38	397		194
Black (Non-Hispanic)	88		27		3
Hispanic			3		
Asian Pacific					
American Indian					
Subtotal	993 male 142 female	34 male 4 female	315 male 112 female		122 male 75 female
Total	1135	38	427	0	197

# Rich history woven in Citrus schools' first century

Continued from page 1

ownership of *The Citrus County Star* newspaper.

Teachers, depending on the type of certificate they held, were paid \$24, \$30 or \$35 a month.

The first board meetings were conducted at the county seat of Mannfield.

In the first year, at their meeting of Aug. 8, the board established permanent schools, 33 of them.

Once the county was established, the school board was allowed \$2,114.84 of the education monies allotted among the three newly created counties.

Shortly after the beginning of the new decade, at the board meeting of Sept. 30, 1891, an annual budget of \$6,254.20 was adopted.

At the turn of the century, with C.S. Young earning \$600 a year as superintendent, teacher salaries were still low. The total in the budget to pay teachers was just \$840.

Schools in those days were a community affair not only in that they could be created down the end of any road for a handful of students but far into the new century were controlled largely by their own elected trustees who reported to the School Board. There were special taxing districts for each school and elections called for individual districts to elect new trustees or set property tax levies.

Cost of new schools was nominal. In September of 1900 the School Board reported the school at Citronelle was completed at a cost of \$525.

At the beginning of the year 1902, records show enrollment in Citrus County schools at 119. Getting students to attend school was another matter. Average daily attendance was only 63.

Through the Roaring 20s times were good. The School Board divided the school year into two semesters of 16 weeks each. Exams were set at the end of each semester and students had to average 75 percent in each subject to pass. Students who earned an average of 90 percent or higher were exempt from the exam.

Teacher salaries had also risen. Those with four years of college were paid \$95 a month. At the low end of the pay scale were teachers with only a grammar school education. They were paid \$60 a month.

At the middle of the 1920s the School Board considered whether to hire an attendance officer.

It was "too expensive to hire an attendance officer for the small number of pupils who attend school so irregularly" the minutes reflect. The first truant officer would not be hired until 1951.

It would soon be too expensive to do alot of things.

But no one paid much attention to economic signs back then.

Florida was in the middle of the Boom. A new city was planned in Homosassa and in October 1928 the School Board voted \$36,000 to build a new school in Homosassa.

They paid for it by selling bonds. That was not a new thing for Citrus County schools but a practice that would have far reaching impact in the years ahead.

As the decade of the 20s closed, banks were beginning to close in Citrus County.

Loans were needed to pay teachers on a month by month basis. More banks failed and School Board money was tied up.

At one meeting the board concluded "There is not sufficient

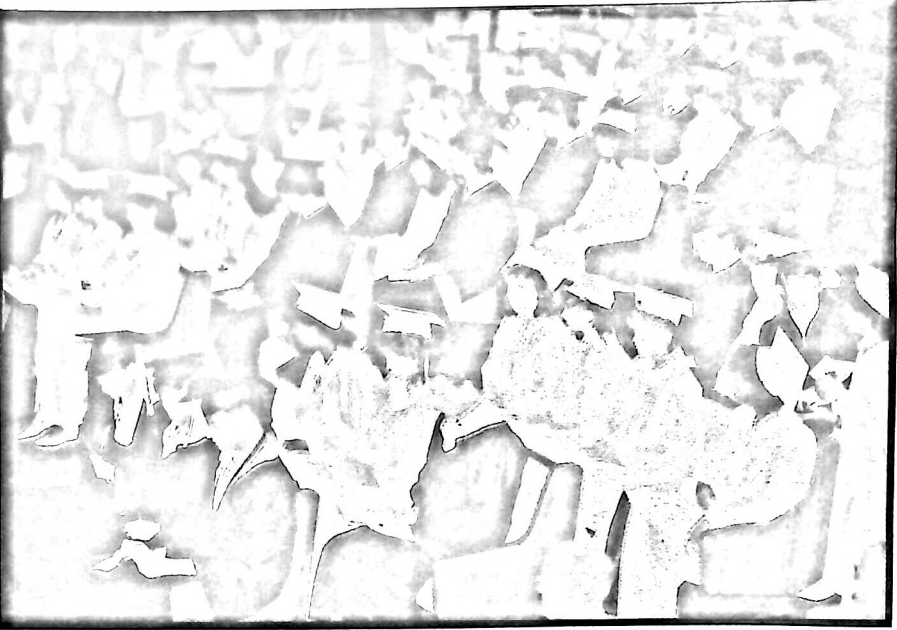


photo by Neal Wells

funds in the general school fund to pay the high school teachers for one month." So teachers got 50 percent of their pay.

Not only were the banks failing but property owners could not pay their taxes which supported the schools.

The School Board found it could expect to collect no more than 60 percent of the taxes owed for 1928.

So they started selling bonds owned by the School Board for a fraction of their value.

Even private individuals, including Ruby Montague, wife of the school superintendent, were loaning the school system money to pay its' teachers.

And by 1929, when the Great Depression officially hit the nation, there were some \$57,000 in uncollected Citrus County school taxes on the books.

In March of 1933, the School Board feared because revenue was now up to expectations it would "not get sufficient money to operate schools for eight months and will not be able to borrow money to open schools for the next term."

Schools closed in March despite a petition from the PTA to keep them open.

The Depression in Citrus County lasted well into the 1940s.

The School Board was borrowing money monthly to meet the payroll.

Not until 1943 did things begin to look up.

At that time the School Board agreed to pay the cost of

graduation diplomas for students. Prior to that, graduates paid part of the expense themselves.

And for teachers, there was a \$10 a month pay hike. Teachers now made between \$120 and \$160 a month.

By the 1950s, good times had returned and in 1961 the school budget would top \$1-million for the first time.

By the late 1960s the now historic climb in growth had begun.

Today the Citrus County School System operates a program for pre-kindergarten children through senior citizens.

Its budget is more than \$50 million annually and in 1987, for the first time, enrollment passed the 10,000 mark.

A hundred years ago the school budget was just over \$6,000- less than the cost of a single day's lunch in Citrus County schools.

In place of one room school houses, today's schools are modern facilities that are the workplace for some 650 teachers- roughly equal to the entire student population of 1891.

In its centennial year, the Citrus County School System looked back on accomplishments and forward to future challenges.



Winning in art, sports, science, math all add up to the smile of pride on the face of students in Citrus County's public schools. For the 10,000 student attending school daily, education is something taken seriously by them, their parents and the school system from teacher to cafeteria worker, bus driver to school superintendent.



photo by Jack Lester

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Microfilm Publication M841

RECORD OF APPOINTMENT OF POSTMASTERS

1832-SEPTEMBER 30, 1971

Roll 19

Florida

Alachua - Hendry Counties



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON: 1973

Office DEPOT.

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON: 1973

Office DEPOT.

## Citrus COUNTY,

Dis.	Tiana	Mary M. Pratt	16 Feb. 87 Pa. to Inverness	15 Aug. '92	
Dis. <sup>second</sup>	Redwood	Oliver E. Wynn	6 Nov. '89 to papers	19 Feb. '90	Se
Dis.	Rock Mines	Wm. R. King	3 Feb. '91 Pa. to Arlington	4 Jan. '93	
Late pres. Tompkinsville Inverness (M.D.)		Matthew M. Gaston	May '91	Reappointed (P.S.) 25 July '19	Pres. Tho
Charged	Harmonia	John S. Ingersoll	18 July '91 to Hambro	9 Sep. '91	
Dis. Harmonia	Hambro	John S. Ingersoll	9 Sep. '91 Pa. to Inverness	22 Apr. '92	
Dis. Re. ut.	Pinola	John T. Whiddan	20 June '92 to Pine Bl.		Loc.
Dis.	Ozello	Wm. H. Peatt	15 Oct. '95	19 Aug. '95	Re.
Dis.	Anita	James T. Burke	20 Feb. '94	11 May '96	Se.
Now in	Chickerton	Calvin N. Beebe	8 Feb. '95	21 May '96	Jan.
Wid to	Heartshorn	Frank M. Dampier	30 Nov. '95	13 July '96	Se.
Late M.D. Heartshorn	Bordeal	Frank M. Long	9 Oct. '97		
Dis.	Maple	Stephen O. Clark	17 Dec. '97		
Dis.	Waverly	Joseph W. Knight	15 Jan. '98		Se. 190

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OFFICE DEBIT

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ig '92

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see Next Page

m. '98

Pres. April 1, 1910  
 (act) Dec 6. 23  
 (act) Apr 4. 24

Horatio L. Cabbaly (P.S) 14 Dec. 10. Milton D. Bell (P.S) 22 Dec. 14  
 Mary E. Bridgen (P.S) Apr 4. 24 Allan Van Norman (act) Apr 13. 28 Sara E. Luceat (act) 11 Jan. 31

1/20 '91

xl '92

1/21 '91

Robinson R. Arnold 5 Nov. 94 Kaskaskia Steamers Co 12 Apr. '95

1/21 '91

Rosa Hammond 14 May 1909 Rosa Campbell 27 May 15 Kettie M. Baker 24 Nov 16

1/21 '91

B. L. Leonard 15 Aug. 99  
 4 Aug. 99

1/21 '91

James B. Shannon 8 Jan. 97 Wm. K. Hancock 15 Jan. 97 W. Lancaster 16 Nov. 97

1/21 '91

Cordeal 9 Oct. 99

1/21 '91

1/21 '91

1/21 '91

Paulo Bayhill 24 Apr 02

## Ozello Poll Tax

## THE POLL TAX RECORD 1889 - 1901 PRECINCT #4

NOT EVERYONE HAD TO VOTE IN THE EARLY YEAR. IF YOU WANTED TO VOTE YOU HAD TO PAY \$1.00 TO DO SO.

NAME	DATE OF REG.	AGE
J.J. BROWN	8-11-1894	41
W.W. BRIGGS	8-06-1894	51
W.H. BROWN	8-15-1898	25
J.E. BROWN	8-04-1898	27
J.N. BROWN	8-11-1900	22
H. ARKUBAUER	8-11-1894	54
E.C. DEIBERT	9-20-1888	34
B.F. EARLY	8-11-1900	61
A.JACK HEAD	9-11-1896	21
A.JOHN HEAD	8-06-1900	25
B.L. HEAD	8-08-1901	21
JAMES B. JONES	8-18-1898	31
B. MOODY	8-11-1894	33
W.H. PRATT	8-06-1894	51
W.L. PRATT	10-08-1896	22
W. SHARP	8-11-1894	69
A. TRACHEL	8-05-1894	55
E.F. WHEELER	8-11-1894	45
H. WADDINGTON	8-06-1894	53
JOE WADDINGTON	8-06-1894	21
J.D. WHEELER	8-31-1896	21
J.W. WINMILL	8-15-1898	60
E.H. WHEELER	8-09-1900	22
J.F. HEAD	8-09-1894	22
E.F.B. WHEELER	8-31-1895	23

-----  
1902 - 1905

J.J. BROWN		
W.H. BROWN		
J.E. BROWN		
J.N. BROWN		
A.F. ACKUBAUER		
DEIBERT		
J.T. DeBUSK	4-19-1904	50
J.W. DeBUSK	4-11-1904	22
R.G. GRICER	4-30-1906	40
J.F. HEAD	8-11-1900	27
LEWIS HEAD		
A. JACKSON HEAD		
J.B. JONES		
B. MOODY		
W.T. MASTERS	4-01-1904	36
W.H. PRATT		
H. WADDINGTON		
J. WADDINGTON		
J.W. WINMILL		
F.H. WHEELER		

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M.C. WELLS	4-28-1906	21
J.E. WELLS	8-11-1900	50

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OZELLA POLL TAX 1910 - 1914

DATE OF REG	NAME	AGE	
9-11-14	J.J. BROWN	41	MAIL CARRIER
8-15-98	W.H. BROWN	25	FARMER
8-04-98	J.E. BROWN	27	FARMER
8-11-19	J.N. BROWN	22	FARMERK
10-9-14	R.J. BAKER	35	FISHERMAN
4-19-04	J.T. DeBUSK	41	FARMER
4-19-04	J.W. DeBUSK	22	FISHERMAN
12-5-04	C.P. DeBUSK	17	FARMER
8-11-1900	B.L. HEAD	22	FARMER
9-16-14	J.E. HEAD	21	FISHERMAN
4-01-04	W.T. MASTER	36	CONTRACTOR
8-11-14	BRYANT MOODY	33	FARMER
8-28-06	M.C. WELLS	21	FARMER
8-11-1900	J.E. WELLS	50	FARMER

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OZELLA POLL TAX FOR 1914 - 1917

9-11-14	J.J. BROWN	41	FARMER
8-18-88	J.E. BROWN	27	FARMER
10-11-1900	J.N. BROWN	22	FARMER
10-9-14	R.J. BAKER	35	FARMER
4-19-04	J.T. DeBUSK	50	FARMER
4-19-04	J.W. DeBUSK	22	FISHERMAN
12-5-11	C.P. DeBUSK	17	FARMER
8-11-1900	B.L. HEAD	22	FARMER
9-16-14	J.E. HEAD	21	FISHERMAN
10-9-16	JAS. H. HEAD	52	FISHERMAN
2-18-14	T.L. HEAD	32	FISHERMAN
9-11-14	BRYANT MOODY	33	FARMER
8-28-14	M.E. WELLS	21	FARMER
8-11-1900	J.E. WELLS	50	FARMER
10-7-16	M.S. WELLS	35	FISHERMAN
11-11-16	W.C. WELLS	24	FISHERMAN

OZELLA POLL TAX FOR 1918 - 1921

DATE	NAME	AGE	OCCP
2-12-14	J.J. BROWN	67	MAIL CARRIER
9-11-20	CALLIE BROWN	58	HOUSE WIFE
2-19-14	J.N. BROWN	36	FARMER
3-09-16	R.J. BAKER	35	FARMER
3-27-18	W.C. COLEMAN	32	FISHERMAN
9-17-20	MAUDE COLEMAN	23	HOUSE WIFE
9-17-20	ROSA CAMPBELL	40	TEACHER
2-14-20	J.T. DeBUSK	61	FARMER
3-26-20	B.L. HEAD	33	FARMER
3-26-20	J.H. HEAD	53	FARMER
3-26-20	T.L. HEAD	32	FISHERMAN
3-26-20	B. MOODY	57	FARMER
3-26-20	J.F. STEPHENS	21	FISHERMAN
3-26-20	J.M. STEPHENS	40	FISHERMAN
3-25-20	H.J. WILLARD	57	FISHERMAN
3-25-14	W.S. WELLS	35	FISHERMAN

OZELLO POLL TAX FOR 1922 - 1925

2-12-14	J.J. BROWN	64	MAIL CARRIER
2-12-14	J.N. BROWN	36	FISH DEALER
2-27-18	W.E. COLEMAN	32	FISHERMAN
2-18-20	MAUDE COLEMAN	23	HOUSE WIFE
4-03-24	ROSE CAMPBELL	42	SCH TEACHER
2-12-14	J.W. DeBUSK	32	FISHERMAN
2-12-14	C.P. DeBUSK	26	FISHERMAN
3-09-23	MRS. T.J. GAY	41	SCH TEACHER
2-14-14	B.L. HEAD	33	FISHERMAN
2-04-14	T.L. HEAD	32	FARMER
2-08-14	J.H. HEAD	53	FARMER
2-14-14	B. MOODY	57	FARMER
3-26-20	J.M. STEPHENS	42	FISHERMAN
3-26-20	J.F. STEPHENS	21	FISHERMAN
9-22-26	G.F. STANALAND	49	CANE LABOR
3-25-14	W.S. WELLS	35	FISHERMAN
9-22-24	M.C. WELLS	42	FISHERMAN
3-03-14	H.J. WILLARD	57	FISHERMAN

Paradise Island Hotel

of Helen

Registered Nurse

Mrs. Ruff (Kitty) Baker, a <sup>registered nurse</sup> owned and operated the hotel to this day in Ojello. It was built by Ray Baker <sup>and his wife</sup> and the present owner is Mr. J. W. James Stephens. It is one of the oldest buildings still in use and is located on Paradise Island on the St. Martins Range.

The people came by train to Homosassa and then Mr. Baker took them <sup>by boat</sup> to the hotel in the evening after his day's work as he operated a general store in Homosassa (the old Choweekee Store).

The hotel consisted of a health resort because there was no malaria fever in Ojello and people would come from other areas to the hotel to stay and regain their health from the fever. It had 4 bedrooms, 3 of them being bed rooms and a bathroom.

There were many malaria carrying mosquitoes but apparently Ojello did not as there was never a case of malaria fever found there.

Families would move to Ojello to avoid getting the fever or to have their rest and recuperation. In the 1880's John J. Brazelton's father was advised to move his family from Homosassa. When he first settled to Ojello to avoid the fever, so he moved and settled in that area.

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Office DEPOT.

PIONEER DAYS

To continue Mrs. Cattie Martin's story:

I went back to Ozello in September 1935 to teach a winter term. This time I rented a house across the river from the school and moved there with three of my children. They were seven, nine, and eleven years old. We bought a small, second hand boat which I had to row to school until my two boys learned how to row.

School opened on Labor Day, 1935, the day the big hurricane struck the Florida Keys and killed four hundred people. Half of those killed were service men stationed at the Naval Base in Key West. High tides, high winds and rain reached Ozello that night. Tuesday, everyone stayed inside their homes and waited for the storm to pass; that is, everyone except the fishermen. They had to keep constant vigil over their boats to see that they were secure. There were no radios or telephones to contact the outside world. Trees were down across the only road leading into Ozello. Tide water also made the road impassable for cars. Our nearest neighbor, Riley D. Head, came to see about us Tuesday morning and assured us that we were in no immediate danger.  
(continued)

Office DEPOT

June 5, 1967

I went back to Ozello in September 1955 to teach a winter term. This time I rented a house across the river from the school and moved there, with three of my children. They were seven, nine and eleven years old. We bought a small, second hand boat which I had to row to school until my two boys learned how to row.

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On Wednesday morning, he told us it was safe for us to go to school although the tide was still high. He towed our boat to school that morning, but the next day we rowed across the river. If you don't know much about rowing a boat and have to cope with a strong tide, you're in for a trying time. I thought we'd never make it. The school island was covered with tidewater. We tied our boat to the front steps and climbed out on the second or third step. A few of the children stayed at home but most of them came. I don't know how much book learning I imparted to the rest of that week but we kept school. It was fun to everyone except my children and me. I didn't dare admit that I was uneasy for I would have lost my prestige.

The only sanitary facilities were the outdoor privies some distance from the schoolhouse. For two days they could only be reached by boat or wading. I'll leave the rest to your imagination.

Although we had some trying experiences, I enjoyed the work in Ozello. We were not bothered with traffic on streets or highways. It was interesting to watch the fishing boats go up and down the river. The school children knew the sound of every boat motor and could tell which fisherman was coming long before the boat came into sight.

One day two fishermen put down their nets across from the school. The children and I went outside and watched them make a catch of approximately a thousand mullet.

During those years there I learned much about their way of life. Despite the lack of modern day conveniences, theirs was a happy life. Today, thanks to rural electrification, everyone has electric lights and many items of electric appliances are available.

Office DEPOT.

June 5, 1967

*They can copy these*

# ★ The Suncoast Sentinel ★

PRICE  
5¢



Serving Citrus County,  
Dunnellon, Yankeetown and Inglis...

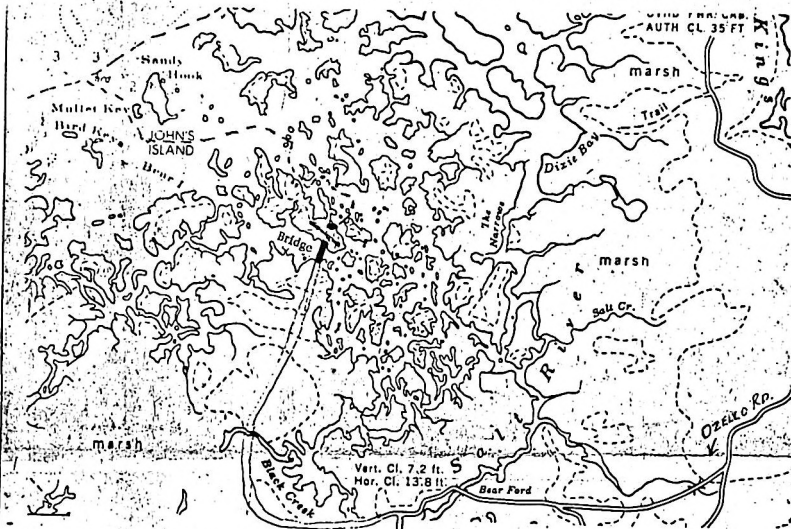
TIDE TABLES

	High	High	Low	Low
June	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
1	12:07	10:22	4:01	6:02
2	1:22	10:54	4:28	6:45
3	2:39	11:28	4:52	7:28
4	.....	12:05	.....	8:10
5	.....	12:40	.....	8:55
6	.....	1:31	.....	9:40
7	.....	2:23	.....	10:27

Crystal River, Florida, Thursday May 31, 1962

Phone Swift 5-3146

## OZELLO ROAD BRIDGE OPEN



PORTION OF map, above, shows Ozello Road near Crystal River, and its extension to the Gulf. Dark portion across channel is bridge, next is proposed airstrip, and beyond that is area set aside for Park. Dotted line from that point to Mullet Key is route for boats, staked out by County, showing safe channel. See story.

### Channel Marked

Crystal River--The new bridge on the Ozello Road extension to the Gulf is now open, both for auto traffic across it, and for boat travel under it.

OFFICE DEBOL

June 5, 1967

- The first school house the Ozello children attended -

The first school Ozello children attended, from the information I was able to collect was on South Island between Tiger Tail and Hell's Gate in the Homosassa River. It was an Indian village at one time. The island was named " Tiger Tail " after their chief.

Mr. John J. Brown Sr. taught school there. He rowed his boat from Ozello to the school, the children were also transported by boat. --Facts from Helen Brown.

THE FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE IN OZELLO BEFORE 1880

Back before 1880 the first school house in Ozello, " Bayview School " was located on the north side of the St. Martin's River on the point, which was an Indian shell mound ( now the Hallie Bennett property). The school was only a one room thatched hut of palmetto. Henry De Busk states his mother Elizabeth Waddington, her sister Agnes and her two brothers John and Joe attended that school with others. At one time there were 20 pupils. James J. Brown was the last teacher. The school became unreasonably stripped and torn, and a new place of learning was badly needed. Facts from Henry De Busk.

( Mrs. Helen Brown claims the school was made of logs cut ~~thin~~ with an ax and split thin.)

*I have not found out for  
sure yet.*

Office DEPOT.

4 June 28 1943  
Miss 31

(Island)

2nd School

By. Latitude of Howard Pro

Other teachers: Mr. Hunter, Mrs. Moore, Cattie Martin (last), Maude Allen, John J. Brown, Miss Kessie Spurgeon, Miss Mamie Love, Miss Vera Johns, Miss Gay, Miss Bessie Martin, Mrs. Wells, Alfred Steen & Mr. Hooks.

The 8th grade was taught. High School or 9 grade up went to <sup>Ray</sup> ~~Ray~~ <sup>Ray</sup> & Howard Stephens some of Mrs. & Mrs. James Stephens were the first and only children to commute to Crystal River to attend High School. I had one of my Model T ford back in fourth. Some of the children moved to Crystal River and boarded out for the school term. A few of them being Jessie Mae Head, Cary and Harry De Bugh. Some <sup>say</sup> after Cattie Martin got herself a better job teaching in Crystal River. They couldn't find another teacher willing to start and end her day with an uncomfortable boat ride.

Others say that, by 1943, lots of the boys starting getting a tankering for High school and since there had to be a school bus to take them to Crystal River they had to take the Jennings bus too.

ALLOW THE OTHER LINES TO REMAIN IN THE LINE

I taught on Western Island from Feb 2, 1931 until school was out - which was only 2 months - I took Charlotte Williams' place because she was going into Nurses Training in Jacksonville. Her home was here on Crystal River and was the sister of John Williams that live here now. I then taught the term of 1931-32 on Western Island - the school went by the name of Rosshelle School.

This was the last school held on the island because I had 10 students and Mrs Horace Brown (Bertrude Edge) and Jesse Waddington graduated from the 8th gr. that you and the Lee family (2 girls and 1 boy) moved to Homosassa leaving only the four little boys of the Waddington family to go to school on the island. They paid

the Waddingtons to come up to Crystal River and send the boys to school. They had 4 girls to go to High School, too.

During my teaching in March 1932 we had a storm and the water came up so high our school house ~~was~~ floated off the blocks - school was closed for a wk. making us out of school a week later than others in the county that yr.

I boarded with the John Waddington ~~family~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~place~~

My name while teaching here was Miss Ethel Puckett I had just graduated from high school with a teacher-training certificate, I now hold a Master's degree plus 18 hrs. beyond.

I just wrote a few hints while having a minute -

# OZELLO: An Island of Knowledge

BY CATTIE P. MARTIN

Just a few miles off Highway 19 in the little community of Ozello, Florida, there used to stand a little old schoolhouse that once appeared in Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" as "The Isle of Knowledge." It has stood there on that tiny island in the St. Martin's river since 1880.

In that year, according to stories handed down to us, the people on the north side of the river wouldn't agree for the new school to be built on the south bank. Neither would those living on the south bank agree for it to be built on the north side. So the small island in the middle of Ozello's main street—the St. Martin's River—was chosen as the site for the new building. From then until 1943 all local youngsters who wanted to learn the three R's had to row to school in a boat.

The late Jim Brown related much of this to a Miami Herald reporter in 1946. His father, John J. Brown, had been the last teacher to teach in the old log house with the palm thatched roof. He was also the first teacher to teach in the new school. Uncle Jim, or Mr. Jim as he was known to many, had moved to Ozello just before the new school was built.

Some of the residents recall the teachers that have taught in this unique school. They are: Miss Marian King, Miss Beesie King, Miss Emily Vause, Miss Rosa Hammond, Miss Lella Zelner, Miss Maimie Love, Mrs. Jessie Gay Winn, Miss Beesie Martin, David Tyre, Mrs. Cattie Priest, Mrs. Idella Wells, Miss Sallie Jim Moore, Miss Mary Bell Waring, Miss Sallie Felton, Alfred O'Steen, Miss Anne Ashworth, Mrs. Katie Lashley, Dan Rooks, Miss Elaine Barnes, and Mrs. Cattie Martin.

Ozello's island school had its peak attendance of 52 pupils in the prosperous days when Cedar Key was an important port on the Gulf Coast. This was before the "Big Freeze" that killed the citrus trees.

Ozello at that time had a post office. The mail was brought in by boat as the post office was located on an island below the school. When I was a small child, every week I received a picture postcard which was signed "Cousin Callie." I learned later that this lady, a distant relative of my mother's and Postmistress of Ozello, was Mr. Jim's step-mother.

When I went down there in the summer of 1930 to teach, it was an interesting experience for me. At that time the school term was four or five months during the summer. This was to allow the older boys to fish in the fall

years before I went there, the big boys had cleared a sandy spot back of the school for a ball diamond. We used sponge rubber balls and board bats. Sometimes a good batter would bat the ball out into the river. A boat was kept at the landing near the playground to retrieve the ball. If the ball landed in shallow water, the nearest boy dashed in and got it. They didn't mind in the least going back to lessons with their pant's legs dripping wet. Since it was summer time, the wet pants helped to keep them cool.

There were usually eight grades in the school though some years we wouldn't have all eight. How we teachers ever managed to hear all the lessons, I don't know now. The older children helped the younger ones with their lessons after they had finished their own work. They also helped look after them on the playground. This made it possible for a teacher to keep in the slow learners and give them extra help at recess.

At first the building was very small, but it had been extended before I went there. On the stage, which was across one end of the room, was the teacher's desk, a recitation bench and an organ. The desks were the old fashioned double desks with tops that could be raised and lowered. The windows and doors were screened as the yellow deer flies and green headed horseflies were plentiful almost all summer.

The school was used on Sundays for church worship services and Sunday school. The highlights of the year were two programs put on by the children. If the school was in session during the winter, there was a Christmas program with a Christmas tree.

We had a program at the close of school, also. Everyone in the community came to these programs. The teacher and children worked hard for several weeks to prepare a program that would provide good, clean entertainment for all.

I went back to Ozello in September 1935 to teach a winter term. This time I rented a house across the river from the school and moved there with three of my children. They were seven, nine, and eleven years old. We bought a small, second hand boat which I had to row to school until my two boys learned how to row.

School opened on Labor Day, 1935, the day the big hurricane struck the Florida Keys and killed 400 people. Half of those killed were servicemen

Office DEPOT.

Office DEPOT.

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and winter months to help swell the family's finances. I taught two summers before the school officials decided to have a full term during the winter. There were no large boys attending school then.

Teaching school on a small island in those days was quite different from the schools of today. I had had only one year's teaching experience in a small rural school. Since I was just a little afraid of water, I couldn't swim. Here I was expected to teach 15 or 18 youngsters that could handle boats like professionals and swim like ducks. They ranged in ages from five to 16.

I boarded with a family that lived on half mile from the school. There were two boys in the family who were experts at rowing boats. They taught me to row that first summer.

When school began at eight o'clock each morning, there would be from six to eight skiffs (as the boats were called) drawn up on the shell banks of the island. There was an unwritten agreement among the children not to molest each other's boats. If someone did, there was a fight to settle. The school stands on a narrow point so boats were in front and on both sides of the house.

At noon groups could be seen sitting under cabbage palms or cedar trees eating their box lunches. There was a small oyster bar at the edge of the water, and many times I would watch the oysters feeding as I ate my lunch. There were plenty of sea gulls waiting to devour any scraps of food tossed to them. The children always saved scraps to entice the gulls to follow their boats in the afternoons.

Everyone brought his own jug of water as there was no drinking water on the island. There was part of an old cistern there that had been used in the early days. When buzzards began roosting in trees near the cistern and on the roof itself, the people destroyed it. In those days every home in Ozello had cisterns, water tanks or rain barrels to hold the rain water. Water was often scarce in dry seasons so no one dared waste any. At times they would haul water by boat from Homosassa Springs or what we know as the "Fish Bowl" today.

Physical education was not taught as such in those days. We had play periods or recesses and the noon hour to play any game possible in the rough space around the building. Oyster shells deposited there years ago by Indians shucking oysters were everywhere. Ozello children didn't mind the shells but dashed here and there chasing each other. If they happened to cut a heel or toe, they waded out into the river, washed the wound, and came to the house for first aid. The game they enjoyed most was "Ball." Several

stationed at the Naval Base in Key West. High tides, high winds and rain reached Ozello that night. Tuesday, everyone stayed inside their homes and waited for the storm to pass; that is, everyone except the fishermen. They had to keep constant vigil over their boats to see that they were secure. There were no radios or telephones to contact the outside world. Trees were down across the only road leading into Ozello. Tide water also made the road impassable for cars. Our nearest neighbor, Riley D. Head, came to see about us Tuesday morning and assured us that we were in no immediate danger.

On Wednesday morning, he told us it was safe for us to go to school although the tide was still high. He towed our boat to school that morning, but the next day we rowed across the river.

If you don't know much about rowing a boat and have to cope with a strong tide, you're in for a trying time. I thought we'd never make it. The school island was covered with tidewater. We tied our boat to the front steps and climbed out on the second or third step. A few of the children stayed at home but most of them came.

I don't know how much book learning I imparted to them the rest of that week but we kept school. It was fun to everyone except my children and me. I didn't dare admit that I was uneasy for I would have lost my prestige.

The only sanitary facilities were the old outdoor privies some distance from the school house. For two days they could only be reached by boat or wading. I'll leave the rest to your imagination.

Although we had some trying experiences, I enjoyed the work in Ozello. We were not bothered with traffic on streets or highways. It was interesting to watch the fishing boats go up and down the river. The school children knew the sound of every boat and could tell which fisherman was coming long before the boat came into sight.

One day two fishermen put down their nets across from the school. The children and I went outside and watched them make a catch of approximately a thousand mullet.

During those years there I learned much about their way of life. Despite the lack of modern day conveniences, theirs was a happy life. Today, thanks to rural electrification, everyone has electric lights and many of the electric appliances are available.

I resigned as teacher of Ozello School in 1943. Since then all the school children have been transported by boat and bus to Crystal River School.

The little 72-year-old school house stood for years on its lonely island, a silent reminder of the courage and determination of the people to provide an education for their children despite many difficulties.

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Henry D. B.

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Best of his knowledge  
James 2nd school (Island)  
B. Henry D.C. Pa.

1911

1. Everyone went to school on the island in their boat, no one picked them up.

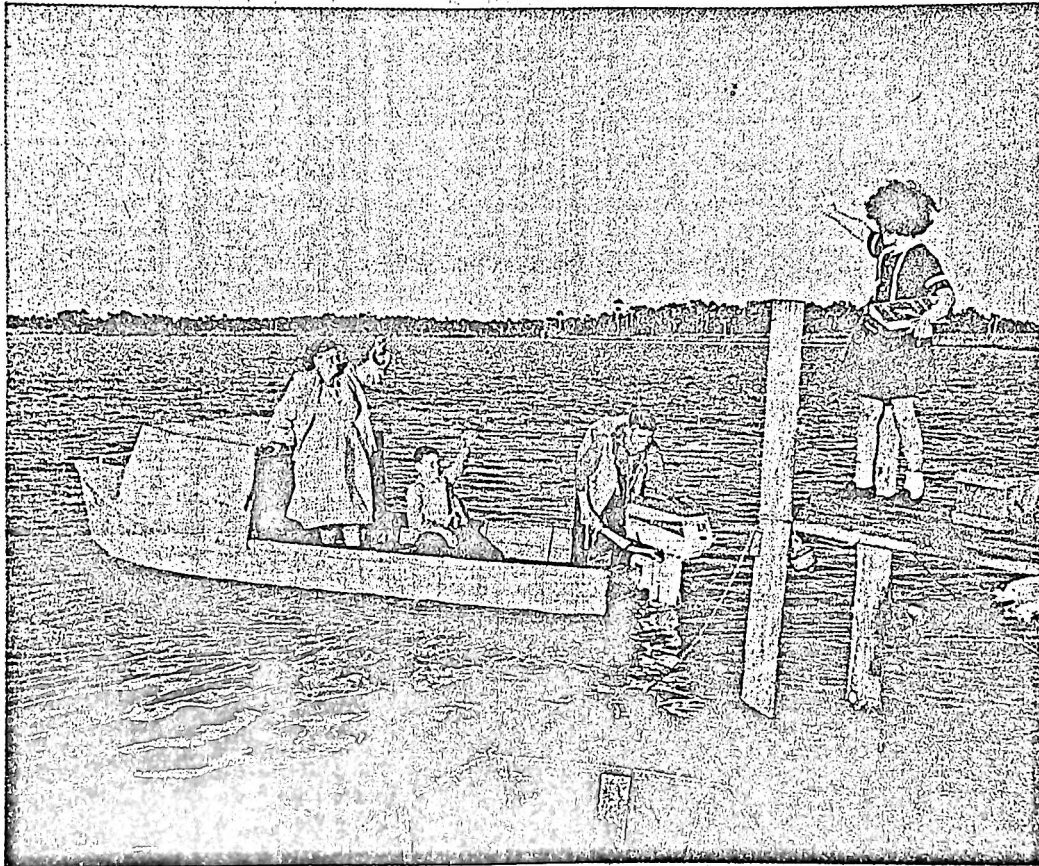
2. The first year Henry went to school there was only 7 pupils. Henry, his brother Herman, Edith Brown and Katherine Brown. The next year there were 5 attending the school.

3. The boys played baseball, the diamond was the standard size and if the ball went into the river - it was a lost ball. They made balls out of a block of wood and wrapped it with pieces of paper. They also played marbles, jacks and stick frogging (with a pocket knife). They had an organ and sang songs. The teacher had a small table for paper for recess. The teachers were: <sup>at the</sup> Marion King - Rosa Cambell 3 David Lynn Emily Voss &

They had Bible reading and prayer every morning.

# Bus Boat from Ozello...

Office DEPOT.



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By NANCY OSGOOD  
Of The Times Staff

Gray clouds hung low over the salt marsh country between Homosassa Springs and Crystal River.

In the misty dampness a woman wrapped herself in a big coat, then clambered from a makeshift dock into a small boat.

With many determined tugs at

This scene is repeated each school day — promptly at 6:45 a.m. — at Ozello, where St. Martin's River widens into the Gulf of Mexico.

Its central figure is Mrs. Fern (John L.) Thomas, who in September, became one of Florida's last remaining drivers of a boat-bus school route.

chose the colors," she chuckled. The boys. The girl, pink, was used to pain under which the kids stormy days.

For fair weather of three-mile boat run surely as there are at moment, only three isla

Jane Hindman  
E. Ca. on Blvd.  
Englis, Fla 32649  
447-3447

This is not correct (KMH) ✓

1988  
Jane Hindman

### Ogello School

Mr Witte

The first school Ogello children attended was on South Island at Homosassa, about 2 miles downriver between Tiger Tail and Hell's Gate. It was an Indian village at the time, named after Tiger Tail, their chief.

George De Duck

John J. Brown Sr. taught school there, rowing a boat from Ogello. Children came by boat.

The first school in Ogello was on the Indian shell mound on the north side of the river where Wilma Bennett now lives. It was a small, one room school made of cedar logs with a pine shingle roof, called, "Bayview School." Some of the students were Agnes and Elizabeth Wadlington (mother of Henry De Duck) and their brothers, John and Joe. There were about 30 students. John J. Brown was the last teacher.

Mr. O. Pratt

The second school was built around 1886. When William Henry Garrison Pratt moved to Ogello he received permission from the County Commissioners to build the school. Lumber was hauled from the Sunnellow mill to Homosassa by train and boated to the island. Mr. Pratt received \$75 for his labor.

Carth South War

There was a big dispute over where it should be built. The people on the south side of St. Martins said "you will build it over here and the other side will say 'how-over I paid every day.' But the

Office DEPOT.

Office DEPOT.

folks on the West side said, "Not so fast, we're gonna vote to build it on our side of the river and y'all can do the rowing". After a battle of words, in an area where earlier disputes were settled by blood-spilling pirates, the rugged inhabitants compromised. So a small palm studded island that juts up from the middle of Ogello's main street - the St. Martin's Island, was chosen for <sup>the</sup> site of the new building. This added to boat traffic as there was no pick-up service at that time.

So the 4-R's were taught; Reading, Riting, Rithmetic & Rowing. There was an Ogello saying, "A youngster who couldn't row a boat by school age was considered beyond all hope of education". The older students rowed the younger ones over every morning and back every night. It wasn't a long way to row except when the tides were running the opposite direction and then you really had to bend the oars like the unwritten law of the west about messing with another man's horse, you just didn't touch another kid's boat. If you did, it was a quick way to get yourself a bloody nose, a black eye or a knot on your head.

Ogello's Island Schoolhouse had great attendance of 500 pupils in the prosperous days when Cedar Key was an important port on the Gulf Coast. This

Office Depot

was before the "big freeze" that killed the citrus trees (1894-1895). Early trustees were <sup>A. Bryant</sup> J. W. Winmill and <sup>W. H. A.</sup> G. Orkenbaer. When these two men moved away (1903) W. H. A. Matt and Bryant Moody were appointed to fill their unexpired terms as Trustees of the Ogello Sub District. In May 1903, J. J. Brown was added to the list of trustees. Mr. R. S. Pringle, Vera Johns, Mary Coats, J. F. Head, J. C. Kelly 1892 and J. J. Brown (1893) were some of the early teachers.

Mr. R. S. Pringle appeared before the Board of Public Instruction <sup>Citrus</sup> at their first meeting held at Mannfield on Aug. 7, 1887 to present his account for teaching, Day View School, Ogello. The chairman of the Board was Dr. J. V. Bennett. Other members were T. R. Eickenlamb, A. S. Moore, W. F. Shoemaker, C. (or C.) F. Moore and E. J. Harrison who was ex officio Sec. of Board having not yet received his commission. Mr. Pringle's account for teaching at Day View School was \$35.00, \$18.00 paid to C. P. Carroll by Pringle's order. Salary \$10 a month.

minutes of  
School Board.

(Citrus County's share of Railroad tax of Menard Co for year 1886 was \$96.77)

In the early days, no school was held in the winter as other children related felt. Also funds were short for teachers so teachers came during summer months to teach in Ogello.

minutes  
School Board

March 4, 1901 School Board voted to allow \$5 as part payment on a cistern to be made of brick and cement, not to be paid until the project was completed and accepted by the Ogalla Sub-District Trustees. The cistern was built and had the word SCHOOL across it.

The first building was small but an extension was added later. It had a stage across one end, a teacher's desk, a recitation bench and an organ. The desks were old fashioned double desks with tops that could be raised or lowered. The windows and doors were screened as yellow doryflies and green headed horseflies were plentiful most of the summer.

One of the most complete histories of the school was written by Cattie Martin. She was born Cattie Weaver, married Mitchell Priest and had 4 children. After the death of her husband, she married Ira Martin. She lived at Red Lake, went to summer school at Tolla-hassee and wrote the account of Ogalla School for credit in History Class.

Mrs. Martin first came to Ogalla to teach in 1930. School term at that time was 4 or 5 mo. during the summer to allow older boys to feed in the fall and winter months to help family finances. She taught 2 summers before 1930. Specials

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Cattie  
Martin

decided to have full term during the winter,  
which no large boys attended.

Cattie  
Martin

She came back in <sup>Sept</sup> 1935 to teach the winter  
term. She rented a house across the river from  
the school and moved there with her three children  
age 7, 9 + 11. A small second hand boat was  
purchased and she rowed to school until 2 of  
the boys learned to row. Cattie couldn't swim a  
lick so the boat ride always held some fear. She  
had 15 to 18 students who could handle a boat  
like professionals and swim like ducks. Ages  
were 5 to 16.

On the day school opened (Labor Day 1935)  
a big hurricane struck the Fla. Keys and killed  
400 people. Half were service men stationed at the  
Naval Base, Key West. High tides, high winds and  
rain reached Ogello that night. Tues. everyone  
stayed home and waited for the storm to pass; all  
but fishermen. They had to keep constant vigil  
over boats to see they were secure. No radios or  
telephones to contact the outside world. Trees were  
down across the only road to Ogello. Tide waters  
also made roads impassable for cars. Nearest  
neighbor, Riley D. Head came Tues. morn to see  
the Martins and assure them there was no im-  
mediate danger.

On Wed. P.M. Head said it was safe to go to  
school altho' the tide still high. He towed the boat

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Office DEPOT.

Cattie  
Martini

that morning but the next day they rowed. The  
Martins didn't know much about rowing and the  
tide was still high. The School island was cov-  
ered with tide water and the boats were tied to  
the steps. A Post Children came.

The Ogello children, having been raised near  
the water, thought it was fun. Cattie didn't  
dare admit how uneasy she felt, afraid she'd  
lose prestige. The only sanitary facilities were  
out door privies some distance from the school.  
For two days, they could only be reached by boat  
or wading, leaving the results to your imagination.

It was interesting to watch the boats go up  
and down the river. The school children knew  
the sound of every boat and could tell which  
fisherman was coming long before the boat  
came in sight.

School began at 8 o'clock each morning  
with 6 to 8 skiffs drawn up on the shell bank of  
the island, some in front and some on each side.  
At noon groups sat under the cabbage palms or  
cedars and ate box lunch. Small oyster bars  
at the edge of the water entertained the children  
as they watched them feeding. They fed scraps  
of lunch to the gulls and sometimes alligators.

Everyone brought their own drinking water

Cattie  
Martin

Office DEPOT.

collected from buzzards roosting on it. 'Prop  
in Ozello had cisterns, water tanks or rain  
barrels to hold rain water. It became scarce in  
dry season and no one wasted it. Sometimes  
water was hauled by boat from Hornosassa  
Springs (Fish Bowl).

No Phy. Ed. was taught; they got most  
of their exercise rowing! They did have play  
periods at recess or noon. There was a cleared,  
sandy spot behind the school house that was  
used as a ball diamond, using a sponge rubber  
ball and a board for a bat. Sometimes a good  
batter hit the ball in the river. A boat was  
kept at a landing near the play ground to  
retrieve it. If it landed in shallow water, the  
nearest boy dashed in and got it; and didn't  
mind going back in for lessons with wet pants.  
It kept them cool. The oyster shells, deposited  
many years ago from Indian's shucking were  
everywhere, resulting in many cut feet.

There were usually eight grades in school  
this; some years they didn't have all eight. The  
Older children helped the younger ones with  
lessons after they finished their own work.  
They looked after them at recess so the teacher  
could keep slow learners in for extra help.

High lights of the year were 2 programs

Office DEPOT.

Cattie  
Martin

put on by the children. If school was in session in the winter, they had a Christmas program complete with tree. Also a program at the end of school. Most all Ozello residents came. The teachers and children worked hard for several weeks to prepare programs that would provide good, clean entertainment for all. The Bible was read every day!

Ripley's  
Believe It  
or Not

Trustees of the school at this time were John Brown, Agnes De Lusk and Catherine Stevens. In June, <sup>1940</sup> the Ozello school house appeared in Ripley's Believe It or Not as "The Isle of Knowledge, Citrus County, Florida. The Ozello School House is situated on an island and all students must row a boat to school each day."

Tampa  
Tribune  
1956

By 1943, lots of boys started getting a "hunkerin'" for high school and since there had to be a bus to take them to Crystal River, they decided to take the youngsters too. The school house was still used as a polling place, which was no hardship for fishing folks. There were about 20 registered voters in 1956.

It was also in the '40s that Rev. Joseph C. Mack and family came every other Sun. from Feysburg to hold services at the Salina school house. Tho' the children rowed boats to

school during the week, on Sun. they came  
with their parents in a motor boat.  
Many family picnics were held on the island.

Office DEPOT.

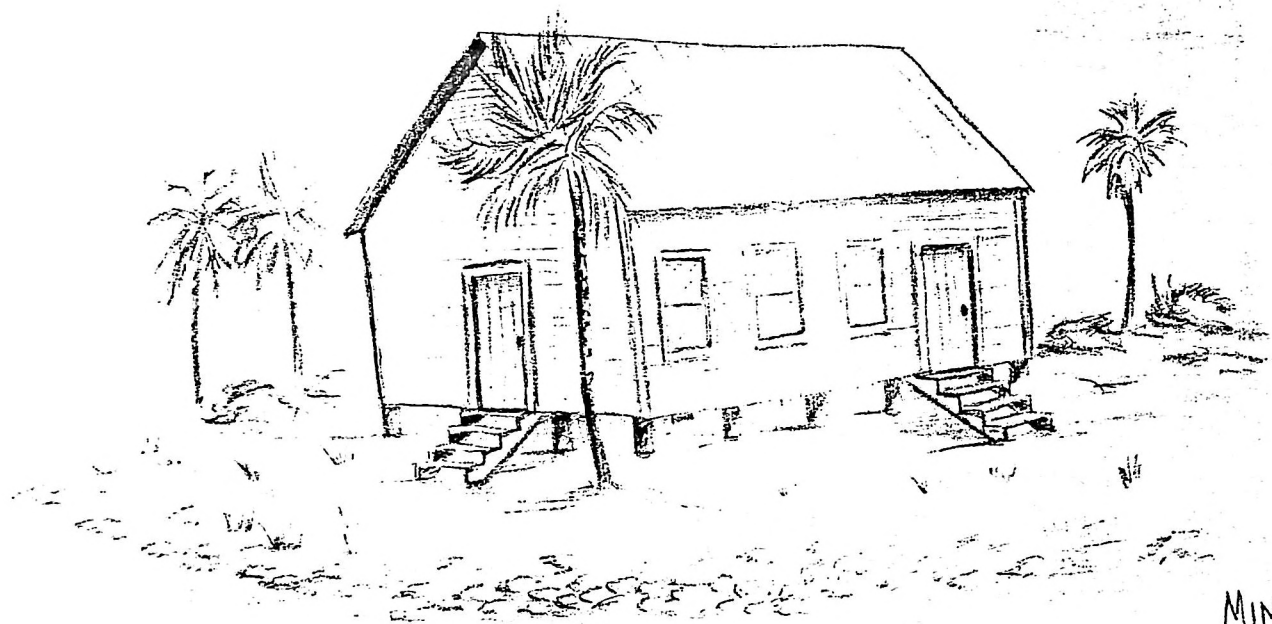
Teachers in Ozello

John J. Brown,  
C. C. Carroll

Dr. R. S. Pringle 1887

Miss Jessie Cameron, 1901;  
James S. Young, 1900; Miss Alice Moon, 1902; Mrs.  
L. Pratt, 1903; Miss Lee Priest, 1903; Mr. Dacie  
Allen, 1905; Saily Willis, 1905; Merian King, Lea  
King, Emily Vance; Miss Rosa Hammond (Camp  
bell) 1901; Miss Leila Zelner, Mamie Love; Mr.  
Jessie Lay, Winn; Sessie Martin; David Tyre;  
Miss Lattie Priest; 1930; Mrs. Idella Wells; Sallie  
Ann Moore; Mary Bell Waring; Sallie Felitson;  
Alfred O'Steen; Anne Ashworth; Mrs. Katy  
Lachly; Dan Kook; Elaine Barnes; Mrs. Lattie  
Priest Martin, 1935-43.

Office DEPOT.



Jane Hindman  
217 E. Cason Blvd  
Ft. Inglis, Fla.  
32649

MIMI  
'80

447-3447

School House  
Paper (J. Brown)

Ozello Children Rowed To School; A Youngster  
Couldn't Row Boat He Was Beyond 10th of Education

The Ozello schoolhouse in Ozello however, remains today a monument to how much a independent little community compromises one of its most selected issues.

Back in 1880 the folks living on the north bank of the St. Martin's River wouldn't agree to let a young man on the south bank - any more than they would on the south shore would stand for a school building erected on the opposite side of the river from the town. So a tiny island in the middle of Ozello's main street - the St. Martin's River - in the site of the old schoolhouse where everybody had to row to get there.

Locating their school on an island was accepted by all, he explained, because a youngster who couldn't row a boat by the time the school age, in those days, was considered beyond all hope of education. Now, too, there was a lot of boat-fooling, the family doing the hard labor in the water, and another the next.

Ozello's isolated little schoolhouse still served the 26 odd registered voters in the precinct after the school closed. The speech by water was no hardship for those fishing folk, as they were there even to meet it, traveling by boat then car.

Ozello's island school had its peak attendance (52 pupils) in the 1920s, when Cedar Key, to the north, was the metropolis of the Gulf Coast. That was before the "Big Freeze" when most folks were in Ozello planned to retire in the coast <sup>business</sup>.

3rd School, Rockell  
and Western Island

Sometime before 1910 three young men John and Joe Waddington and Jim Brown built themselves a fish camp where they would spend many enjoyable hours. It was located on Western Island at a spot which is now behind the Nichols Motel. They called it the 3 J. Camp, a shelter of palm fronds for the sides and the roof.

The two Waddington boys finally <sup>each</sup> built nice homes on the island. They decided they needed a school so the two brothers and J. E. Stevens (a fish dealer in Crystal River) bought lumber and supplies and everyone on the island helped to build it. They then ask the county to send them a school teacher which they did and also reimbursed them for the cost of lumber for the school.

Mrs. John Waddington called it the "3 J. Academy" but it was really named Rockell School. Maude Milay was the <sup>best</sup> teacher.

The school was built in 1922, made of pine lumber and had a tin roof. It was <sup>one</sup> ~~one~~ large room with grades 1-8. One teacher taught all grades. They had a wood heater, the teacher rang a small bell for a morning recess and one in the afternoon. The children carried their lunch and drink-luggettes. The two Ellis boys went to school by boat but all the rest of the children walked about one to two 1/4 of a mile to their walk.

More on Page 37 about Western Island.

was over a levy the fathers had built over a swampy area.

The school was closed in 1932. About 15 pupils were the most that ever attended at one time. Most of the teachers <sup>got</sup> board with the folks.

There were approx. 5 families that lived on Western Island. Mr. & Mrs. John Waddington and 10 children 5 girls and 5 boys, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Waddington and 1 daughter, Mr. & Mrs. John Edgeland, girls, Mr. & Mrs. Shep Ellis and 2 boys and Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jones.

There were no roads at all to the islands. It was 7 miles to Crystal Pier where they stopped and got their mail.

Joseph Strain lived on Cray Island and was the superintendent of the Sunda School which met in the afternoon at the school.

The people on the island used sisters to hold fresh water. Mr. John Waddington had a cypress tank with charcoal filter that held 50 barrels of water.

The people would sometimes go to visit their relatives the De Bunks which were 6 miles to Ocello they traveled via Black Creek or Sweet Springs.

Some of the families held square dances in the winter.

One cold day the children at the school went to the water edge and found red fish and trout frozen and floating on their backs, they all gather the fish and hauled them to Crystal Pier where Mr. Stevens & J. P. Stevens had a house bought the

2nd Voting

Henry DeBeck

1 At the age of 21 Henry voted first<sup>time</sup>  
at the school building back in 1928  
but when he was a small child his  
mother and father voted at the Trading  
Post.

Church at Island School House  
Henry DeBeck

1 Rev. Joe Black from Leesburg was  
the Holiness Baptist minister for the  
Island Church held in Island School  
House. Services were at least once  
a month. Occasionally a visiting minister  
would preach. Sunday School  
was held every Sunday.

2 John J. Brown (Henry's grand-  
father) was both Sunday School  
Superintendent

*Sahngtona ...*  
*Feb 26 - 1926*

THE SECOND OR ISLAND SCHOOL HOUSE BUILT 1880 ISLAND School House

Around 1880, a group of settlers, bent on making a go of fruit growing, established themselves along the north and south banks of the St. Martin's River. At that time there was no road and the only access to civilization was by boat up the coast to Cedar Key, then metropolis of the Florida west coast.

One of these settlers was William Henry Harrison Pratt, a 1st. Lieutenant in the Confederate Army, entering the service at the age of 16-- fought the Indians and Northerners. He and his family of six, ( 3 girls and 3 boys) settled on an island in a bay they named Platt's Bay ( later named Greenleaf Bay ).

They built a four room house, covering the sides and roof with palmetto. Later they built a much larger home from pine lumber. The lumber was transported by train to Homasassa, then hauled by boat to the island.

There were some nice citrus groves in the making around Ozello and Mr. Pratt planted a large grove on his property from seed. His son-in-law Bryant Moody owned a 5 acre grove where the Civic Club is now located, and many acres of grove across the road from it, extending to the Kirkwoods property and the " Old Trading Post ". Numerous citrus groves were scattered around the Ozello area. Most folks planned on getting rich from the citrus business and then the " Big Freeze " of 1895- 96 fixed their dreams by killing the trees. Unlike most of the other Florida areas, citrus growing was abandoned, and many families left the Ozello area, some of the hardy ones remained and went back to fishing, their livelihood.

Mr. Pratt sold his home and citrus grove to Greenleaf Crosby from Jacksonville just before the " Big Freeze " for \$5,000.00, that was a fortune at that time. He and his family moved to High Springs but missed Ozello so much, they moved back.

In 1880 Mr. Pratt wanted his six children to go to school in Ozello instead of Crystal River ( where they would require board and room ).

He received permission from the county commissioners to build a school. The county furnished the lumber etc. and Mr. Pratt built it for the sum of \$25.00, for his labor.

Then as the story has been handed down through the years -- there was controversy, between the north and the south. Folks living on the north bank of the St. Martin's River would not agree to the school being built on the south bank any more than the folks living on the south bank would stand for it being erected on the opposite side of the river from them. After a battle of words, in an area where earlier disputes had been settled by blood -- spilling pirate the rugged inhabitants compromised. So a small palm studded island that jutted from the middle of Ozello's main street -- the St. Martin's River was chosen as the site for the new school building. This added to the boat traffic as there no pick up service.

Now all the local youngsters who wanted to learn the three R's had to make it four R's and learn to row a boat to school. However there was a saying in Ozello, " A youngster who couldn't row a boat by the time he reached school age was considered beyond all hope of education ".

The story of this unique island schoolhouse can be told best by one who taught school there and learned the ways of an island school teacher. Mrs. C. Martin taught four months in the summer of 1930 and five months in the summer of 1931. She taught the winter months in 1935, '36, '42 and '43. So this is her version of " THE ISLE OF KNOWLEDGE " as Ripley's " Believe It Or Not " named the island schoolhouse one time in his column.

When I went down there in the summer of 1930 to teach., it was an interesting experience for me. At that time the school term was four or five months during the summer. This was to allow the older boys to fish in the fall and winter months to help swell the family finances. I taught two summers before the school officials decided to have a full term during the winter. There were no large boys attending school then.

*Salisbury, Maine*  
*Feb 26 - 1956*

Teaching school on a small island in those days was quite different from the schools of today. I had had only one year's teaching experience in a small rural school. Since I was just a little afraid of water, I couldn't swim. Here I was expected to teach fifteen or eighteen youngsters that could handle boats like professionals and swim like ducks. They ranged in ages from five to sixteen. I boarded with a family that lived on the north side of the river about one-half mile from the school. There were two boys in the family that were experts at rowing boats. They taught me to row that first summer.

When school began at eight o'clock each morning, there would be from six to eight skiffs (as the boats were called) drawn up on the shell banks of the island. There was an unwritten agreement among the children not to molest each others boats. If someone did, there was a fight to settle. The school stands on a narrow point so boats were in front and on both sides of the schoolhouse.

At noon groups could be seen sitting under cabbage palms or cedar trees eating their box lunches. There was a small oyster bar at the edge of the water and many times I would watch the oysters feeding as I ate my lunch. There were plenty of sea gulls waiting to devour any scraps of food tossed to them. The children always saved scraps to entice the gull to follow their boats in the afternoons.

Everyone brought his own jug of drinking water as there was no drinking water on the island. There was part of an old cistern there that had been used in early days. Then buzzards began roosting in trees near the cistern and on the roof itself, the people destroyed it. In those days every home in Ouzello had cisterns, water tanks or rain barrels to hold the rain water. Water was often scarce in dry seasons so no one dared waste any. At times they would haul water by boat from Homosassa Springs or what we know as the "FISH BOWL" today.

Physical Education was not taught as such in those days. We had play periods or recess and the noon hour to play any game possible in the rough space around the building. Oyster shell deposited there years ago by Indians shucking oysters were everywhere. Ouzello children didn't mind the shells but dashed here and there chasing each other. If they happened to cut a heel or toe, they waded out into the river, washed the wound, and came to the house for first aid.

The game they enjoyed most was "BALL". Several years before I went there the big boys had cleared a sandy spot back of the school for a ball diamond. They used sponge rubber balls and board bats. Sometimes a good batter would bat the ball out into the river. A boat was kept at the landing near the playground to retrieve the ball. If the ball landed in shallow water, the nearest boy just dashed in and got it. They didn't mind in the least going back to lessons with their pants dripping wet. Since it was summer time, the wet pants helped to keep them cool.

There were usually eight grades in the school though some years we would have all eight. How we teachers ever managed to hear all the lessons, I don't know now. The older children helped the younger ones with their lessons after they had finished their own work. They also helped look after them on the playground. This made it possible for a teacher to keep in the slow learners and give them extra help at recess.

At first the building was very small, but it had been extended before I went there. On the stage, which was across one end of the room, was the teacher's desk, a recitation bench and an organ. The desks were the old fashioned double desks with tops that could be raised and lowered. The windows and doors were screened as the yellow deer flies and green headed horseflies were plentiful almost all summer.

The highlights of the year were two programs put on by the children. If school was in session during the winter, there was a Christmas program with a Christmas tree. We had a program at the close of school, also. Everyone in the community came to these programs. The teacher and children worked hard for several weeks to prepare a program that would provide good, clean entertainment for all.

Office Depot

Office Depot

Cahoon from a newspaper

Feb 26 - 1956

Mr. Stephen Trumbull a roving reporter for The Miami Herald back in 1946 gives his version of a trip by car to Cayello on a very narrow dirt road.

The six miles down here from U.S. 199 may not be the worst road in the world, but its runner-up for that dubious distinction. No cars were passed one the way in or out, which was fortunate. It's a one-way, one-lane affair, starting in the cabbage palms and ending on a salt marsh. John Brower says the duck hunting and fishing is so good that a lot of people believe that road, but it's a well known fact that duck hunters and sports fishermen are nearly as crazy as roving newspaper correspondents.

By 1954, the state road department had widened and surfaced the road to the banks of the St. Martin's River, and, recognizing the natural attraction for people more and more, erected a wayside picnic area alongside the new highway.

Cayello began to be shown with the best and most and The Miami Herald's staff writer, Bob Preston, to do a rather feature picture story on it. One of the road's members described, he found: "The muddy surfaced secondary dirt road, connecting Cayello with the outside world provides for miles of the most picturesque scenery of any highway in Florida."

On arrival, however, all he could see of the community was two houses, the school and a fishing pier. The homes of the other five families

The old town of Ouellet, Bay de l'Est, is its  
two most distinctive features. You will  
have to cross the fjord by boat; and the  
St. Martin's Rectory - by boat; and the  
community schoolhouse, in use from 1870  
until 1943, still stands on a tiny island in  
midstream.

Ouellet and its environs on the lower coast  
have been populated, though sparsely, since fairly  
early; but, due to difficulty of access, they have  
not prospered as you would expect. In recent days

today, however, there is a newly surfaced secondary  
route by highway turning due west off H.S. 19, which  
forms a good alternative to the old road leading  
to Ouellet. This black-topped road takes you through  
six miles of forest and then, just as you reach,  
crosses a salt marsh and a wide flat area.

There is also a road leading from the  
hunting the millionaires, but it is very  
badly located in that it is very difficult to  
travel that road through this coastal  
swanna.

The land landscape is only occasionally  
relieved by a few erratic or a few  
rank of cattle. On approaching this isolated  
place you will find a few huts, but you  
you will be surprised to find a few  
tenacity of the settlement, which is  
radical.

They had their own cows, goats, chickens,  
fox, fish, and a few wild turkey  
eggs, plus a few other kinds of wild game.



Nov. 14, 1958

From the Suncoast Sent

This story could well be started with "Once upon a time," for it seems almost like a fairy tale from the beginning. Yet it is just another of the true classic episodes of the past which make the Suncoast area a realm of intrigue to the present population.

Far out into the salt marsh area between Crystal River and Homosassa, and five miles west of U.S. 19, an abandoned wooden structure stands on a palm studded island that juts up from the middle of the St. Martins River.

For nearly 78 years this battered one room building withstood weather, wind and water while serving as a school for a small isolated community. Later it was used as a voting place and then deserted.

Although the unhinged door and sagging board windows give mute evidence of neglect the little school house now stands as an unofficial monument to how a struggling community peacefully settled one of its bitterest contested issues.

Back before 1880, a group of settlers, bent on making a go of fruit growing, established themselves along the north and south banks of the St. Martins River. At that time there was no road and the only access to civilization was by boat up the coast to Cedar Key, then metropolis of the Fla. West Coast.

The first school was a thatched hut of palmetto, located on an Indian mound on the north side of the river. It became unreasonably stripped and torn, and a new place of learning was badly needed.

Controversy began when the two factions disagreed as to the location of the new school. The North side refused to consent to a structure on the South side of the river. The feeling was as strong in reverse on the opposite side. After a battle of words, in an area where earlier disputes had been settled by blood-spilling pirates, the rugged inhabitants compromised.

"Build the school on the island halfway between us." some Solomon must have suggested. That structure still stands today.

Everyone had to row to get to school, but, according to the best information obtainable today, they felt that a youngster, who couldn't row a boat by the time he was of school age, in those days, was considered beyond all hope of education. More than 20 pupils attended the school.

Just a few years after the educational sites' battle, another disagreement over a name for the settlement stirred trouble.

The settlement had been authorized a post office and had to find a name for itself. Finally, the appointed postmaster, William H. Pratt, settled all argument by sending the entire list of names submitted to him to Washington, D.C. with a very note.

It said: "You fellows pick a name. I've got to live here." Ozello, as it remains today, was the reply from the Capitol.

The highest number of students to attend the island school was 52. That was in the prosperous days of the community when their citrus shipments moved regularly to Cedar Key. Then came the big freeze of 1895-96. Citrus groves were abandoned and some inhabitants left the Ozello area. However, some of the hardy ones remained and went back to fishing, their main livelihood.

The little village then seemed to sink into oblivion for a number of years. A few of the inhabitants visited Homosassa now and then by boat, but as a general rule they remained at the settlement until a dirt road was built down to the river's edge.

The little school was abandoned as a place of learning in 1945 and some say it was for two main reasons. First reason was that when Mrs. Catty Martin got a better teaching job in Crystal River, no other teacher could be found who wanted to begin and end her day with a cold boat ride. Secondly the oldsters said lots of the boys started getting a hankering to go to high school. That meant a school bus would come down to the river and pick them up. They figured the young ones might as well go too. Some of the youngsters today still begin and end their trip to school in a boat.

The old school was then used as a voting place for the local populace. This

was also changed in 1953 and the old schoolhouse now stands abandoned, but seemingly as grim and determined as the nature of its builders.

This is under the picture of the school  
Battered by weather, wind and water, this age old  
structure still stands in its picturesque setting,  
a monument to how the small community of Ozello  
settled a bitter issue almost 80 years ago.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Nov. 27 1958 ✓

In the Ozello vicinity there are many islands, some still as nature made them others built from oyster shells by an early race of people centuries ago.

Long before the Indian times, there is proof that another race of people inhabited that area. There have been many bones dug up by men of our times today. They are larger and longer bones than that of the Indian. Indian mounds in the same area have contained bones much smaller.

During my 37 years in Crystal River, I had the occasion to do some exploring. I dug up three skulls on Buzzard Island which showed signs of being from a small race of people. There were full sets of teeth, upper and lower, and all were well worn down as though all were quite aged.

I would venture to say that there were three different races of people living on the west coast of Citrus County in the early days. The bones are proof enough of that.

The Smithsonian Institute denies that there were other races of people, but with the evidence I have seen, I will hold to my own belief.

John Brown, who has lived in Ozello all of his life and has been very helpful to me in my research work, had an odd experience back in 1950.

While at a fish house in the area, he saw a very peculiar object in the water. He took a boat and went to see what it was. He found a turtle swimming upside down. He caught it and found out why. It had seven or eight oysters growing on the back of its shell. The oysters were to one side, unbalancing the poor turtle and turning him upside down. John took it to Ocalo, and gave it to Ross Allen.

OLIVE DEBOR

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## Red Cross Urges Caution In Hurricane

As the hurricane season is upon us the Citrus County Chapter of the Red Cross wishes to advise residents of the County of procedures which should be observed for their protection if

Red Cross Volunteers. Pets cannot be admitted to the shelters, but the Red Cross has arranged to have them cared for in boarding kennels for the period of the emergency. This service involves no cost to the pet owners.

In any instance where a move to motel, friends' home or public shelter is accom-

plished, be sure that the Red Cross is advised of the new location so that friends and relatives may be informed of the temporary location if they inquire. The maintaining of this information center is the responsibility of the Red Cross.

These duties, including all phases of necessary relief in the event of a disaster, are

the responsibility of your local Chapter.



# Bridges

By Newton Turner

Newton Turner had a model T car and wanted bridges over Salt River & Black Creek. After the war in 1920 the County Commission voted to pay 500<sup>00</sup> to have two bridges built, one over Salt River and one over Black Creek.

Mr. Newton Turner received the contract to build them. He got his lumber at Centralia and had it shipped to Duwamish and then to Omro, it was then hauled by oxen to the river bank and then by boat to Salt River and Black Creek (Mr. Wells bought it by boat). Mr. Turner then hired a few colored men, they made posts from cedar logs and the rest of the bridge was constructed of cypress. The bridge over Salt River was a draw bridge. The traveler had to leave his boat and be on the bridge to operate it, by block and tackle.

There are always a few in every group and even in those days there were no exceptions. Some would go through and neglect to lower the bridge again, then the next traveler by road could consider himself lucky if the block and tackle was on his side. There was a large plank left by the bridge so it could be placed across the river to permit the traveler to get to the other side and lower the bridge. The last bridge we now see, at that time had a culvert and dirt over it to make a roadway which they called "Long-aul-over". Old times claim that more trout were caught in the <sup>pool</sup> ~~place~~ <sup>side of this culvert + location in Ozell</sup> ~~the place the bridges were built~~ than at most.

Before the bridges were built the horse and wagon would ford the river and creek. Sometimes on high tide the horses had to swim or they would wait until the tide subsided.

Newton Junction

Book in 1930 Mr. Newton <sup>and</sup> <sup>re-</sup>  
 ceived the contract to build a road  
 from the first bridge to the St.  
 Martins River (onto the dock)  
 He hired some colored help to dig the  
 mud and build it up for the road  
 bed. Holes were drilled in the mud  
 and stumps and dynamite placed  
 in the holes, after they <sup>were</sup> blown out,  
 there were <sup>no</sup> <sup>more</sup> <sup>stumps</sup> <sup>or</sup> <sup>logs</sup> <sup>left</sup> <sup>behind</sup>.  
 John Brown & Mr. Milled <sup>drilled</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>holes</sup>  
 Mr. Turner made good use of a large shell  
 mound that was located on the river bank.  
 He had it all hauled and spread on the newly  
 built road, making a good shell road from a pile of muck.  
 By 1954 the state road department  
 had widened and surfaced the road to  
 the banks of the St. Martins River, and  
 recognizing the natural attraction for sports  
 men and tourists erected a wayside  
 Park for picnic area along side  
 the new highway.

Some of the material  
is quoted from the Miami Herald.

Then living there just off the bank of the river  
No street lights or municipal gas were  
provided the people surrounding it.  
There was evidently more river than road  
traffic locally.

Noticing a new truck among the boats in  
the front yard of one of the two houses near the river  
Mr. Boston approached and discovered the younger Mr. & Mrs.  
John Brown & their two little boys, Jim and Thomas, but then

John Brown, constable of the district, declared that  
is just a little. Nobody is in serious trouble in Okaloosa  
natives unaffected by the civilization of their east, are with  
to the great pleasure of nature in their water, unlike

But some, like himself, had bought better cars & o  
trucks with a modern road connecting them with  
the outside world. And most especially a local boom, because  
of the exceptionally good fishing and hunting there.

While Okaloosa children now commute by bus  
schools in Crystal River, the majority still begin an  
end the journey by water. School bus driver  
Stephan starts his morning trip by boat from the  
river bank home and picks up most of the ch  
ern in his boat before reaching the bus park,  
where the new road begins in Okaloosa.

Knitted

John G. Pratt now a resident of Honduras will be 80 years old May 31 and as a boy accompanied his or their played on the <sup>formerly of S. Brown</sup> property across from Stephens. He claims that in one certain spot the soil was very peculiar, it was a soft sandy reddish color like brick dust. He states they always imagined or supposed that a boat could have brought it up the river and then loaded it for some purpose.

The boys would dig up bones of skeletons as there had been many bodies buried there. They carried the bones into the places and made a complete skeleton. They never knew if the skeletons were Indian or not, but as they had found many other relics etc. they presumed they were Indian bones. Old times claim there were many skeletons and relics found there many other places in the Chello area.

Mr. W. H. W. Pratt entered the service at age 16 - was in the fight between the north and south.

OFFICE DEPOT

OFFICE DEPOT

Information on visit, which  
Billie attended Hell's Gate & Tiger <sup>Said</sup>  
Club House at Cedar Island  
Then moved to Beulah Land  
Fish Co. (Atlantic Fish Co.)  
Big boats from Cedar Keys trans-  
ported fish there and brought back  
provisions. - Tasted at Rock Island

Also - Who owned, ranger over  
house - how old etc.,

turned them out no money or any cloths on them  
About your grandfather having <sup>been</sup> to  
walk home after the war

John J. Brown Sr. was in prison  
in Ill. War between States Civil War 18  
-65? just turned all prisoners loose  
been at farm house some feel the  
some didn't stop in Ga. Dollar Head John  
Great Grandfather for some time <sup>because of a</sup>  
John J. Brown Sr. then came on foot to <sup>the</sup>  
Worthington Springs, Fla.

Miscellaneous (Misc.)  
Paper from L. B. ...

There were some nice games in the making around Ojello when the "Big Freeze" hit them in 1895-96. Unlike most other Florida areas, citrus growing was abandoned after that. Folks just went back to fishing, their main livelihood.

The decline of Cedar Key as a shipping point was another blow, but the more hardy stayed on here.

Persistent rumors of buried treasure near Ojello recall the earlier history of this remote stretch of the Gulf Coast in Citrus County, when pirates frequented the shores. The removal of a large Indian mound in Ojello proved an ancient habitation of this waterfront. And there are ruins where big salt bottles were spotted only a few miles away on the Salt River during the Civil War — though these are almost concealed by dense woodland now. <sup>1735</sup> This is under Salt by Key West.

Mr. J. M. Coates of Floral City, and others interested in preserving the colorful history of Citrus County have indicated they would make generous contributions to establish a museum. The organization of a county historical commission, as provided by law, would be the logical first step toward this end. We hope the old island school in Ojello will soon be transformed into a perfect site for a local museum there.

Newton Turner

Early in 1930 Mr. Turner  
secured permission to build a road  
from his farm down to the river  
onto the dock.  
He hired some colored help to dig  
mud and build it up on the river  
bank. He also used shells in the places  
and attempts to dynamite places  
in the holes, after they were out,  
were then repaired in a better way.  
(John Brown & Mrs. Miller drilled the holes)  
Mr. Turner made good use of a large shell  
mound that was located on the river bank.  
He had it all hauled and spread on the newly  
built road, making a good shell road from a pile of muck.

By 1954 the state road department  
had widened and surfaced the road to  
the banks of the St. Martin's River, and  
recognizing the natural attraction for sports  
men and tourists erected a wayside  
park for picnic area along side  
the new highway.

Herbude Brown

Post Office

Post Office

17  
Helen - John J. Brown (Se  
James N. Brown (Se  
John J. Brown (Se  
By - John J. B.

1 The first Post Office was in a Trading Post located approx between Rhine and the Lewis property. Owned by Bryant Moody.

2 William Henry Harrison Ball was the first postmaster. Where <sup>lived</sup> Andy Salohe.

3 Joe Wadlington was the first man to carry the mail. He rode a horse from Hornsessen to Guel Township.

4 John J. Brown (grandfather) carried mail 35 yrs. from Hornsessen to Guel 3 days a week, rain or shine. He rode the boat part of the way. There were no motor.

11  
Dist. School (Gardner's school) attended

located on South Street between  
Tiger Hill and Hillsdale. It was  
run by a woman at one time. Chief  
Tiger Hill was the Indian chief.  
John J. Brown Sr. taught school there.  
He rowed his boat from Gelle to  
the school, the children were also  
transported by boat.

Printed

Office DEPOT

Post Office  
By Henry DeBuss

The second location of the Post Office was John J. Brown Sr in a small building on the Brown property (Club House) built on Paradise Island. name of the building is not known.

The third location of the Post Office was across the river on Paradise Island (built on the end of a dock) Mrs. R. S. Baker who at that time was the Postmaster.

Post Office  
By Gertrude Grace Brown

<sup>3rd location</sup>  
Post Office closed approx. 18 or 20 yrs. then reopened April 28-38 by Gertrude Brown on the Old Betty Wells property approx. west of Henry DeBuss and east of the James Stephens.

The Browns had set up a separate room in their home. People traveled by boat to the Post Office to get their mail. Frank to the Boswell brought the mail by car to the boat to the Post Office from Crystal River.

## Title

A gentleman on his way from Miami to Ocala, Fla., saw the sign on U.S. 19. He drove across the road and stopped at Helen Brown's house as she was outside cleaning fish. Introducing himself as Mr. Ozello, he asked where the Post Office was as he wanted to mail a letter postmarked Ozello, but at that time there was no Post Office in Ozello. He was of Italian descent and said his father, an Indian, had been named Ozello after a station. Then Ozello was one of the names sent to Washington and

Office DEPOT.

chosen for the name of  
the first Post Office of  
Washington D. C.

Does anyone know if  
Calle is an Indian or  
Italian name.

Office DEPOT.

Some quoted from the "Meander" journal.

When going there, I found the bank of the river  
high, and the water was very low. The  
deposition of the sand was very noticeable.  
There was evidently more river sand  
locally.

Noticing a new truck among the boats  
the front yard of one of the two houses near the river  
Mr. Preston approached and discovered the younger of the  
John Brown & the two little boys, Jim and the boys, but the  
John Brown, constable of the district, declared it  
is just a little. He had a serious trouble in Galois.  
Natives unaffected by the revolution of their east, as it  
to the west side of the river in their own territory.

But some, like himself, had bought better cars  
trucks with a modern road connection, the new  
through the world. And most expect a local, been  
of the exceptionally good fishing and hunting in the

While Ogish had not committed by bus  
school in Crystal Lake, the majority still begin  
and the journey by water. School bus was  
Stephen starts his morning trip by boat from the  
river bank home and picks up most of the  
men in his boat before reaching the lower part  
where the new road is built in Ogish.

Office DEPOT.

Six years after the storm had done its  
damage, John, Joe's brother, was gathering wood  
for his fire place. He found the first money about  
3 miles from home. I suppose the storm had taken  
it that far and the tide had caused it to drift ashore.

John took the money to his brother Joe. Joe  
brought it to C. River & turned it in for new  
bills. C. C. Miller was cashier at the bank then.

During the period from 1910 - 1924, John  
Washington had 10 children 5 boys - 5 girls.  
They all came to C. River on Sat. John would  
give each of the girls a nickel or dime  
spending money. They would go to the bakery  
to buy cookies or pies. Cookies were 6 for 5¢  
and pies 5¢ each.

1. 1. 1911

On the west side of Citrus County, which extends to the Gulf of Mexico, there is a territory known as the Western Islands. They are located about miles from Crystal River by water.

Some of these islands range from one to three acres in size. A few are larger. One of the islands is some of the best fishing. The only boat to offer a net. The only way in had a tawand. The area are wonderful.

You may have many families lived on the islands. The men are commercial fishermen & brought thousands of lbs. of mullet, red fish, snappers and trout up to the town of Crystal River. There was a good day for the town, because on Saturdays everyone would come into town and spend the day talking, seeing things or buying.

J. E. Stevens operated a wholesale fish house at the time. He bought most of the fish caught by the commercial fishermen of the Western Islands section.

But on those days, fish were shipped in large square barrels, mostly by rail to the Atlantic Coast Line. Occasionally a N. R. car would be loaded & shipped to a western point.

In 1913 a terrible storm formed out in the gulf and killed a wind for quite a while. Before reaching toward the shore, it hit right in the middle of the Western Islands. Two families were in the direct path, but no one was drowned.

Joe Waddington and his brother John had lived in the island section for many years. One period of time, Joe had saved a total of \$500 from his fishing. For safe keeping he had placed the bills in a glass jar and hidden it in an old boat which was filled with sand for a floor bed. When the storm came along, it destroyed the old boat & the floor bed. Joe's money was gone. It was hard to say what he thought of the money, but he doesn't, it was something like "I'll win again."

(over)

1 P.M. Waterman - first land developer -

2 Road opened to causeway

3 Bridge or Causeway opened May 31-62 Washed away

4 First step for getting fresh water

5 First electric in Ozello

6 New cement bridge

7. When the 3rd bridge was put in over

8. Channel markers -

9. Fish house at 3rd bridge

10 Air plane - for mosquito control

11 Water canals for " "

- 12 Mrs. Miles had a small store
- 13 Mr. Roberts Store-
- 14 Myrtle Clyfton-
- 15 Plans for an air strip at causeway.
- 16 First Motel built by when \_\_\_\_\_
- 17 Pearson developer \_\_\_\_\_
- 17A Miles-
- 18 Honey Green developer \_\_\_\_\_
- 18 John Faw Houses
- 19 Carroll developer \_\_\_\_\_
- 20 Road finished from <sup>2nd</sup> Bridge to Civic Club.
- 21 County Park
- 22 State Park
- 23 Telephones - being installed in <sup>Jan. 19-69</sup> community

Post Office By Henry DeBudy

There was a Club House  
or used like a transient  
fishing lodge? 1st Loc.  
of second loc.  
Care taken

Atlanta Fish Club  
Parked at Rock Island  
Big boat from Cedar Key  
transferred fish there and  
they brought back provisions

School began at eight o'clock each morning, there would be from six to eight skiffs ( as the boats were called ) drawn up on the shell banks of the island. There was an unwritten agreement among the children not to molest each other's boats. If someone did, there was a fight to settle. The boats were parked on the sides of the island.

James J. Brown was the last teacher to teach at " Bayview School " and the first to teach at the " Island School ".

Ozello's island school had its peak attendance of 52 pupils in the prosperous days when Cedar Key was an important port on the Gulf Coast. In 1911 it was a different story, that was the first year Henry De Busk went to school on the island and he says, " There were only four pupils, his brother Herman, Edith Brown and Katherine Brown. The next year there were five attended the school. " .  
Mrs. Cattie Martin



If you have a question about it just give me  
a ring -

P.S. Call Mrs. Ira Martin - Crystal River  
maybe she has a real copy of "Ripley Believe it or  
Not" piece that was in the paper. - She taught in  
Ozella.

TAKEN FROM TAMPA TRIBUNE – FEBRUARY 26, 1956

Mr. Stephen Trumbull, a roving reporter for The Miami Herald back in 1946 gives his version of a trip by car to Ozello on a very narrow dirt road.

The six miles down here from U.S. 19 may not be the worst road in the world, but it's runner up for that dubious distinction. No cars were passed on the way in or out, which was fortunate. It's a one way, one lane affair, starting in the cabbage palms and ending on a salt marsh. John Brown Sr. says the duck hunting and fishing is so good that a lot of people brave that road, but it's a well known fact that duck hunters and sports fishermen are really as crazy as roving newspaper correspondents.

By 1954, the state road department had widened and surfaced the road to the banks of the St. Martin's River and recognizing the natural attraction for sportsmen and tourists erected a wayside picnic area alongside the new highway.

Ozello began to be shown on the latest road maps and The Miami Herald sent a staff writer, Bob Preston, to do another feature picture story on it. Free of the road hazards Trumbull described, he found: "The newly surfaced secondary state highway connecting Ozello with the outside world provides five miles of the most picturesque scenery of any highway in Florida."

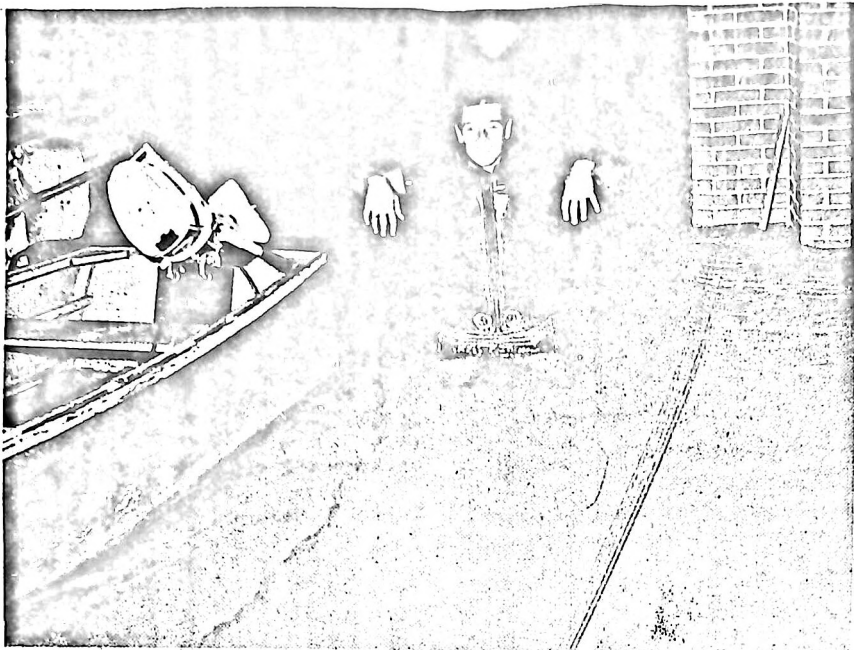
On arrival, however, all he could see of the community was two houses, the school and a fishing pier. The homes of the other five families.....

The old town of Ozello still retains it's two most distinctive features. You still have to cross it's ..... the St. Martin's River by boat and the community school house in use from 1890 to 1943, still stands on a tiny island in midstream.

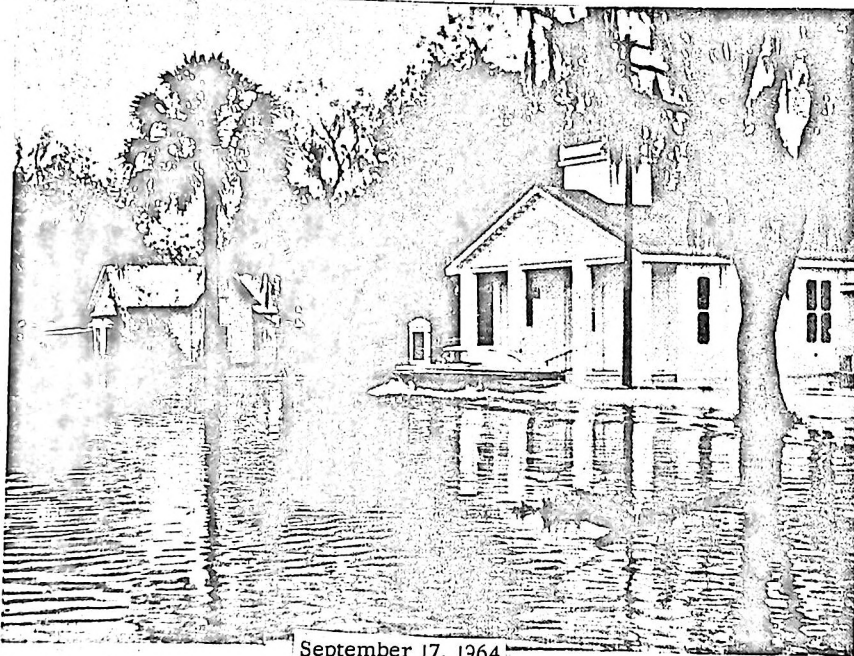
Ozello and it's envir.....have been populated....since pirate days, but, due to difficulty.....

Today, however, there is a newly surfaced secondary highway turning west off U.S. 19 between Homosassa....

They had their cows. Goats, chickens, fished, oystered and would hunt wild turkey, pigs, deer and many other kinds of wild game.



*SEPT. 17 - 64*  
DEEP RIVER!-- Johnny Workinger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Workinger, pictured at the height of the storm Thursday. Johnny, complete with wet-suit crowned it up in hip-deep water in the family car-port.



September 17, 1964

HIGH WATER, above, in various areas, caused church congregations to move to other churches for Sunday services. By this time most of them will be dried out and ready for normal church activities.



SCENE AT OZELLO SOON MAY GIVE WAY

... to houses, population as land is readied for buyers.

## Subdividing Under Way At Ozello

A once - thriving commercial fishing and grove center — decimated by freezes of the 1890's — is getting a new spurt of life.

It is the town of Ozello, not on the map until 1954. Ozello is about 7 miles west of U.S. 19 on 494, about three miles south of Crystal River in Citrus County.

Today it's a place to go to get away from it all and that's what J. H. McClung, realtor, and A. T. Carroll, contractor and businessman, had in mind when they started opening 320 acres there for houses.

It's still hunting and fishing country up there and the developers, known as the Ozello Land Development Co., decided to open up an all waterfront section aiming at the "second house" buyer for weekends and vacations. The property is on the St. Martin's River and canals are being dredged and land cleared to create the all waterfront sites.

Planned are a total of 1,200 lots. All residential lots are 100 x 130 feet with 100 feet water frontage. Prices range from \$1,795 to \$2,995.

A 20 - acre section has been set aside for mobile homes. These lots are 60 x 130 feet.

Before the big freeze of 1895-96, the mainland and islands of Ozello were thickly populated.

A post office was located on one island and the mail and supplies were brought in by boat from Cedar Key. The school house was built on an island in 1886 and children from the mainland and the adjoining islands attended school by rowboat. The school is still standing and a schoolboat still operates, taking children from island homes to school on the mainland.

OLYMPIC DEBOL

Nov. 21 - 65

## Life Starts Early In Ozello

Times Correspondent

OZELLO — Only in Ozello would there be a groundbreaking ceremony at 8:30 in the morning, but then Ozello has an unusualness in terrain and people that just naturally calls for something different. Ozello is a settlement in Citrus County about six miles west of U.S. 19, midway between Homosassa and Crystal River.

The occasion Saturday morning was the beginning of construction on the Ozello Civic Club clubhouse near the intersection of the Ozello road and the road to the Florida State Wayside park on the nearby Homosassa River.

THE CIVIC club, a five-year-old dream of developer P. M. Waterman, was given birth just three weeks ago by 25 residents of the area. Their immediate objectives, as explained by the club president, is the construction of the clubhouse, which will serve as a recreation center for the community, the acquisition of fire fighting equipment, the establishment of regular religious services in the area, telephone service to the area and eventually a swimming pool.

The club is actually a sub-organization of Ozello, Inc., explained Mrs. Thelma DeGaw, secretary of the organization. It will be through Ozello, Inc., that much of the municipal development of the area will occur.

President of the organization is E. E. Screws who served as master of ceremonies at the ceremony. Screws told his audience of nearly 50 that the club's membership has already

swelled to 37, and it is hoped that this figure can be tripled in short order.

Eventually, Screws told The Times, the residents of the area hope to form a water district and with a loan from the federal government construct a pipeline to bring fresh water to the area from the nearest source about five and a half miles away. While residents of the area make use of surface water for their general water needs, drinking water must either be bottled or shipped into the area, since groundwater and the river are often found to be brackish, caused by intrusion from the nearby Gulf of Mexico.

THE AREA of interest of Ozello, Inc., is basically some 125 acres of land developed by P. M. Waterman, who came to Florida from Indiana in 1953. He has been developing his Ozello tracts since 1955.

It was Waterman who gave Ozello, Inc. the 150 by 400 foot lot on which the clubhouse will be built. Waterman serves on the board of directors of the organization.

Joining the members of the club at the groundbreaking ceremonies were Citrus County Clerk of the Circuit Court Francis (Cowboy) Williams, County Commission Chairman Clyde Byrd, Crystal River Mayor Leonard Darron, Suncoast Springs Chamber of Commerce President Robert Hyde, Chamber's Secretary-Manager Robert Stricklin, and Chamber board member E. E. (Poppy) Schatz.

Waterman was asked to turn the first shovel of dirt. The developer told those attending that

he hoped the construction of the clubhouse would mark the beginning of an effort to develop a museum in the area of the old school house, reviving the historical heritage of the area.

THEN BENEATH the early morning sun in the contradictory setting of giant moss-draped oaks, cabbage palms and the sawgrass flats of the Gulf of Mexico, Waterman turned the first shovel full of dirt and it became apparent that a new and dynamic community in growing Citrus county was taking form.

President Screws closed the meeting with the comment that the people of Ozello would build the building through donations of materials, labor and money, and he promised that the job would be done in no more time than construction of a similar facility by contract where funds were readily available.

Screws said the initial structure would include a 40 by 30-foot assembly room, closets, restrooms and the foundation for the addition of a kitchen at a later date.

ANOTHER IMMEDIATE project of Ozello, Inc., Screws later told the Times, will be telephone service to the area, either through Florida Telephone Corp., which serves most of Citrus County, or by some other means.

Officers of Ozello, Inc., in addition to Screws are L. A. Deugaw, vice president, and Mrs. Thelma Deugaw, who serves as secretary and treasurer.

Board members, in addition to Waterman, are: Mr. and Mrs. Louis White, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Revels, and Mrs. E. E. Screws.

Nov. 18, 1965

### DETERMINED GROUP FORMS CIVIC CLUB IN OZELLO

by Thelma DeGaw  
After two unsuccessful attempts to form a Civic Club in Ozello, a determined group met Oct. 30 and formed the Ozello Civic Club, a non-profit organization.

Many civic problems were discussed and it was agreed a club house was to be one of the

first projects. The following Saturday the officers and board members, a few residents and several teenagers partially cleared the large and well selected lot donated to the club by P. M. Waterman. A picnic lunch was provided by the women members and soft drinks were donated by Roberts Grocery.

That evening the Club held another meeting and formulated and approved the By-Laws of the Ozello Civic Club. It was unanimously agreed that the future building was to be named Waterman Hall.

This club is invitational and its first general meeting was held Nov. 13 at 2:30 p.m. at the new club site. At this time the President explained to the assembly the aims and goals of the club, and stated the club would be built if it never received another member.

The President announced a total of 25 new members had joined and that several cash donations, materials and other items had also been received. It was agreed that a bulletin board will be placed on this lot where the names of all persons and firms making donations may be placed. The ground breaking ceremonies will be held Nov. 20, at 8:30 a.m. with Mr. Paul M. Waterman turning the first ground. All members and friends are invited to attend.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. ....

You are invited to join the new Ozello Civic Club.

A meeting will be held at 2 P.M., Saturday, November

13th, 1965 on the lot at end of pavement by those

having written invitation only.

Discussion will be about a club house - a possible

Post Office, and fire protection.

Let's Go Folks!

OZELLO CIVIC CLUB.

### CIVIC CLUBHOUSE STARTED

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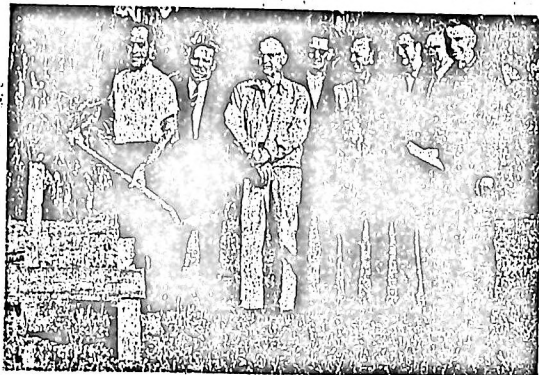
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2-8

STATE NEWS

St. Petersburg Times, Sunday, November 21, 1965



### Ground Broken For Ozello Civic Club

Participating in ground breaking ceremonies Saturday morning at the site of the proposed Ozello Civic Club clubhouse were, from left to right: E. E. Screws, president of the club; Clyde Byrd, chairman of the Citrus County Commission and commissioner of the district in which Ozello is included; E. E. (Pappy) Schatz, a board member of

the Citrus County Suncoast Springs Chamber of Commerce; Robert Stricklin, secretary-manager of the Chamber; Robert Hyde, president of the Chamber; Francis (Cowboy) Williams, Citrus County Clerk; Leonard Damron, mayor of Crystal River; and P. M. Waterman, club board member and donor of the land for the club.

DETERMINED GROUP  
FORMS CIVIC CLUB

IN OZELLO

Nov. 18-65

by Thelma Deugaw

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OFFICE DEPOT

CHAS. DEFOI.



# Ozello, Inc., Begins Clubhouse Construction

November 25, 1965

Members of the Ozello Civic Club, formed only three weeks ago, gathered Saturday morning for the formal groundbreaking ceremonies which initiate construction on a clubhouse for the group. Ceremonies were held on the clubhouse site near the intersection of the Ozello Road and the road to the Florida State Wayside Park near the St. Martin's River.

The Civic Club and clubhouse, a five year old dream of developer P.N. Waterman, was given birth just three weeks ago by twenty-five residents of the area. Their immediate objectives, as explained by Club president, is the construction of the clubhouse, which will serve

as a recreation center for the community. The acquisition of fire fighting equipment, the establishment of regular religious services in the area, and the promoting of telephone services.

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Board members are, in addition to Waterman, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Witte, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Revels, and Mrs. E.E. Screws.

November 25, 1965

**SWAMP CABBAGE**  
The Ozello Civic Club, a division of Ozello, Inc., are having their benefit fish fry, beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday, at the site of the clubhouse on the Ozello road. The menu includes fish, puppets, swamp cabbage, and white and yellow roe. The public is most welcome.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dec. 2, 1965

Because this writer was at the Ozello Civic Club first Fish Fry from mid-morning until late afternoon many of the news items are derived from talking with lots of strangers. Many of them had their first taste of roe and swamp cabbage. Thanks go to all the members who helped make the Fry a success.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Fish Fry Nov. 25, 1965

Fish fries, chili dinners, and barbecues are practically a dime a dozen as civic fund-raising projects in Citrus County. Sometimes, however, along comes one that is so uniquely different it's worth raving about.

The Ozello Civic Club kicks off their fund-raising program with a fish fry Saturday, with serving to begin at 11 a.m. The proceeds from the dollar donation will go towards the purchase of materials for the civic club house which is now under construction.

It's the side dish menu that

sets the Ozello fish fry apart from the others. It includes, among the regulars, swamp cabbage and white and yellow roe. These are native delicacies of a unique and delightful variety.

On the other hand, the Chas. Sawhitzka Volunteer Fire Department as well knows the secret of introducing something unusual to the traditional fund-raising fish fry. Come December 4th, from 5 to 7:30 p.m., the department will hold their holiday fish and crab fry at Hampton's Fish Camp, according to department trustee S.M. Jimison.

## OZELLO CIVIC CLUB FISH FRY

Saturday, November 27  
Starting at 11:00 a.m.

Fish, Hush Puppies, Swamp Cabbage  
White & Yellow Roe

End of pavement on SR 494 Ozello Donation \$1.00

## What's New?

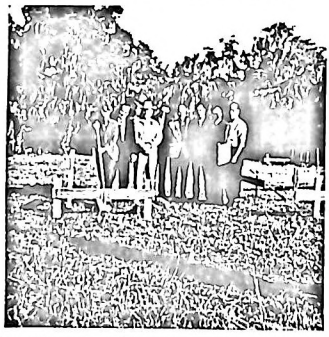
Secretary of State Tom Adams has announced the chartering of the following corporation(s):

Ozello, Inc., Crystal River, Florida (Citrus County). Filed November 5, 1965, by Wallace Dunn, Esquire, Ocala. Purpose: to promote community development. Subscribers: Paul M. Waterman, Route One, Box 181; Mary I. Waterman, Route One, Box 181; Louis E. Vitte, Route One, Box 109; Bill of Crystal River, Florida.

WALLACE DUNN

ATTORNEY AT LAW  
TELEPHONE 622-3124

LEGAL CENTER - 18 N. PINE ST.  
SUITE 205  
OCALA, FLORIDA



# Ozello Selects Board For Community Needs

By LUCY WARE

OZELLO — The first step toward obtaining fresh water for this "salt water community" were taken here last night at a meeting which threatened at times to rival the long famous meetings held by neighboring Crystal River's city council.

An organizing board of directors was elected from the gathering of '93 area residents at Robert's Grocery.

Those elected were E. A. Turner, Joe Cournoyer, Les Deugaw, Bennie Richard, Mrs. Myrtle Clifton, P. M. Waterman and Mrs. Laura Russell.

The main bone of contention among these present seemed to be the purpose for which the meeting was called.

Representatives of the Farm Home Authority stated they thought the meeting had been called for the single purpose of obtaining water.

The majority of the group seemed to want to form an organization which would be responsible for obtaining a community hall, fire protection and other needs in addition to water.

Robert Fallin, district commercial manager for Florida Telephone Corp., had been invited to discuss the possibility of telephone service to the area. He told the group a minimum of 25 subscribers would be necessary to put a line in the area. He said all the Ozello area would be included in the plan. He estimated the cost of supplying 25 homes at approximately \$50,000.

Three additional requests for telephones came in at the meeting, bringing the total to 14 last night.

Foremost among those who wanted the several necessary things for the community were Witte and Deugaw. Those arguing for water only at this time were Joe Cournoyer, Hal Bennett and Bennie Richard.

After much discussion, Richard finally offered a motion that settled the issue. He suggested the group follow the dictates of the FHA authorities who have control of the money for financing the projects.

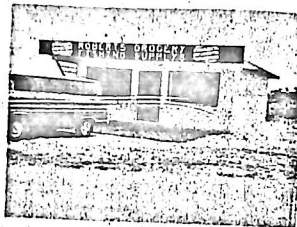
At this point, Louis Witte, who had been serving as chairman,

stepped down from the chair. He turned the meeting over to Ocala Attorney Wallace Dunn. The group then voted to accept the motion and proceeded to elect a board of directors.

Dunn asked the group to sign last night, as an indication of good faith, as members of the Ozello Water Inc. A meeting of the directors will be held in the near future to approve a charter and by-laws.

November 4, 1965

## Ozello



Ozello -- This small fishing community isn't letting the rest of this booming West Coast area get too far ahead of them.

The first grocery store opened here this week in the midst of the up and coming developments throughout the area.

Virgil L. Roberts, a widower and a native Floridian, came down to Ozello last February on a visit and liked the place so well that he bought five lots before he returned to his fish house at Suwannee.

He moved down right away because, as he says, "I liked Ozello and the people who live here".

Roberts said he had never seen Ozello until

his February visit. Now he has gone into a full scale business with his grocery and tackle shop. He is also putting in a Citco Service Station, another first for Ozello. The service station is expected to be in operation this week.

Roberts has a married daughter and five grandchildren in Texas, but lives alone.

He has employed Mrs. Eunice Roll, an Ozello resident for the past five years to help out in the store.

## Ozello

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Platt of St. Petersburg spent Friday with the Louis Wittes.

The Louis Wittes and daughter Sandra left for Anaheim, Calif. Sunday. They will return in 3 weeks.

Motion by Commissioner Gilstrap, seconded by Commissioner James Rooks, Jr., to select the following to serve as election officials at the November 2 Election, and motion carried.

### Precinct # 4

Mary I. Waterman, Clerk Box 181, Crystal River, Florida  
Mrs. Geraldine Witte RFD Box 103, Crystal River, Florida  
Mrs. Thelma Deugaw, Insp. RFD Box 107 A, Crystal River, Florida  
Noah C. Brannen, Insp. Inverness, Florida Nov 4-65

Office DEPOT.

# Ozello Group Seeking Needs For Community

By LUCY WARE  
Star-Banner Staff Writer

OZELLO — A group of citizens are seeking to form a non-profit organization here for the betterment of the entire Ozello area.

They are spearheaded by Les Deugaw and Louis Witte, both residents of Ozello.

Deugaw said the group has no ambition of becoming a municipality, but merely seeks to obtain some of the many things needed for the area.

The group's first goal is water, fresh water, of which they have none except that which residents haul from inland areas.

Other aims of the group in-

clude a community hall, fire protection, telephone service, police protection, a teenage center and other community necessities.

Florida Telephone Corporation has expressed a willingness to go into Ozello with service if 28 subscribers can be obtained. The required number has not yet been reached.

No. outside communications exist in the area, which is dotted with many weekend homes belonging to residents of Tampa, St. Petersburg and other areas, in addition to many year round residents.

Ocala attorney Wallace Dunn met with the group recently to discuss the formation of the or-

ganization and told them of the need for a charter and by-laws. Dunn is donating his time.

Deugaw stated that they plan to apply for a Farmer Home Administration loan recently made available to low income families in small communities, which enables them to borrow up to 90 per cent of the cost.

Members of the organizing committee are in addition to Witte, who is president, and Deugaw, are Hal Bennett, Mrs. Henry Debusk, Mrs. Myrtle Clifton, Louis Revels and a man named Nichols, whose first name was not available.

Bennie Barnes of Crystal River was named vice president and Mrs. Deugaw secretary. Both were selected from the membership at large.

Another meeting is scheduled Thursday night to iron out some of the problems before the charter is completed.

## Nov. 4-65 Ozello News

Ozello—The first step toward obtaining fresh water for this "salt water community" was taken here last week at a meeting which at times was hectic.

An organizing board of directors was elected from the gathering of 93 area residents at Robert's Grocery.

Those elected were E. A. Turner, Joe Cournoyer, Les Deugaw, Bennie Richard, Mrs. Myrtle Clifton, P. M. Waterman, and Mrs. Laura Russell.

The main bone of contention among those present seemed to be the purpose for which the meeting was called.

Representatives of the Farm Home Authority stated they thought the meeting had been called for the single purpose of

The majority of the group seemed to want to form an organization which would be responsible for obtaining a community hall, fire protection and other needs in addition to water.

Robert Fallin, district commercial manager for Florida Telephone Corporation had been invited to discuss the possibility of telephone service to the area. He told the group a minimum of 25 subscribers would be necessary to put a line in the area. He said all the Ozello area would be included in the plan.

Fallin estimated the cost of supplying 25 homes at approximately \$50,000.

Three additional requests for telephones came in at the meeting,

11-4-68\*\*\*  
Crystal River -- Local contractor John Dotson has "reluctantly" accepted the supervision of the building of a \$1 1/2 million apartment building in Chattanooga. He says the job will last from eight months to a year, after which he will return here as a full-time resident. He and his wife will fly back periodically to visit friends.

was taken from the...

1st Post Office of Horace  
by Gertrude Brown

1 Second Postmaster  
Moody, located at the same place.  
The existing Post office and operated  
by Moody.

2 The Post Office was there moved  
to a small building on <sup>island called</sup> Bensahland Island,  
cross farm where the James Stephens property was <sup>now</sup>  
located on the St. Martin's River. It was owned by the  
Lanta Fishing Club. <sup>Wendell Brown</sup> was the caretaker  
the Club and brought the mail by boat to the P.O. <sup>His step-</sup>  
son <sup>can call</sup> <sup>of the Postmaster</sup> <sup>by boat</sup> <sup>to the</sup> <sup>office</sup>  
The Post Office was there <sup>under</sup> <sup>convenient</sup>  
across the river on Paradise Island on the  
end of a dock (now Stephens property) The  
property was then owned by H. G. Baker  
and his wife, Mrs. Kitty Baker was the  
Postmistress.

The Post Office was <sup>under</sup> <sup>convenient</sup>  
for 18 or 20  
yrs.

When in April 28-1935 it was  
reopened by Gertrude Edge Brown. It was  
in Horace and Gertrude Brown's property west  
of Howard Bush and east of James Stephens  
house. They had it in one room of their  
house. Everyone came by boat to get their mail  
at the Post Office.

Frank Boswell brought the mail from  
Crystal River by car then transferred it into  
a boat and hauled it to the Post Office  
on the Horace Brown property. (The old Kelley  
Wells property.)

In 1941 the Post Office was discontinued  
again and to this date has not been reopened.  
The residents then had to pick up their mail  
at the Homosassa Post Office. Later the mail  
was delivered from Homosassa to rural boxes.

in front of Starnes property on S.R. #494,  
then Crystal River took over the delivery  
of the mail at the same rural box  
locations (Mr. Ford Campbell)

Finally in April '66 Gene Allen de-  
livered the mail to rural boxes in Crystal.  
Some residents still have P.O. boxes.

July 21, 1966

# Ozello *July 21-66*

by Mae Witte  
Mr. and Mrs. Noah Charles Brannen Jr. and children from Orlando and Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Brannen & children from St. Petersburg visited with their parents, Mr. & Mrs. Noah Brannen on Sun.

"Happy Birthday" to the following for the

month of July: Mrs. Dorothy Caulk, Cheryl Calhoun, Mrs. Jean Mc Clanthan, Mr. Carl Ayers, Mr. Wm. Tarella, Ronny Gibson, Mr. Bennie J. Ri Chard & Mr. Markham Howell.

Mr. Freddie Morgan was a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Witte and daughter, Sandy for a farewell dinner. Freddie enlisted in the U. S.

s and left Wed. for Paris Island, where he will take s of boot training. he son of Mr. and Frank De Lade of 1888.

and Mrs. S. J. & Mrs. Vedia Wall home from a 6 vacation. They Niagara Falls and week with Joyce Vedia's daughter) on, O. (They trav- to Indianapolis, ere they spent a

week with a nephew. The trio then visited with Mrs. Harry Evans in Richmond, Mo. and traveled on to Gladewater, Tex. to stay a few days with Vedia's son, Stanley Wall, stopping along the way to see the many attractions, the last stop being at their home in Glenwood, Ga. where they stayed for a week and half visiting brothers and sisters, then returned to Crystal River. Everyone had a wonderful time.



## Ozello Water Unit Given Federal Loan

Times Staff Writer

OZELLO — A federal loan of \$262,000 to expand the Ozello water system has been approved by the Farmers Home Administration, the office of U.S. Rep. Bill D. Gunter announced Thursday.

The loan made to the Ozello Water Association Inc., carries a 5 per cent interest rate, and must be repaid over 40 years.

The funds will be used to extend water lines and to build another water storage tank. The number of customers served by the water system would be increased from 287 to 619.

The water association is a non-profit community association formed to own and operate a water system system in the Ozello area of western Citrus County.

IN SER  
Franklin  
Mr. and  
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U. S. M  
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Island, &  
will tak  
Boot Car.  
graduate  
River Hi  
class of '66.

## Ozello OK's Water Plan

by Mae Witte *July 21-66*  
The property owners of Ozello have accepted the preliminary engineering report for a water system. They have formed a new committee which met July 13 at Mrs. Myrtle Clifton's.

Plans were formulated to organize Ozello Water Association. Those serving on the committee are: Mr. Lester Deugaw, chairman; Mrs. Jean Bittinger, secretary-

treasurer; Mrs. C. C. Russel, Mrs. Myrtle Clifton, Mr. P. M. Waterman, Mr. John Green, Mr. S. J. Miles, Mr. Ronnie Green and Mr. E. A. Turner.

Mr. Deugaw stated he was very well pleased with the cooperation of everyone. The next meeting will be held July 20, to go over the charter and by-laws. When accepted by the committee, they will be signed and forwarded for approval to the Secretary of State, Tom Adams.

## Ozelloans Accept Water Plan: Next Step Is Incorporation

7-14-66  
More than 100 Ozello property owners, meeting at the American Legion Hall in Crystal River Saturday afternoon, accepted the preliminary engineering report for a \$160,000 water system for the Ozello community. The group's under the chairmanship of Bennie Richard, then nominated a committee of eight to organize the Ozello Water Association.

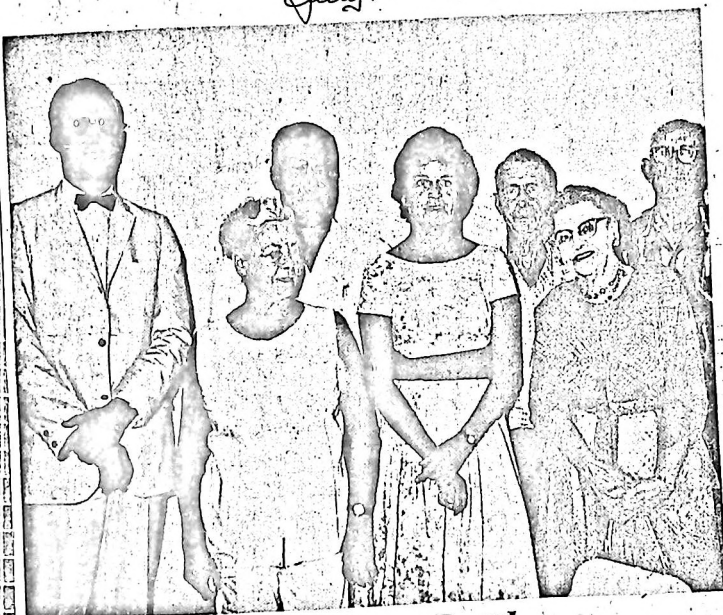
S. J. Miles, B. M. Waterman, Mrs. C. C. Russell, Mrs. Jean Blittinger, Mrs. Myrtle Clifton, Ronnie Green, Les Degaw, John Green and E. A. Turner are those who accepted the nomination, with the exception of Turner and Degaw who were not present. The official committee then elected Degaw chairman with Turner next in line for the top post if Degaw declines. Degaw is Citrus County Sanitarian and resides in Ozello. Turner, from

Jacksonville, is a property owner in Ozello. Mrs. Blittinger was elected secretary-treasurer.

Richard, who read the 12 page engineering study to the Ozello group, declined a seat on the committee, saying he was always available to help but could no longer devote the time necessary to bring the water system into being.

Next step for the committee was to become legally incorporated in order to secure a loan from the Federal Farmers Loan Administration for construction of the water system for the 218 property owners who have already applied for water service.

July 13-66



**Ozello Water Board**

The newly formed board of directors for the Ozello Water Association are front row from left: B. M. Waterman and S. J. Waterman Les Degaw and