

## Ozello Man Missing On Crabbing Trip

Dec. 2, 1965

A 75 year old Ozello resident of many years was reported missing Tuesday night when he failed to return from a day of crabbing on the St. MARTIN River and the Gulf of Mexico.

L. C. Dye was last seen in the Ozello area in his 14 foot green boat, powered by a 12 horsepower motor early Tuesday.

A search was begun Tuesday night under the direction of Citrus County Deputy Sheriff Harold Lay. Wednesday morning the Coast Guard was asked for assistance.

When dark fell Wednesday, there was still no word of the fate of Mr. Dye.

At the First Fish Fry all members were given a vote of thanks for making it a success but we neglected to mention the long hours spent in cutting the cabbage palms and catching the fish. Belated thanks go to two 18 year olds, Billy De-Busk and Gavin Revels. Now will you two find the prettiest cedar for the Ozello, Inc.'s first decorated Christmas tree?

*DEC 6 1965*

The residents of Ozello will miss seeing Elwood Dize, a shell fisherman, who was lost in the Gulf from Tuesday until his boat and body were found by the Coast Guard on Friday afternoon. Condolences go to Mrs. Dize and daughter Pamela. Funeral services were held at the Duval Funeral Home in New Port Richey. Interment was near Wildwood, on Sunday.

December 4, 1965

## Search Ends As Crabber's Body Found

Times Correspondent

CRYSTAL RIVER — The body of L. C. Dize, 76, of Ozello, near Crystal River, was found late yesterday afternoon by a U.S. Coast Guard airplane, lying in his 20-foot fishing boat far out in the Gulf of Mexico.

Just how the Ozello crabber passed away is not known, but it is presumed he died attending crab traps near the mouth of the St. Marks and Salt rivers, in the Gulf region of Citrus County.

After his death, the boat carrying his body apparently was swept seaward by northerly winds and a falling tide. Dize's body was brought ashore by the Coast Guard auxiliary at Port Richey last night.

On the boat which brought in the body were Pasco County deputies George Lindsay and Al Grove and auxiliary members Allen Jensen, Carl Goetz and Charles Edwards.

THE SEARCH for the man who had bedeviled many in the area began Tuesday evening when he was reported overdue from a day of tending his crab traps on the two rivers.

Under the direction of Citrus County Deputy Sheriff Harold Lay, the search combed the rivers' banks and the shore of the Gulf late into Tuesday night. The search was resumed Wednesday morning, joined by a light plane and a helicopter from the St. Petersburg Coast Guard base.

Also lending their assistance in the search were officers of the Salt Water Conservation Department of the Florida Board of Conservation, Mayor Leonard Damron of Crystal River, and others.

YESTERDAY was the last day of the search, whether or not Dize was found. Details of the discovery of the body in the boat were not immediately available.

Dize was reportedly from the East Coast of Florida, and was staying with friends in Ozello. Mrs. Dize arrived in the county yesterday, shortly before the body of her husband was discovered.

OZELLO, INC.  
Benefit Ozello Civic Club

OYSTER ROAST  
SMOKED MEAT

Saturday, February 13, 1966  
2 PM TILL 10 PM

SR. 494 - St. Petersburg Fish Co.  
DONATION \$1.50

# WATER PLANS

Ozello News  
By Mae Witte

March 10 66

A meeting of the Ozello Water System, Steering Committee was held March 3. Mr. Bennie Ri Chard, chairman of the Steering Committee wishes to announce to the residents of Ozello, that Mr. Vincent Pickett of the Isbell Engineers from Bartow was engaged to make a feasibility survey for the Ozello installations. There are at present over 165 signed subscribers. Mr. Pickett will have the survey finished in approximately 2 months, at which time a general meeting of all signers will be called to put the report before the prospective users. This will be Mr. Pickett's 6th installation under government loan. Those who

have not signed, as charter members, should do so at once for when the feasibility survey is finished, all persons signing thereafter will be required to pay a hook-up fee. If you need a membership survey data sheet please write to the following address to acquire one: Ozello Water System P O Box 62, Crystal River, Fla. Those serving on the Steering Committee with Mr. Ri Chard were: Mrs. Myrtle Clifton, Mr. Joe Cournoyer, Mrs. C. C. Russell and Mr. E. A. Turner. I am sure all the residents of Ozello join me in saying, "Thanks, to all of you for everything you have done so far towards getting water

The required 25 applications for line service to Ozello have been obtained. Four months of hard work has brought results.

Dec. 2, 1965, Louis Witte Mr. and Mrs. Charles had as their guests the Charles Peahys of Pinellas Park for the Thanksgiving weekend. \* \* \* \* \*

## OZELLO 3/31/66

Mrs. George Inman has been a heart patient in the Citrus Memorial Hospital for the past 2 weeks. She was discharged Monday and left directly from the hospital to join her husband and son Robert. They then flew to Canton, Ohio. The Inmans have a trail there and always spend their summers near the children. All of their children from Canton were here to visit during Mr. Inman's stay in the hospital. They were as follows: daughters and their families, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Steff and daughter Athena. Mr. & Mrs. Ira Ineichen and their families are Mr. and Mrs. Paul Inman and son John, Mr. George Inman Jr. and Mr. Robert Inman. One daughter and her husband Mr. Mrs. Howard Phillip from Pasadena, Texas were unable to make the trip due to illness.

Ozello News

By Mae Witte

3/7/66

Mrs. George Inman entered Citrus Memorial Hospital Sunday morning. She is feeling much better, but will undergo tests and x-rays for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. George Inman have had another pleasant surprise as two more of their children and their families arrived here from Canton, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Inman and son John, Mr. & Mrs. George Inman Jr. 3/31/66

## Ozello

By Mae Witte 3-24-66

Mrs. Betty Steff and Mrs. Neoma Ineichen from Canton, Ohio made a surprise visit on their mother and father Mr. & Mrs. George Inman of Sunset Isles. Mrs. Inman has been a patient in the Citrus Memorial Hospital since March 13. She is recovering from a heart attack, is doing very well at present and expects to come home soon. The Inmans are still planning on going north for the summer.

Ozello News

By Mae Witte

3/7/66

Mrs. George Inman entered Citrus Memorial Hospital Sunday morning. She is feeling much better, but will undergo tests and x-rays for a few days.

Mr. Calvin Kirkwood

has been a bed patient for several days now and is under doctors care.

Mr. Joseph Cournoyer, park manager of Homosassa Springs Attraction, has spent the past week in Tampa General hospital.

There will be a rummage sale Saturday, March 12 for the benefit of the Ozello Civic Club building fund, at the Sparkman Store Building next to Winn's former drug store. 4-6

OFFICE DEPT.



# Ozello, Inc., Begins Clubhouse Construction

Nov. 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.

The club is actually a sub-organization of Ozello, Inc., explained Mrs. Thelma Deugaw, 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 Saturday morning. Screws told his audience of nearly fifty that the club's membership has already

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

Eventually, Waterman told the Chronicle the residents of the area hope to form a water district and with its 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 boiled 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.N. 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 ft. 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 Damron, Suncoast Springs Chamber of Commerce president Robert

Hyde, the Chamber's secretary-manager Robert Stricklin, and Chamber board member E.E. (Pappy) 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 shovelful 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.

Another immediate project of Ozello, Inc., Screws later told the Chronicle will be telephone service to the area, either through Florida Telephone Corporation, 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 are, in addition to Waterman, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Witte, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Revels, and Mrs. E.E. Screws.

Nov. 25, 1965

## 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 15, 1965, by Wallace Dunn, Esquire, Ocala. Purpose: to promote community development. Subscribers: Paul M. Water-

man, Route One, Box 181; Mary I. Waterman, Route One, Box 181; Louis E. Witte, Route One, Box 109; all of Crystal River, Florida.

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 hush puppies, swamp cabbage, and white and yellow roe. The public is most welcome.

Nov. 25, 1965

The Charles Beatty's of Pinellas Park were week-end guests of the Louis Wittes.

## Fish Fry

November 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-sahowitzka 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. Jimlison.

## Ozello News

By Thelma Deugaw

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.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Witte had as their guests the Charles Beattys of Pinellas Park for the Thanksgiving weekend.

## 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

THERE'S GOING TO BE

A TEEN DANCE

MAY 13, 1967

OZELLOCIVICS CLUB

7:00 TO 12:00 P.M.

\$1.00 STAG --- \$1.50 DRAG

LIVE BAND

THE NONCHALANTS

## Ozello News

by Mae Witte *Nov. 15-66*

There will be a Christmas Party at the Civic Club building on Dec. 17 at 5:30 P.M. Please bring a dish of your choice, your own dishes, silver, cup, chair, etc. Each person bring a present (not more than \$1.00) the ladies bring a ladies' gift, the men a men's gift, and the children a child's gift. This is open house so everyone come and enjoy yourselves.

Board Member P. M. Waterman of the Ozello Water District states that there will be a Board Meeting early in January with the District Engineers and government personnel to resolve a few changes in the final papers necessary to advance the water project for the Ozello area. Announcement of the exact date will be made soon as possible.

by Mae Witte *Dec. 8-66*

There will be a general meeting of the Ozello Civic Club at the club building Dec. 10 at 2:30 P.M. Please bring your own chair.

### What's Going On

#### OZELLO PARTY

An open house buffet dinner and Christmas party will be held at the Ozello Civic Club on SR 494 Saturday at 5:30 p.m. It's open to all. Members are urged to attend and bring guests. Ladies are asked to bring a favorite covered dish food and a Christmas wrapped gift for a woman. Men are to bring a gift for a man. Gifts are to cost a dollar or less. Each person should bring a chair and table service. Some extra card tables are needed. Entertainment will be held after the buffet.

by Mae Witte *Nov. 19-66* **Ozello News**  
 It, 26 members and their friends enjoyed a buffet supper with a background of Christmas music. The Ozello Civic Club had its first Christmas Party in the gayly decorated Civic building including a Christmas tree with all the gifts beneath Mrs. O. O. Russell and Mr. Andy Katoski. Gifts

November 27		1966
Received of	Mrs. Mae Witte, Chairman	
Fifty-one and	no	Dollars for
<del>Proceeds</del> Proceeds of Rummage Sale		No.
At Ozello, Inc. Club November 17, 18, 19, 1966		
From	To	19
\$ 51.00	Arthur E. Dergaus, Secretary, Treasurer	

... Christmas tree-civic, that is, is glowing bright because of the generosity of several Crystal River contributors mentioned previously and several local residents. Mrs. Mary Waterman, Mrs. Mary Kirkwood, and Miss Helen Tarala did the fine job of trimming the tree.

Feb. 23-66  
 Mrs. Donald Whitaker was hostess several Civic Club members at a card party Saturday night. Refreshments were served and door prizes given. Everyone spent a most enjoyable evening.

Miss Helen Taralla, Mrs. Mary Kirkwood and Mrs. Mary Waterman, Ozello Inc. members aren't sure if it 'tis the season to be jolly or just Christmas spirit. Lacking lights for the Club's first Christmas tree, the ladies went out Monday afternoon to find out what they could get in the way of lights or cash. Donators were: Crystal River Bank, Touchton Drugs, Sklener Furniture Co., Brown Furniture, Tangerine Lounge, Una Peters, Kennedy Supply Co., The Card and Gift Shop, Wain's, Rexall Drugs, Western Auto, Mr. R.H. Kennedy of Builders Supply, Steven Adams, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Weir, C.M. Roddenberry of the Bay Station, Maudie Hay This'N That Dept. Store and Mrs. C. Matthews. Our sincere thanks.

## zello News

By Mae Witte

There will be a monthly meeting of the Civic Club at 1 o'clock. Bring a smoked fish, your own oyster, and we'll all eat together. Don't forget to bring your oysters. FEB. 19-66



ered dish dinner on Sat. on the Civic Club lot, before the monthly meeting.

Our thanks go to Mr. & Mrs. S. J. Miles, who donated 500 cement blocks, and a man to lay the block. The foundation for the Civic Club is now completed, and the next step will be to pour the floor. The septic tank is dug and blocks are being layed.

Don't forget the oyster roast and smoked mullet, for the benefit of the Civic Club, Sat. Feb. 19 from 2 PM till 10 PM at St. Martins Fish Co.

Feb. 17-66

## Ozello News

By Mae Witte

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Revels were in charge of another successful sea food dinner. This time it was an oyster roast and smoked mullet dinner on Sat. for the benefit of the Ozello Civic Club building fund. All oysters were local and came from the St. Martins Fish and Oyster Co. owned and operated by Mr. Revels. He wishes to thank Walter Aull, Rusty Kingensmith, Jim Clayatt, Mr. Nichols

and son, Louis Witte and Gavin Revels for bringing in the oysters, and the other Civic members who helped in any way. Thanks also go out to the people that came from Leesburg, Ocala, St. Petersburg, Tampa, Gainesville, Yankeetown, Inverness, Homosassa, and Crystal River for joining us for dinner and making it a complete success.

## 3-11 Ozello News

By Thelma Deugaw

Thanks go to all those members and non-members who helped make the Oyster Roast a success. Some of the people we talked to were: Durwood Crosby, assistant manager of Home Builders Supply of Leesburg, Mr. and Mrs. J.H. McClung and son Jim of Chieftand Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rothermel of St. Pete, Bob Slusser of Crystal River, also Lucille Sparkman, IGA owner, Mr. H.C. Mottisinger and Mr. A.R. Bryon of Mulberry, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Dice of Inverness, Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Gore of Oklawaha W.D. spent a week at their cottage, Miss Judy Davis of Crystal River, W.D. Lovell of Tampa and many others.

A smoked mullet and oyster roast will take place at St. Martins Fish Co. one mile beyond the end of State Road 494 on Saturday Feb. 19, starting at 2 p.m. till 10 p.m., donation \$1.50. Benefits are for the building fund of the Ozello Civic Club. 2-27-66

OZELLO, INC.  
 Benefit Ozello Civic Club

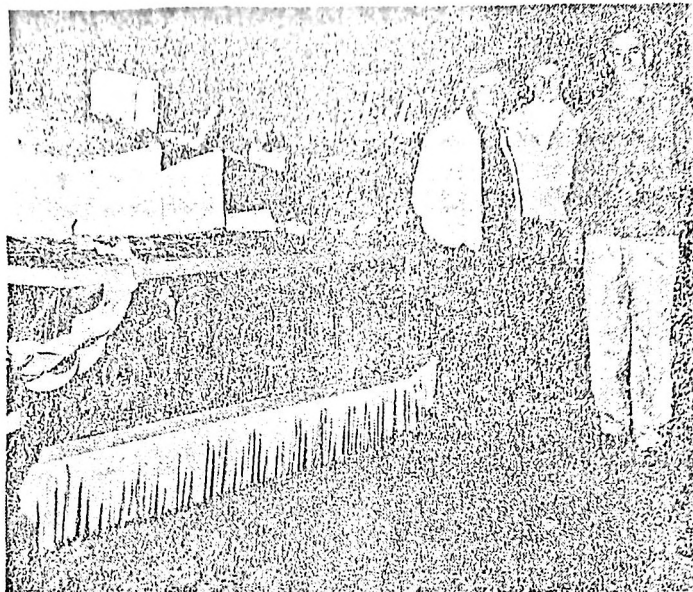
OYSTER ROAST  
 SMOKED MULLET

Saturday, February 19, 1966  
 2 PM Till 10 PM

SR.494 - St. Martins Fish Co.  
 DONATION \$1.50

\*\*\*\*\*  
 As the Crystal River Christmas parade is on December 10, and the secret will be out then, we think it will be a first for Ozello. A decorated Christmas float! Mrs. Mae Witte is chairman of the committee and like everyone else our first view of it will be along the line of march.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Visiting the Louis Witte family during the Christmas holidays were the Charles Beatty's of Pinellas Park.  
 \*\*\*\*\*



### Ozello Winners

One of the most original floats in the Crystal River Christmas Parade Friday was the Ozello Civic Club float. Shown here with the float are Calvin

Kirkwood, Billy DeBusk, and Lo White. (Marion Sentinel Photo by E. Land).  
 E. L. C. - 10 - 65.

## Thousands View Yule Parade In CR

CRYSTAL RIVER — Several thousand people lined the length of U.S. 19 through town and out to the new Crystal Center Shopping center this past weekend for the annual Christmas parade which seemed to be the best ever.

Santa Claus arrived atop a huge missile, making a big hit with all of the younger set.

First place trophies in the religious category went to the United Presbyterian Church for their float entitled, "From Cradle to Cross." Second place honors went to the Citrus Avenue float, with the Crystal River High School float taking third place honors.

Davidson Construction Co. took first place honors in the non-religious division with the Crystal Center float taking second place honors, and Crystal River Shopping Center winning third place.

The Ozello Civic Club took first place honors in the general division, with the Crystal River Guides Assn. in second place. The 4-H Club took third place honors.

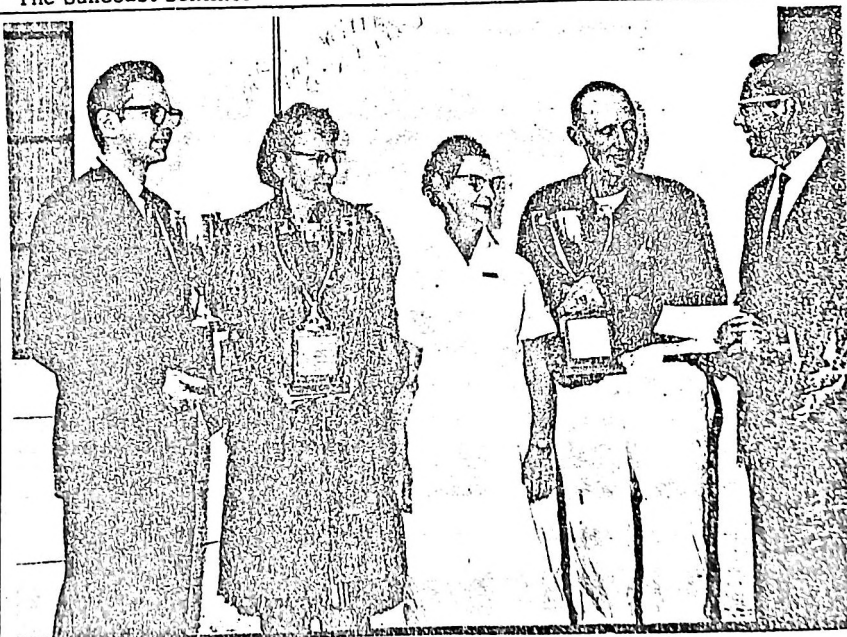
Judges for the parade were State Sen. James E. Connor, State Rep. Allison R. Strickland, Commissioner Ralph Rooks, Mrs. Jay Singletary and Mrs. Bill Dyer.

The long parade formed at the northern end of town at the city park and marched to the Crystal Center Shopping Center south of town before breaking up.

Parade committee chairman Ralph Strickland also served as parade marshal.

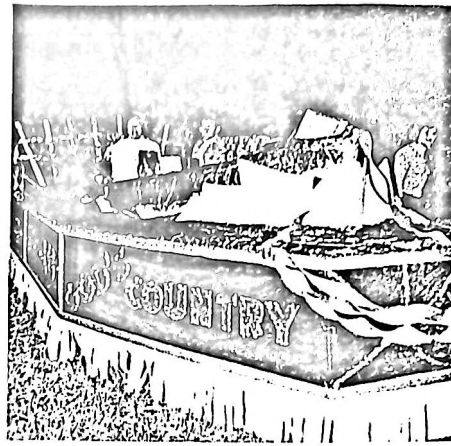
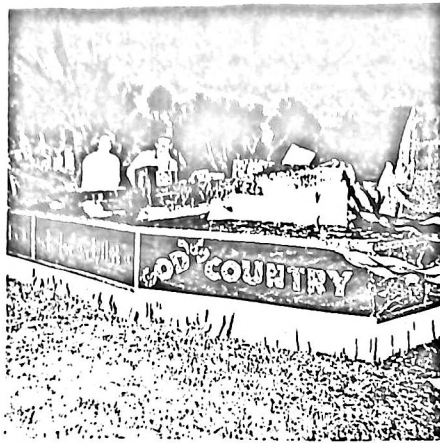
The Suncoast Sentinel

December 30,



THE WINNERS--Top winners in three categories in Crystal River's Christmas Parade receive awards, above, from Parade Chairman Ralph Strickland, right. Recipients from left, the Rev. Donald Grady, Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Ray Davison, Davidson Construction Co.

Ocello's  
1st  
Christmas  
Trade



Sandra Witte Billy DeBuske.

Moody had a citrus grove near  
the Trading Bet-where Kirkwood

Wm Pratt had a citrus grove  
where the [unclear] is now.  
There was approx 15 acres  
of citrus grove between both  
1st & Kirkwood.

Newton Turner - Moody's son-in-law  
said - Bryant Moody, [unclear] 1  
acre citrus grove left hand side  
across Civic Club. Plus [unclear] 1  
& Club's of 5 acres (citrus)

# Parade Judged Success Despite Some 'Foul Ups'

12/20/65  
Crystal River -- Despite some "foul-ups", Santa Claus came to Town last week in great style--riding on an Air Force jet airplane--and the Yuletide Season was officially launched.

The Parade, which for the first time remained on the highway from beginning to end, and caused some traffic confusion, was judged a success by most of the throngs of observers.

After a lot of consideration, the judges came up with these winning parade entries:

Religious Theme: First--Presbyterian Church; Second--Citrus Ave. Merchants; Third--Crystal River High School.

Non-Religious: First--Davison Construction; Second--Crystal Center; Third--Crystal River Shopping Center.

General: First -- Ozello Civic Club; Second--Guide's Association; Third--4-H Club.

Each winner will receive a cash prize, and each first-place winner will receive a trophy from the Chamber of Commerce, sponsoring organization.

Parade Chairman Ralph Strickland issued a public Thank You to all those who worked so hard to make the Parade successful, and especially to the police and their helpers who had a difficult traffic control job, but did it well, and to Sid Kennedy for providing the judge's stand.

A special word of tribute also went to the judges who had the task of trying to enjoy the Parade and to

evaluate its various units at the same time. The Judges were: State Sen. James Connor; State Rep. Allison Strickland; County Commissioner Ralph Rooks and Toni Singletary and Irene Dyer.

The jet aircraft that Santa Claus rode on was an Air Force drone that fell into the Gulf last year and was rescued by Capt. Hembree. Mayor Leonard Damron sprayed it and mounted it on the low-boy

truck provided by the County. Santa appeared through the courtesy of James Twitty, of Radio Station WYSE.

Bob Hyde, Chamber of Commerce president, both participated in and witnessed his first Christmas Parade in Crystal River. "If you had told me that that many people would turn out to watch," he said later, "I would have said you were touched in the head!"

## Chairman Predicts Parade To End All Parades!

THE CHRISTMAS P...

1965 Christmas

the best in its

10, 1965, 6:00

a church, organi

complete the bo

to:

Frank P.

P. O. Box

Homosassa

had this year fo

let

rophy & \$15.

rophy & \$15.

rophy & \$15.

re further quest:

3917.

Mr. Allen, Parade Marshall.

Parade Committee Member

Crystal River -- Details of the area Christmas Parade were "ironed out" at a committee meeting last week, according to chairman Ralph Strickland.

He said that "everything is going smoothly, and the end result should be a Parade to end all Parades!"

He said the trophies have been received, for first place in the three categories: Christmas, Religious; Christmas, non-religious, and general. In addition, cash prizes will be awarded to the top three winners in all three categories.

The Parade will format the City Park, downtown Crystal River, at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 10 (Friday) and move out at 6 p.m., under the generalship of Gene

Mr. Allen, Parade Marshall.  
Parade Committee Member

It will end in the vicinity of the new shopping center south of Town.

Herb Williams, Deputy Sheriff, and Police Chief Jay Bozeman will be in charge of Traffic Control, and will be assisted by other policemen, Conservation personnel, members of the Road Rangers and others.

Committee member Frank Cardeman said that notices about the Parade have been sent to all organizations, surrounding Towns, schools and public officials. He said that anyone who is not officially notified of the Parade, and who may wish to enter a float, is encouraged to do so. Notices of entry should be sent to the Parade Marshall, the committee chairman, The Suncoast Sentinel or Mr. Cardeman.

## Ozello News

by Mae Witte

Mr. K. C. Fairchild was called to Whitesburg, Ky. due to the illness of Mrs. Fairchild's father. She has been with her father for the past 3 months.

Wedding Anniversary Congratulations to: Mr. & Mrs. Henry De Busk, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Tareila and Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Kirkwood.

"Happy Birthday" to the following for the month of Nov.: Mrs. Lillie Mae Hines, Mrs. Artha Black, Charlie Caulk, Debbie Ayer, Mrs. Betty Purdy and Leslie C. Turner Jr.

The Ozello Civic Club building had its first event at 7 A.M. when the voting polls opened for precinct #4. Previous to this time voting had been in the different homes.

Mr. John Brown stated, "The first voting was held many years ago at an old Trading Post located approximately between the Lambert's home and the Rhimes, and that precinct #4 is one of the oldest precincts in Citrus county."

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Tareila from Windham, N. H. are moving their

trailer here from Tampa to become winter residents of Ozello. They enjoyed having company from Tampa on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Weaver and children Cathy, Richie and Keely of Lakeland spent the day working on their lot. Mrs. Weaver is Mrs. Artha Black's niece.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Black have moved to their new home in Crystal River.

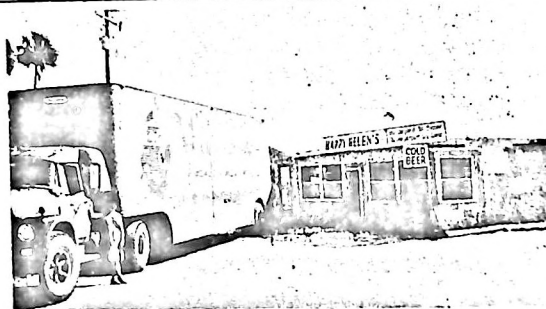
Reminder - - please bring all items: clothing, building materials, appliances, etc. for the rummage sale to Lois or Mae. The rummage sale will be held Nov. 17, 18, and 19 at the Ozello Civic Club building.

The first annual meeting of the Ozello Civic Club will be held Nov. 12, at 2:30 P.M. at the Club Building. Please bring your own chair.

Ozello--There will be a rummage sale Nov. 17, 18 and 19 for the benefit of the Ozello Civic Club building fund, at the club building on State Road S-494 in Ozello.

\*\*\* 11-10-66

November 10, 1966



HERE--Miss Helen Tareila, owner of "Happy Helen's" is now a permanent resident of beautiful Ozello. Two large Mayflower vans transported all her furniture and possessions here from Windham, N. H. She loves it here.

Nov 8 1966

## Ozello News

By Mae Witte:

Ozello was not forgotten as far as the County Road Dept. was concerned. They improved the roads 100% in our area and did a beautiful job of grading and rolling them. So our thanks go to the ones deserving credit and all their workmen.

Mrs. Mary Ann Thompson and children have moved back to their home in Tampa after having spent the past 6 months with her father, Mr. B. H. Summers of the Miles' subdivision.

AIC Tom Brown, stationed at Key West was home on a 5 day leave. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Brown.

A birthday party was held Oct. 25 for Deborah Lynn Klingensmith age 6, at the Lecanto School. 22 of Mrs. Annie McCray's first graders enjoyed cake, cookies, candy and kool-aid, with Miss Debbie in the decorated guest of honor's seat. Debbie's mother was the hostess.

The Ozello Civic Club will have another rummage sale in Nov. to raise money for windows, etc.

We need everyones help, so please bring any items to Lois Klingensmith or Mae Witte, you may also take them to the general meeting of the Civic Club on Nov. 12.

Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Miles have just returned home from a 5 weeks stay with Ruth's sister, Mrs. Graham of Glenwood, Ga. Ruth is feeling much better and is glad to be back home.

Mrs. Dick Lambert and daughter Elaine have returned home after having spent 2 weeks at Lowell, Mass.

Weekenders at the Miles' subdivision were. The Harold Byrds, the Ernest Screws and family, the W. H. Cox and Judi, the Crews and family and Mr. Edward Tucker.

When the voting polls open this election day, Nov. 8, 1966 it will be making Ozello history. We will have a proper place to vote at last for this precinct. The voting will now be at the new Ozello Civic Club, which will no doubt be the permanent polling place for precinct 4 for some years to come.

Sheriff B. R. Quinn has appointed Mr. John Brown as Deputy Sheriff for Ozello. Mr. Brown has been a life time resident of Ozello and served as constable for 12 years in this area.

10-20-66  
Board Chairman P. M. Waterman, of the Ozello Water Company announces that the contract was let for Engineering Services to draw up final construction plans, and proceed with an approved water system for the Ozello area.

## 11-3-66 Ozello News

By Mae Witte:

Ozello was not forgotten as far as the County Road Dept. was concerned. They improved the roads 100% in our area and did a beautiful job of grading and rolling them. So our thanks go to the ones deserving credit and all their workmen.

The Ozello Civic Club will have another rummage sale in Nov. to raise money for windows, etc.

We need everyones help, so please bring any items to Lois Klingensmith or Mae Witte, you may also take them to the general meeting of the Civic Club on Nov. 12.

When the voting polls open this election day, Nov. 8, 1966 it will be making Ozello history. We will have a proper place to vote at last for this precinct. The voting will now be at the new Ozello Civic Club, which will no doubt be the permanent polling place for precinct 4 for some years to come.

Oct. 10-66

The Ozello Civic Club building had its first event at 7 A.M. when the voting polls opened for precinct #4. Previous to this time voting had been in the different homes.

Mr. John Brown stated, "The first voting was held many years ago at an old Trading Post located approximately between the Lambert's home and the Rhimes, and that precinct #4 is one of the oldest precincts in Citrus county."

Reminder - - please bring all items: clothing, building materials, appliances, etc. for the rummage sale to Lois or Mae. The rummage sale will be held Nov. 17, 18, and 19 at the Ozello Civic Club building.

The first annual meeting of the Ozello Civic Club will be held Nov. 12, at 2:30 P.M. at the Club Building. Please bring your own chair.

## Ozello News

10-27-66  
by Mae Witte  
Louis Witte, chairman of the building committee for the Civic Club reports the cement block partitions are being laid, some of the doors have been installed and the front entrance is in the process of being completed. Well, what do you know? Rusty Klingensmith, prop. of Ozello Electric has now started to do the electrical work which he is donating. There will be a meeting of the Ozello Civic Club board members Sat. Nov. 5. A general meeting of the Ozello Civic Club will be held Sat. Nov. 12 at 2:30 P.M. at the Club Building. They are laying the cable for the telephones, but I hear it will be approximately 3 months before the phones will be in operation. Oct. 27-66

Ozello Inc., Rt. 1  
Crystal River, Florida  
October 20, 1966

Dear Member: Mr. Louis & Mrs. Mae Witte

The first annual meeting of Ozello Inc., will be held November 12, 1966 at 2:30 P. M. at the Club Building for the purpose of electing six new board members.

Due to our membership being scattered it was virtually impossible for our president to appoint a nominating committee, therefore it is imperative that all members make a special effort to attend this meeting as all nominations will be made from the floor.

As you know our organization has come a long way in this past year and accomplished a lot and in order to continue this good work and push forward we must have a good representation present in order to elect board members who are capable and will continue this effort.

Membership fees are due November 15, 1966, but would be appreciated at this annual meeting.

Will the ladies bring 3 or 4 cupcakes or cookies - Coffee will be furnished.

See you there-

Respectfully yours,

Thelma E. Deugaw  
(Mrs.) Thelma E. Deugaw  
Secretary & Treasurer  
P. O. Box 431  
Inverness, Florida

June 66

# Ozello's Going Modern: Phones And Water Soon

By BOB STIFF  
Of The Times Staff

Things have been lonesome in Ozello, but that's all about to change.

The tiny Citrus County community of perhaps 400 persons will have telephones within a month and water in nine months.

If there is a fire, a need for a doctor or deputy sheriff, residents of Ozello must drive six winding miles along State Road 494 through desolate swampland to use the telephone at a Crystal River service station on U.S. 19.

Florida Telephone Co., however, is now burying cables to the isolated Ozello area and the fire department, sheriff's department and doctors will be as close to Ozello as their telephones.

AND WATER has been a problem, too. Sitting right on the Gulf of Mexico, Ozello residents don't have to dig very deep to find water for their wells, but it's brackish and can't be drunk so they haul most of their water in jugs from Crystal River.



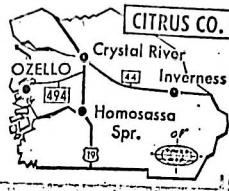
STIFF

Ozello's retiree residents, most of them fishing enthusiasts, don't mind driving across the two wooden bridges and several miles of vast wasteland to get conveniences most of us take for granted. But when the opportunity came to sign petitions for water lines and to pledge to use telephone service, they quickly grabbed their pens.

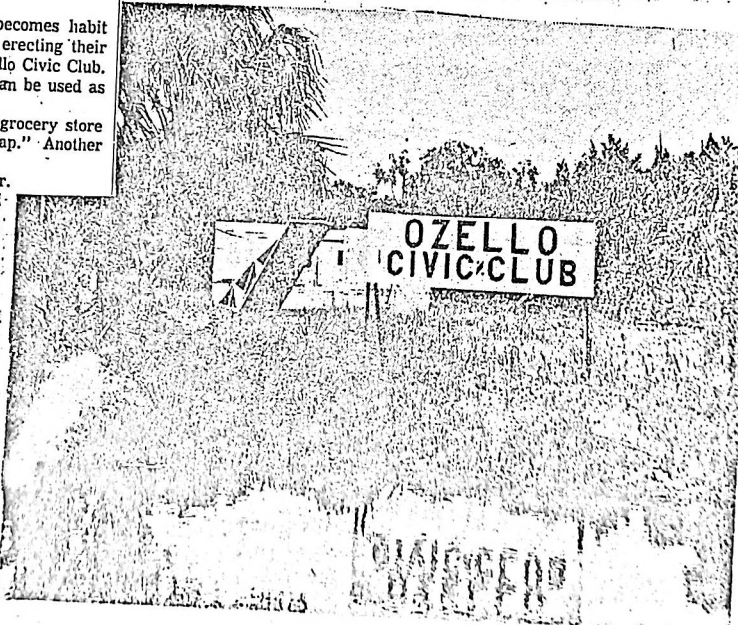
GETTING TOGETHER to solve problems becomes habit forming so now the residents are financing and erecting their own community center under auspices of the Ozello Civic Club. They hope to have it completed by Nov. 8 so it can be used as a polling place in the general election.

One woman in the gas station - restaurant - grocery store says proudly, "All this will put us on the map." Another agrees, "You can't stop progress."

And it's obvious that you can't stop Ozello either.

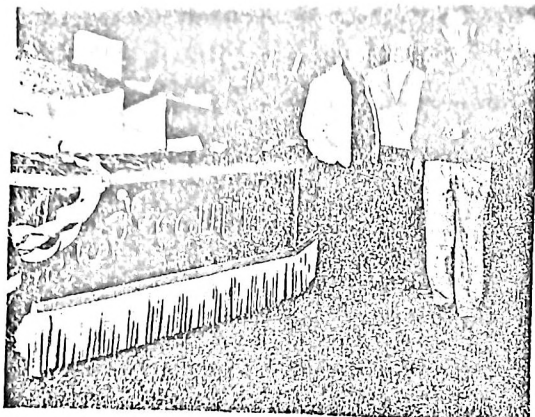


Sandra Mae Witte is spending a week with a friend, Miss Barbara Butler at St. Petersburg.



—Staff Photo by Bob Stiff

OFFICE DEBOT



**Ozello Winners** DEC. 1965

One of the most original floats in the Crystal River Christmas Parade Friday was the Ozello Civic Club float. Shown here with the float are Calvin

Kirkwood, Billy DeBusk, and Louis Whitte. (Marion Sentinel Photo by Bell Land).

At the First Fish Fry all members were given a vote of thanks for making it a success but we neglected to mention the long hours spent in cutting the cabbage palms and catching the fish. Belated thanks go to two 18 year olds, Billy DeBusk and Gavin Revels. Now will you two find the prettiest cedar for the Ozello, Inc.'s first decorated Christmas tree?  
DEC 9 65

DEC-9-65  
As the Crystal River Christmas parade is on December 10, and the secret will be out then, we think it will be a first for Ozello. A decorated Christmas float! Mrs. Mae Witte is chairman of the committee and like everyone else our first view of it will be along the line of march. \*\*\*\*\*

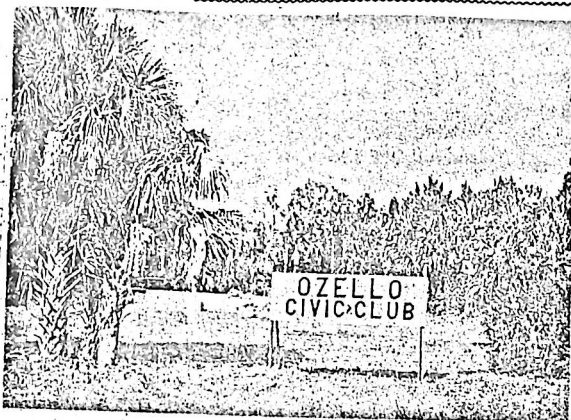
The Suncoast Sentinel

December 30, 1965



THE WINNERS--Top winners in three categories in Crystal River's Christmas Parade receive awards, above, from Parade Chairman Ralph Strickland, right. Recipients from left, the Rev. Donald Grady, Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Ray Davison, Davison Construction Co.

PARADE--The Ozello Civic Club won first place in the general division of the float contest in Friday's Crystal River parade. Credited with the building of the float are Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Kirkwood, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Whitte and Billy DeBusk.  
\*\*\*\*\*



### Construction Begins

Construction has begun on the Ozello Civic Club and completion is expected to be in about three months. Work started after a group of area residents organized a few months ago to try and bring better

things to the heretofore almost isolated community near the Gulf of Mexico in Citrus County. Efforts to get a fresh water system for the area is also underway.

Photo by Lucy Ware

No. 4 MEMBERSHIP CARD

This is to certify that

Mrs. Geraldine (Mae) Witte  
is a member in good standing and entitled to  
all rights and privileges of the  
OZELLO CIVIC CLUB  
DIVISION OF OZELLO, INC.

*H. Helms S. Deagan*  
Secretary

# Pioneer Day

Home At Comine

Ozello Civic Club

Sunday <sup>(11th)</sup> ~~(10th)~~ Aug 6<sup>th</sup> 1967

THIS INCLUDES ALL RESIDENTS OR FORMER  
RESIDENTS THAT HAVE EVER LIVED IN OZELLO OR WESTERN  
ISLANDS.

BRING A COVERED DISH OR FOOD OF SOME KIND FOR A  
BUFFET DINNER, AND BRING YOUR OWN TABLE SETTING.

IF YOU KNOW ANY FORMER RESIDENTS PLEASE NOTIFY  
THEM OF THIS COMING EVENT.

EVERYONE WELCOME

"YA'LL COME"

FOR INFORMATION CALL: CRYSTAL RIVER

MRS. MAE WITTE  
MRS. GERTRUDE BROWN

795-4385  
795-2574

Benton  
April 3-1871

Sci

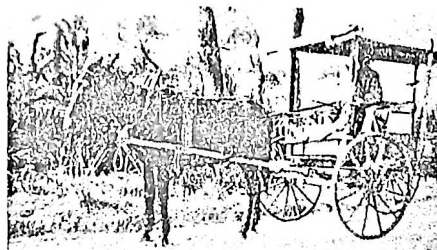
Henry De Busk

Henry De Busk states that his grand  
mother's grandfather (Mr. John De Busk) used  
to come to Ozark and make salt on Salt Island  
(located between Ozark and Crater River) for  
all the time he would come and camp for two or  
three weeks at a time to make and acquire  
there supply of salt for a year's use. He  
dug holes in the marshes to get brackish  
water to fill the pots and then boiled the wa-  
ter down until all the water had evaporated  
but the salt. The water seemed to be so  
much saltier up Salt River than it was  
anywhere else. All that remains of that old cove  
are the rocks that were piled to hold the big  
salt kettles and the holes in the marshes,  
but the kettles are all rusted away.

Write this)

"First" There are ruins where big salt kettles  
were operated only a few miles away on the  
Salt River during the Civil War though they  
are almost concealed by dense woodland  
now.

# Ozello



by Mae Witte

## PIONEER DAYS

After the war in 1920 the County Commissioners voted to pay \$500. 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 Dunnelion and then to Homosassa it was then hauled by oxen to the river bank and then by boat to Salt River and Black Creek. Mr. Turner 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 have, at that time had a culvert covered with dirt to make a roadway which they called "Long-haul-over." Old timers claim that more trout were caught on the south side of this culvert than at most locations in Ozello.

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

Facts from Mr. Newton Turner

Due to a teenage dance being planned for May 13,

**"TEENAGE DANCE"**  
 May 13, 7 P.M. - 12 P.M.,  
 at the Ozello Civic Building,  
 at the end of state road #494. "Nonchalants" from Orlando.  
 Ya'll come.

at the Civic Building, the general meeting of the Ozello Civic Club has been set a week earlier. The meeting will be held May 6. A covered dish dinner at 5 P.M. and the meeting at 6:30 P.M.

The Ozello Sew and So Club met Wed. and several new items were displayed.

Mrs. Edith Cole, a new member, showed the ladies how to make some dainty stationary with kleenex and pressed flowers, a rose night light and a net curlier hat.

Mrs. Ruth Fryer sent a beautiful seed picture to the club for the ladies to examine and copy.

All members bring your plastic flowers to be gilded at the next meeting May 10.

Mrs. Helen Jackson from Burgettstown, Pa. (a house guest of Mrs. Fryer's) is on route to visit her daughter and husband at Olathe, Kans.

## Ozello News

Mr. James Stephens was discharged from Citrus Memorial Hospital in Inverness Mon. May 1. He and Mrs. Stephens will make their home temporarily with their daughter Mrs. Margaret Piellow.

Mrs. Andy (Rose) Katoski from Baltimore, Md. arrived at her home in Ozello Sun. She was accompanied by her niece Mrs. Tessia Dermont also from Baltimore.

Whitty and Gladys Reynolds have moved into the upstairs apartment of the Leslie Berger home on Sunset Isles.

## Ozello News

by Mae Witte  
PIONEER DAYS

Mrs. Ray J. (Kitty) Baker a registered nurse owned and operated the first and only hotel to this day in Ozello. It was built by Ray Baker and is now the present home of Mr. and Mrs. James Stephens. It is one of the oldest buildings still in use and is located on Paradise Island on the St. Martins River.

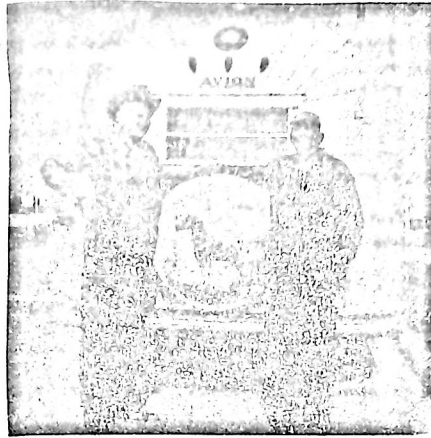
The people came by train to Homosassa and then Mr. Baker took them by boat to the hotel in the evening after his day's work, as he operated a general store in Homosassa, the old (Lonecker Store).

The hotel was noted as a health resort, because there was no malaria fever in Ozello, and people would come from other areas to the hotel to stay and regain their health from the fever. It had 9 rooms, 5 of them being bedrooms plus a bathroom.

Florida had many malaria carrying mosquitos but apparently Ozello didn't as there was never a case of malaria fever found there. Families would move to Ozello to avoid getting the fever or to have their health restored. In fact back in the 1880's, John G. Pratt claims his father was advised to move his family from Homosassa where he first settled, to Ozello to avoid the fever, so he moved and settled in that area.

Facts from Helen and Gertrude Brown

Mrs. Thelma Philipps, her son David, his wife and two daughters from Houston, Texas are vacationing for a week with



SO LONG--Mr. and Mrs. Ray Brown from Redding, Calif. are homeward bound after having spent the winter months traveling Florida. Mr. Brown owns an "Appaloosa Horse Breeding Farm" in Calif. and visited many horse ranches here. His cousin John Brown is pictured with him.

Busk, son of Mr. & Mrs. Henry DeBusk left Mon. for Orlando where he will now work and reside.

Mr. Wm. Russell is waiting to be admitted into the Gainesville Clinic.

## Ozello

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Kirkwood had out of town visitors for a few days. They were: Kirk's sister Mrs. June Howery and her daughter Cheryl from Indianapolis, Ind., another sister Mrs. Clara Himmel and a grandson Kenny from Louisville, Ky.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Tareila and their son, Walter have returned to Tewksbury, N. H. The Tareilas own and operate a miniature golf course there.

Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Miles were guests for a week at Ruth's sister, Mrs. G. W. Graham of Glenwood, Ga. A celebration with a birthday

dinner at Rintz, Ga. for two sisters ended up in a happy reunion for two brothers, seven sisters and their families.

Mr. Ed Brannen from Lake Wales spent a couple of days with his brother Mr. Noah Brannen of Sunset Isles.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jennings from Tampa were Sun. visitors of their daughter and family.

Apr 27-67

13  
M  
11 576

# Ozello

by Mae Witte 3-30-67

## PIONEER DAYS

April 28, 1938 the Post Office was reopened by Mrs. Gertrude Edge Brown. Previous to this it had been discontinued for 18 or 20 years. It was on Horace and Gertrude Brown's property, located approximately west of Henry De Busks and east of James Stephens on the old Billy Wells property. The Browns had it in one room of their house and everyone traveled there by boat to get their mail.

Mr. Frank Boswell transported the mail by car from Crystal River and then hauled it by boat to the Post Office. In 1941 the Post Office was discontinued again and to this date has not been reopened. Ozello 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 the Stiver property on S.R.#494, then Crystal River took over the delivery of the mail at the same rural box locations.

Finally in April of '66 Gene Allen delivered the mail to rural boxes in Ozello. Some residents still have P.O. boxes. Facts from Gertrude Brown.

The Ozello Sew and So Club had a large group of ladies at their meeting Wed.

Mrs. Etta Carr showed the ladies two new items, a very attractive brush container made from a plastic bottle and a fancy pin cushion made of yarn scraps and Mrs. Bernice Stiver demonstrated her two plastic web bags.

Three new members joined the Club: Mrs. Janie Seckler, Mrs. Esther Antunes of Le-canto and Mrs. Ann Stewart of Crystal Acres.

Mrs. Stiver became ill and was taken home. We were glad to hear it was not serious.

Will all members of the Ozello Water System, please mail their \$10.00 deposit for the water meter to the secretary, within the next couple of weeks.

Mrs. Wm. D. Painter is a patient in the Tampa General Hospital where she has had an eye operation (cataract) March 24. She is getting along as well as can be expected, and will be discharged Friday.

Mr. Wm. M. Russell, brother of Mr. C. C. Russell is still at Gainesville. He is staying at the Casaloma Motel and is taking a series of treatments at the Gainesville Clinic. He will return Fri. March 31. to the C. C. Russell residence where he has been making his home.

There was a teenager gathering at the Screws place Sat. night. 15 girls and boys had a very enjoyable evening.

Mrs. Richard Johnson and two sisters, Tinie and Doris from Bristol, Ind. were house guests of their uncle and his wife Mr. & Mrs. P. M. Waterman. Mr. Waterman has not seen his three nieces in 15 years so it was a happy reunion.

Mrs. Gwendolyn Ratliff from Indianapolis, Ind. spent the Easter vacation with her father Mr. Herman Hunt.

"Happy Helen" is back to work after her sick spell

# Ozello

"Happy Birthday" to the following for the month of March: Mrs. Ella Beard, Mrs. Helen Rothermel, Mr. Gerald Aldrich, Mr. C. C. Russell, Mrs. Florence Boyd, Mr. D. C. Tompkins, Pat McClanahan and Mr. W. J. Black. 3-30-67

*8 8 1/2 miles  
for  
March*

## Ozello 4-13-67

### PIONEER DAYS

There are ruins where big salt kettles were operated only a few miles away on the Salt River during the Civil War, though these are almost concealed by dense woodland now.

Mr. Henry De Busk states his grandparents used to come to Ozello and make salt on Salt Island (located between Ozello and Crystal River). People from all over Fla. would come and camp for two and three weeks at a time to make and acquire their supply of salt for a year or so. They dug holes in the marshes to get buckets of water to fill the pots and then boiled the water down until all that was left would be the salt. The water seemed to be so much saltier up Salt River than it was anywhere else. All that remains of that old custom are the rocks

that were piled to hold the big salt kettles and the holes in the marshes, but the kettles are all rusted away.

Facts from Henry De Busk  
There will be a general meeting of the Ozello Civic Club Sat. April 8. A covered dish dinner at 5 P.M. and then the meeting.

The president Louie Revels encourages everyone to be present as there are many topics to be discussed. He would also like all the teenagers to be present.

The Ozello Sew and So Club meets again Wed. April 12 at 9:30 A.M. at the Civic Building.

Don't forget to mail your letter and your \$10.00 for the water meter to the secretary of the Ozello Water System.

Mrs. Wm. D. Painter has been discharged from the Tampa General Hospital

### In Memoriam 4-13-67

Mr. Virgil Roberts died Tues. A.M. at 4:00. Survivors are: parents Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Roberts, Clayton, Texas and a daughter Mrs. Sam (Bonnie) Wilson, Wichita Falls, Texas. A prayer service was held Wed. night at the Strickland Funeral Home Chapel.

The body was shipped to Texas for interment.

A tactful person refrains from saying what everyone else thinks.

## 4-13-67 Ozello

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Dean from Interlaken, N. Y. purchased the W. J. Black's property, and then returned north for the summer months.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Black have just purchased a lot in Sunset Isles.

The Jay Caulk family from Inverness were back working on their house in Ozello last weekend. They have spent the past two weeks with everyone taking their turn at being sick. We are glad to hear they are all well again.

Mr. Wm. Evers from St. Petersburg spent several days at his cottage. It has been a number of weeks since he has been here.

Mr. Andy Katoski left Mon. morning for his home in Glen Burnie, Md. where he will spend the summer.

Mrs. Gwendolyn Ratliffe has returned to Indianapolis, Ind. after spending a long Easter vacation with her father Mr. Herman Hunt.

"Happy Birthday" to the following for the month of April: Dr. Donald McClanahan, Barry De Busk, Mr. P. M. bert, Martha Caulk, Mrs. Ann Ayer, Mrs. J. B. Howes, Mrs. Ruth Miles and Mrs. Bernice Stiver.

Mr. Wm. Russell has been discharged from the Gainesville Clinic and is at home with his brother and wife Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Russell.

## Ozello News

by Mae Witte  
PIONEER DAYS

The men back in the 1880's made rafts from cedar logs and loaded them with cedar logs, then towed the rafts by row boats down the St. Martins River and into the Gulf of Mexico. They rowed, towing the rafts to Cedar Key, to a cedar saw mill a distance of 27 miles from their home.

Cedar Key was the nearest railroad and largest business and trade community. They sold their cedar logs for \$1.00 a log. Mr. Pratt told his son John, "That's the hardest I ever worked in my life." The men brought back the supplies they needed, which were usually miscellaneous and personal items. They only bought flour as they raised everything else, even the tobacco they smoked.

Mr. Pratt claimed the island would produce anything. They raised sugar cane and made syrup and sugar, had fig, pear, peach, guava and plum trees, also raised strawberries, grapes etc., plus all their vegetables. They used brackish well water to water their gardens. They had their own cows, goats, chickens etc., fished, oystered and would hunt wild turkey, hogs, deer, and many other kinds of wild game.  
Facts from Mr. John G.

Pratt

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Whittaker and mother Mrs. Nellie Hartgrove left April 11 for Honeye, N. Y. where they will take up their summer positions at the Egypt Valley Seven Lakes Girl Scout Counsel. Mrs. Whittaker serves as head cook and Mr. Whittaker as maintenance man.

The Ozello Sew and So Club met Wed. April 5.

Mrs. Ann Stewart gave two cookie recipes for sending overseas and Mrs. Esther Antunes gave one for candied citrus rinds.

Several of the ladies had made the net hats that Mrs. Vi Davis had introduced into the club.

Cake and ice cream were served to celebrate Mrs. Bernice Stiver and Mrs. Ruth Miles' birthdays.

Friends and neighbors of the late Mr. Virgil Roberts wish to extend their sincere sympathy to his daughter Mrs. Sam Wilson, his mother and father Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Roberts and Mrs. V. Roberts in their bereavement.

Mr. Joe Platt from St. Petersburg and his sister Miss Janet Platt from Milford, Conn. were Sunday visitors of the Louis Witte family. Janet has spent the past three weeks visiting her brother at his home in St. Petersburg

Ozello <sup>April 21</sup>  
1967

"Happy Birthday" to the following for the month of April: Mr. John Thomas, Patricia Gibson, Janet Anderson, Mrs. Maryhelen Howell, Joe Cournoyer, Jr., Mr. Walter Aull, Mr. W. D. Lovell, Tony Turner, Jeff and Donnie McClanahan, Ken Anderson and Jimbob Brown.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Pistole and daughters Libby and Linda from Summit, Miss. are visiting Mr. Pistole's father at Lecanto and spent Sun. visiting their very good friends Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Miles.

Mr. G. H. George of the Miles Subdivision enjoyed a three day vacation camping at Mayo, Fla. on the Suwannee River. 1-27-67

## Ozello *June 22-67*

by Mae Witte  
PIONEER DAYS

A second school was built in 1880.

Mr. John G. Pratt states his father William H. H. Pratt moved to Ozello with a family of six children and wanted them 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. Foulks 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 foulks 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 pirates, the rugged inhabitants compromised. So a small palm studded island that juts up 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 was no pickup 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 consid-

ered beyond all hope of education".

Plans are now being made to have a "Pioneer Day Reunion" in Ozello. It will be held once a year and will include pioneers and present residents of Ozello and Western Isles. I will give you the complete information on this soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Revels and family entertained 31 guests at a buffet dinner Sun. June 11. Most of the guests were from Gibsonton.

T/Sgt. and Mrs. Ted Zohner and children from Eglen Air Base, now on leave were among the guests.

The women and children enjoyed swimming while the men spent their time fishing.

Mr. Louis Revels was admitted into Citrus Memorial Hospital the same evening, due to infection and pneumonia. He was a patient for a week and returned home on Father's Day, and feeling much better.

## Engaged



Mr. and Mrs. Louis E. Witte wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sandra Mae to Donald E. Waterman, son of Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Waterman.

Sandra Mae was a graduate of Crystal River High School in the class of '67.

Donald is with the U.S. Coast Guard at the Opa-Locka Air Station.

*June 29 - 67*

EXPERIENCED ~~man~~ ~~work~~  
worker. 795-3283. ttc

At  
SE

## Ozello News 4-13-67

by Mae Witte  
PIONEER DAYS  
Mr. John G. Pratt now  
a resident of Homosassa

will be 80 years old May 31, and as a boy accompanied his brothers and played on the Brown's property, (formerly J. T. De Busk's) across from James Stephens. He claims that in one certain spot the soil was very peculiar, it was soft, sandy and reddish colored like brick dust. He stated they always imagined or supposed pirate boats could have brought it up the river and unloaded it for some purpose.

The boys would dig up bones of skeletons as there had been many bodies buried there. They wired the bones into their proper places and made a complete skeleton. They never knew if the skeletons were Pirates or Indians, but as they had found many Indian relics etc., they presumed, Indian bodies. Old timers claimed there were many skeletons and relics found there and many

other places in the Ozello area.

Facts from Mr. Jol Gould Pratt

The Ozello Civic Club had its general meeting Sat. April 8 with a large number of its members being present for the covered dish dinner. The dinner being in the form of a birthday dinner, with Mr. P. M. Waterman as the honored guest. A large decorated cake and ice cream was served for the occasion and Mr. Waterman was presented with a Sheaffer pen and pencil set from neighbors and friends.

The Ozello Civic Club has purchased a subscription to the Suncoast Sentinel to be sent to J. T. (Tom) De Busk stationed on the U.S.S. Constellation at San Francisco.

Miss Elaine Lambert has taken up residence with Mr. Lambert's sister Mrs. Theresa Valcourt at Lowell, Mass

### OZELLO 4-20-67

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brantley from Crystal River have purchased Mr. Virgil Roberts' trailer.

CIVIC Club would appreciate the donation of a piano. Will move. Phone 795-3463. 4-13,20,c

4-20-67  
17

June 7 67

## Ozello News

by Mae Witte

### PIONEER DAYS

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 Mrs. Helen Brown.

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.

There will be a Civic meeting at the Civic Building Sat. June 10, at 6 P.M. Due to many members of the club on their vacations there will not be the usual covered dish

## Ozello

by Mae Witte

### PIONEER DAYS

School resumed again Wednesday morning.

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.

I resigned as teacher of Ozello School in 1943.

The little 87-year-old school house still stands on its lonely island, a silent reminder of the courage and determination of the people to provide an education for their children. The end of Mrs. Cattie P. Martin's story.

The research and ultimate findings of interesting history of Ozello have been to this writer very rewarding to date. She feels, however that the history of Ozello and Western Islands are important enough to be compiled into a book for posterity. The historical search will continue, but the data will be retained by this correspondent until the history of Ozello and Western Islands are virtually complete and ready to be compiled into such a book.

Mr. and Mrs. Tilliar Graham from Indianapolis, Ind. and Mrs. G. W. Graham from Glenwood, Ga. were visitors of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Miles for a couple of days. Mrs. G. W. Graham and Mrs. Miles are sisters. Later on in the week Mr. Miles' nephew Mr. W. C. Garrett from Ashburn, Ga. also spent a few days with them.

# Ozello

by Mae Witte

May 19-67

## PIONEER DAYS

A Hunting and Fishing Lodge was started by some businessmen from Atlanta; a few of the members came from Tampa and other places. The lodge was located on Cedar Island, one of the last islands in the St. Martins River. Later it was moved to Beulahland Island (across from Stephens property). The Club House consisted of five bedrooms, a large parlor and a large porch that extended the full length of the house. A short distance from the house they had a smaller building which was used as a kitchen and dining room.

There were hunting and fishing guides at the club and they rowed their boats to Homosassa to meet the train and get the members and their chef which they always brought with them. The guides would then proceed to row the seven miles back to the Club House, where the members would stay from two to three weeks at a time. Of course the guides also had to row on the hunting and fishing trips but later they each bought a launch.

John J. Brown Sr. was the first caretaker for the club at Beulahland; he later moved down the river to his own property and Preston De Busk took over his duties. Then purchasing a fish house at Homosassa, he also moved. His brother J. Wm. DeBusk was then the caretaker for about 20 years. Most of the members joined a club in Homosassa so the one in Ozello was discontinued. Mr. De Busk, the caretaker, purchased the

property and buildings for his own home.

Later Cary De Busk bought the property and tore the buildings down, building a new home near the same location.

Facts from Henry DeBusk  
~~The Ozello Sew and So~~  
Club met Thurs. May 11 at the Civic Building.

The project of gilding the plastic flowers was a complete success. All the ladies were well pleased as the flowers were beautiful, looked just like china or ceramic when they were finished.

Everyone welcomed Mrs. Mary Scott of Tropic Terrace as a new member to the club.

Meetings will now be held on the 2nd and 4th Thurs. of the month instead of Wed.

A picnic has been planned for a summer outing before the ladies go on their vacations. It will be at Pine Island Thurs. May 25. Everyone is to meet at Mrs. Bernice Stiver's at 10 A.M. for their transportation and call her in regards to foods needed for the menu. Phone 795-3463.

The engineering work is nearly completed on the Ozello Water System so it appears that construction may start soon.

Dr. Elmer Limblad from Detroit, Mich., a guest of the P. M. Waterman's has returned home after a restful four day vacation at his favorite peaceful spot. Ozello. He

WE  
GIVE



WE  
GIVE



# Loan Okayed For Ozello Water System

OZELLO — Paul M. Waterman, president of the Ozello Water Association, last week relayed a telegram from Sens. Spessard Holland and George Smathers announcing the approval of a \$1,630,200 loan from the Farm and Home Administration.

The loan will pay for nine miles of watermain, storage tank and pump to supply fresh water to about 400 properties in this remote fishing village.

All drinking water has had to be brought in because of salt water intrusion.

Seventy-six new wells will be drilled about one-quarter of a mile from U.S. 19.

OZELLO, on SR 494, about six miles west of U.S. 19 and midway between Crystal River and Homosassa, has an all-year population of 100.

It has long been known by residents of Citrus County for its fine fishing and blue-claw crabs. The county has a public beach and boat ramp a few miles farther west.

The Florida Telephone Co. is running new lines to the area.

Miss Helen Tareila, owner of Happy Helen's Roadside Rest, is particularly pleased at the prospect of having the fresh water and a telephone.

MISS TAREILA, a retired international dancer, has just finished decorating her place with mementos from her world travels.

She says, "Running a public place without fresh water is no fun."

To the comparatively new Ozello civic organization goes much of the credit for the improvements. Recently elected officers of the club are: O. L. Revels, president; Louis Witte vice president; Thelma Deugar, secretary-treasurer.

OZELLO, INC. 1-2-67

Ozello, Inc. will hold the regular monthly meeting on Saturday, January 14, at 4:00 p.m. at the Civic Club building. Afterwards a covered dish dinner will be served. Bring your favorite dish, table service and guests.

# Ozello

by Mae Witte *July 6-67*  
PIONEER DAYS  
To continue Mrs. Cattie Martin's story:

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 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 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. 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.

(continued)

Mr. P. M. Waterman, President of the Ozello Water Association, announced today that the well site and the land for the storage tank for the new Ozello facility have now been obtained.

Nearly 250 members will be served in this area by the new water company.

The Ozello Civic Club will have its monthly meeting July 8, with a covered dish dinner at 5 P.M. and the meeting will be at 6:30 P.M.

Wedding Anniversary  
Congratulations for the month of June to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Prisoc and Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Russel. Dr. and Mrs. Donald McClanahan and family from St. Petersburg spent the weekend at their cottage. *July 6-67*

Ozello--The Civic Club here will have a "Pioneer Day" and reunion on Sunday, August 6. All former residents and their families are invited to attend and bring a dish of food. Anyone knowing any former residents are urged to inform them of this event. For information, call Mae Witte or Gertrude Brown. *July 6-67*

\*\*\*

Mrs. Dick Lambert has just returned home after having had a wonderful two weeks vacation with Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bowman and family in Kansas City, Mo. Mrs. Bowman is Mrs. Lambert's sister, which she hasn't seen in seven years.

"Pioneer Day" A Home Coming Or Reunion, to be held at the Ozello Civic Club Sun. Aug. 6.

This includes all residents or former residents and their families that have ever lived in Ozello or Western Islands.

Bring a covered dish or food of some kind for a buffet dinner, and bring your own table setting.

If you know any former residents, please notify them of this coming event in Aug. Let's all plan on being there, so it will be a success, and can be made a yearly event in the future.

For information phone:  
Mrs. Mae Witte ----  
795-4383 or Mrs. Gertrude Brown 795-2574.

## OZELLO

*July 6-67*  
Happy Helen went to West Palm Beach recently for a weekend with Lois Klinginsmith and children in the Klinginsmith's new Grand Prix.

# They Took A Boat To School

By **MICHAEL POPE-MOORE**  
Times Correspondent

OZELLO — Not so long ago, a youngster growing up in the wetlands around Ozello could be late to school and have a ready-made excuse — provided he was dripping wet.

The youngster could have simply explained that his boat

had capsized, and that teachers have to expect that sort of thing when the local school is on an island.

Ripley called the school "The Isle of Knowledge"

years ago in his "Believe It or Not" series.

And, believe it or not, between 1886 and 1944, a student at the Ozello school wouldn't have been considered out of


line if he'd slapped a redfish down on the teacher's desk instead of the traditional apple.

One of those students, still living in Ozello, was preceded at the waterborne place of

learning by his father, and by his grandfather, who had served as an early teacher there.

"Each family had their own boat," John Brown explained of his alma mater. Brown completed the eight grades at

(See OZELLO, Page 6)



Saturday, Feb. 17, 1973

Serving Pasco, Hernando  
and Citrus Counties

Published Daily In The . . .

St. Petersburg Times  
FLORIDA'S BEST NEWSPAPER



# Ozello's Old School May See New Dawn

(Continued from Page 1)

the school in 1922, but went back the next year to repeat the final grade "because I didn't have anything else to do."

Brown said the one-classroom school was constructed of pine from a nearby mill, and placed on the centrally-located island to settle a dispute between Ozello parents as to where the school should be built.

"Part of the time we had to cut wood," Brown recalls of classes, which followed the early American tradition of having the teacher instruct one grade level while students in the other seven grades studied at their seats.

**NEITHER FOG** nor choppy seas, nor a lack of interest

kept the 40-odd students that attended school with Brown from landing on the island on time, he said.

And nobody went home when chill winds slipped into the sides of the unsealed building, Brown said, although a watch was kept for signs of approaching storms.

The high-ceiling room was lighted by kerosene lanterns that were pulled down for lighting and then allowed to raise back up, Brown said, with students huddled over double-seated wooden desks with flip-up tops.

A **POT BELLED** stove did what it could to warm the wooden structure (made longer to seat the large class), Brown said, and an organ in the schoolroom provided its own kind of warmth. A near-

by cistern caught rainwater for use on the island, Brown said.

The county paid the teachers, who boarded with local

residents between voyages to the classroom.

One of those teachers, Mrs. Cattie Martin, described her terms at the school in the

1930's and early 1940's in a newspaper article published several years ago.

"Since I couldn't swim, I was just a little afraid of the water," Mrs. Martin said of her island days. "I was expected to teach 18 or 15 youngsters that could handle boats like professionals and swim like ducks," she lamented.

"**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," she explained.

Mrs. Martin was apparently as willing to learn as to teach, and she described how two boys in the family with which she boarded taught her the art of rowing during her first summer in Ozello.

Boat trips to the school didn't stop after the classes were ended in 1944, either, since the still-sturdy wooden building became a refuge for fishermen caught in a storm.

**IN FACT**, it took killer-hurricane Gladys to make the old school begin to lean to one side, when Ozello was hard hit by the tropical storm a few years ago.

The winds that often whip across the coastal marshlands

finally brought the structure down, collapsing the walls and leaving the tin-covered roof perched on top of the remains.

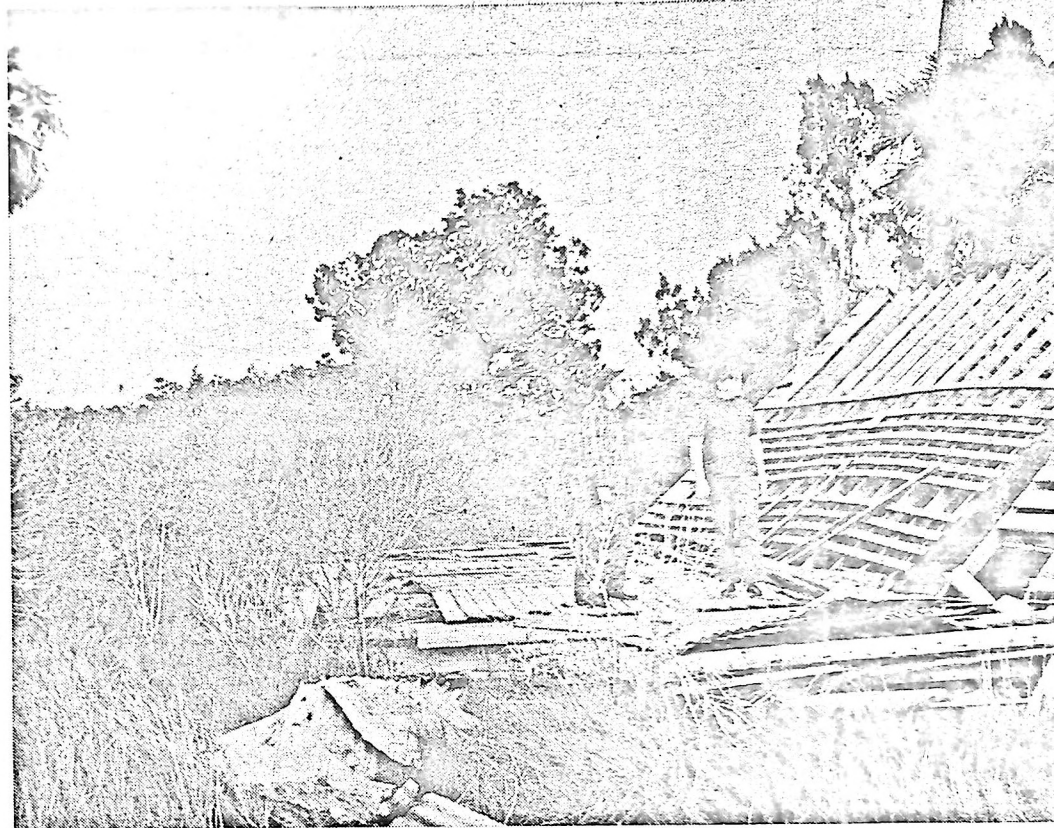
And more recently the school remains were partially dismantled when a man who had bought an island near Ozello began to salvage building materials on what he thought was his property.

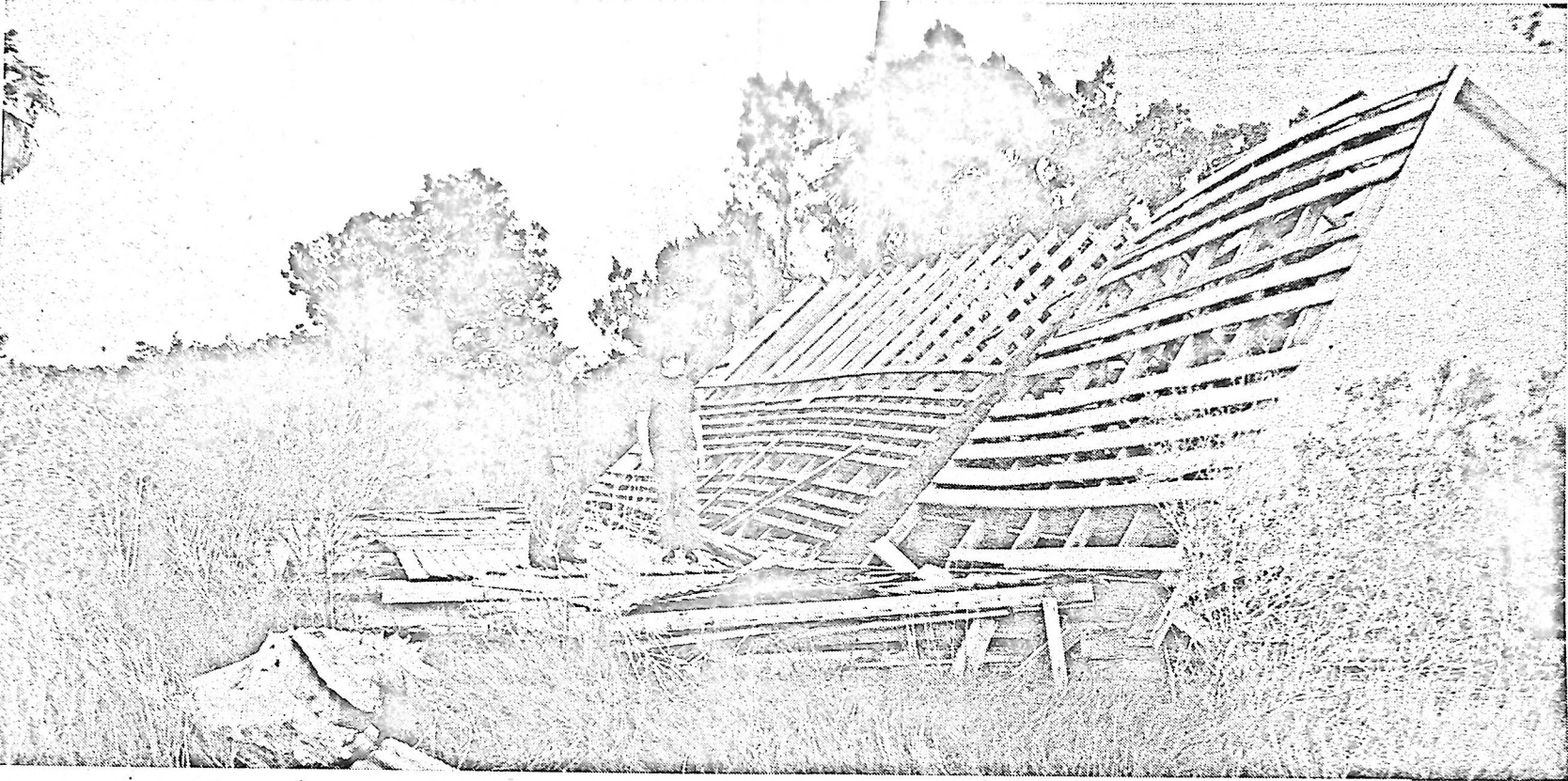
## LOCAL RESIDENTS,

alerted by the noise of the salvage work, boated out to the school house to tell the worker that he had landed on the wrong island, Lois Klingensmith, president of Ozello Inc., the community's civic organization, said. Now it looks like the school may get new life since trustees for the property have given Ozello Inc. members permission to renovate and refurbish the structure.

The one-acre island (more-or-less an acre, the deed acknowledges with due reverence to the Gulf tides) belongs to the people of Ozello. Trustees Katharen Stevens, Mildred De Busk and John Brown gave the civic club permission to undertake the raising of funds for restoration work.

So like its lost sister-of-the-sea Atlantis, the school-house on the "Isle of Knowledge" is due to rise again.





ght rainwater  
island, Brown

id the teach-  
ed with local

residents between voyages to  
the classroom.

One of those teachers, Mrs.  
Cattie Martin, described her  
terms at the school in the

1930's and early 1940's in a  
newspaper article published  
several years ago.

"Since I couldn't swim, I  
was just a little afraid of the  
water," Mrs. Martin said of  
her island days. "Here I was  
expected to teach 18 or 19  
youngsters that could handle  
boats like professionals and  
swim like ducks," she la-  
mented.

"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 fi-  
nances," she explained.

Mrs. Martin was apparently  
as willing to learn as to teach,  
and she described how two  
boys in the family with which  
she boarded taught her the  
art of rowing during her first  
summer in Ozello.

Boat trips to the school  
didn't stop after the classes  
were ended in 1944, either,  
since the still-sturdy wooden  
building became a refuge for  
fishermen caught in a storm.

**IN FACT**, it took killer-  
hurricane Gladys to make the  
old school begin to lean to one  
side, when Ozello was hard hit  
by the tropical storm a few  
years ago.

The winds that often whip  
across the coastal marshlands

finally brought the structure  
down, collapsing the walls  
and leaving the tin-covered  
roof perched on top of the re-  
mains.

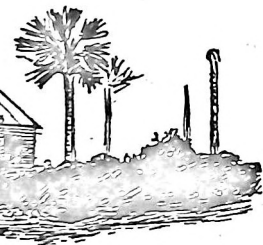
And more recently the  
school remains were partially  
demanded. When Allen Caulk  
had bought an island near  
Ozello began to salvage build-  
ing materials on what he  
thought was his property.

**LOCAL RESIDENTS**,  
alerted by the noise of the sal-  
vage work, boated out to the  
school house to tell the worker  
that he had landed on the  
wrong island, Lois Klingens-  
mith, president of Ozello Inc.,  
the community's civic organi-  
zation, said. Now it looks like  
the school may get new life  
since trustees for the property  
have given Ozello Inc. mem-  
bers permission to renovate  
and refurbish the structure.

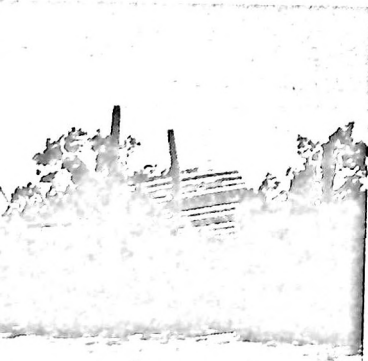
The one-acre island (more-  
or-less an acre, the deed ac-  
knowledges with due rever-  
ence to the Gulf tides) belongs  
to the people of Ozello.  
Trustees Katharen Stevens,  
Mildred De Busk and John  
Brown gave the civic club  
permission to undertake the  
raising of funds for restora-  
tion work.

So like its lost sister-  
of-the-sea Atlantis, the school-  
house on the "Isle of Knowl-  
edge" is due to rise again.

Ozello residents Todd Caulk (right) and Sam Brooks look over the fallen school structure, while Allen Caulk tended the craft that carried them to the island.



Ripley's



Times Photos by

# 'Hangover' House Passes Into History

Text and Newer Photos

by Michael Pope-Moore



Two of the younger John J. Brown's sons take to the road during high tide in Ozello.



A family boat from the 'island days' of Ozello.

## Ozello

(Continued from Page 1)

which earned it the Hangover House title had ended.

"You couldn't stay there all night without having a hangover in the morning," John J. Brown explained of the name given the oldest house in the Ozello area when it was used as a hunting and fishing camp by the late L. C. Leedy, of Orlando.

BROWN IS well qualified to speak on the house's history, since he once bought it and the island for \$50 after it was

confiscated for taxes after the Florida "crash" of the '30s. He also looked after the house and grounds for several years for Leedy, the last person to inhabit the island domain.

"It sat very high off the ground," Brown said of the house, "you could almost walk under it."

The home, built atop a high shell mound, was one of many built on the countless islands around Ozello, Brown said, during a time when "a lot of people came here from Michigan after that Civil War."

"They lived out of the woods then," Brown said of the early settlers, who relied on the abundant fish and began planting orange groves throughout the area.

BUT THE FREEZES of 1895-96 wiped out the groves and most of the northern transplants vanished from the area shortly afterward.

Brown said the Hangover House once was home for the Lewis Head family, including five daughters, until Head sold it during the 1900-1930 Florida boom.

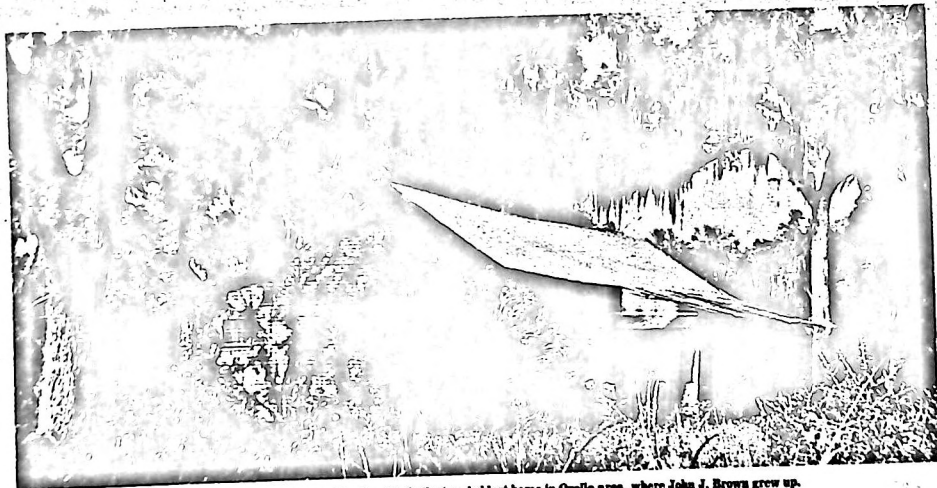
"Then I had an uncle that lived on the island right next to it and he had five boys, but none of them got married to each other," Brown explained.

The house lasted through the years, because it was constructed of "pitch pine," wood still laden with the turpentine substance often extracted from the trees. The foundation was constructed with hand-hewn beams.

THE HOUSE originally had two rooms off either side of a central hallway, and was heated by a stone fireplace, Brown said, and later three more rooms were added to the back, with an open porch on the front and a planked walkway to the entrance.

To erect such a structure on an island was common in Ozello's early history, and "each family had a motorboat just like we have a car now," Brown said.

The island location was perfect for Brown to leave his fishing equipment after he purchased the house, but



Since the Hangover House's Demise, this is the 'new' oldest home in Ozello area, where John J. Brown grew up.

was ordered by Russell, and some witnesses said they were told by investigators that its purpose was not aimed at any individuals within the department.

nesses, although Russell was in his office here briefly during the morning.

Nixon and the police department.  
(See DADE CITY, Page 4)



The late L.C. Leedy and friend in front of the old 'Hangover House' with the day's take of ducks.

# 'Hangover House' Disappears

By MICHAEL POPE-MOORE

Times Correspondent

OZELLO — The "Hangover House," built on a 20-acre island in Citrus County near Ozello just after the end of the Civil War, burned to the ground last month, taking with it another piece of this waterborne community's history.

The house made news most recently when "Happy" Helen Tariela, notary public and Ozello's first honorary mayor, married Suzanne Herringdine

and James Skinners near the Hangover House, at the bride's request.

Happy Helen noted in her records that the wedding party boated to the island on a beautiful winter day in 1970, accompanied by the honking of horns as friends in cars kept up with the boat's progress as far as possible along the route.

But the intriguing island house had been vacant for some time before the wedding party, and the activities

(See OZELLO, Page 6)

## Hat Tipped To Trooper

By JAN GLIDEWELL

Of The Times Staff

"Aquarians always have hard luck stories. I've never met one yet who didn't," said an astrology-inclined friend of mine.

Now, I'm perfectly convinced that you won't have to climb too high on my family tree to find both the scout who gave Custer the "all clear" at Little Big Horn, and the engineer who certified the Titanic as unsinkable. The last thing I needed last week was a written invitation to pay the Great State of Florida \$20 — but it



taught me that luck is where you find it and make it.

Another columnist used this space recently to pay tribute to a "good guy" police chief in a small town who let him

(See OFFBEAT, Page 2)

# Probe Alleged Of Dade City Police Data

By KEITH STICKLEY

Times Bureau

**DADE CITY** — An investigation of the Dade City Police Department reportedly was begun Monday by Pinellas-Pasco State Atty. James T. Russell.

Local sources confirmed that Russell has subpoenaed police department records and several officers to testify.

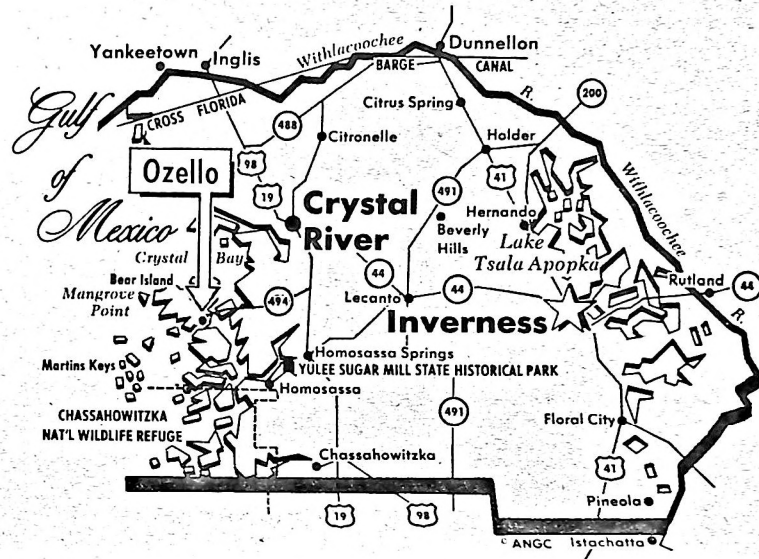
The investigation reportedly was ordered by Russell, and some witnesses said they were told by investigators that its purpose was not aimed at any individuals within the department.

Police Chief Norris R. Nixon came to the courthouse in the afternoon carrying police department records. He left without them.

Also reportedly called to testify were several former police department employes — some of them now working deputies for Pasco Sheriff Basil Gaines.

Russell's investigator, William Booth, questioned witnesses, although Russell was in his office here briefly during the morning.

Nixon and the police department.  
(See **DADE CITY**, Page 4)



Map shows location of Ozello in Citrus County near where old 'Hangover House' was located.

## 'Hangover House' Disappears

By MICHAEL POPE-MOORE

Times Correspondent

**OZELLO** — The "Hangover House," built on a 20-acre island in Citrus County near Ozello just after the end of the Civil War, burned to the ground last month, taking with it another piece of this waterborne community's history.

The house made news most recently when "Happy" Helen Tariela, notary public and Ozello's first honorary mayor, married Suzanne Herringdine

and James Skinners near the Hangover House, at the bride's request.

Happy Helen noted in her records that the wedding party boated to the island on a beautiful winter day in 1970, accompanied by the honking of horns as friends in cars kept up with the boat's progress as far as possible along the route.

But the intriguing island house had been vacant for some time before the wedding party, and the activities

(See **OZELLO**, Page 6)



The late L.C. Leedy and friend in front of the old 'Hangover House' with the day's take of ducks.

## Hat Tipped To Trooper

By JAN GLIDEWELL

Of The Times Staff

"Aquarians always have hard luck stories. I've never met one yet who didn't," said an astrology-inclined friend of mine.



# 'Hangover' House Passes Into History

Text and Newer Photos

by Michael Pope-Moore



ad during high tide in Ozello.

## Ozello

(Continued from Page 1)

which earned it the Hangover House title had ended.

"You couldn't stay there all night without having a hangover in the morning," John J. Brown explained of the name given the oldest house in the Ozello area when it was used as a hunting and fishing camp by the late L. C. Leedy, of Orlando.

**BROWN** is well qualified to speak on the house's history, since he once bought it and the island for \$50 after it was

confiscated for taxes after the Florida "crash" of the 30s. He also looked after the house and grounds for several years for Leedy, the last person to inhabit the island domain.

"It sat very high off the ground," Brown said of the house, "you could almost walk under it."

The home, built atop a high shell mound, was one of many built on the countless islands around Ozello, Brown said, during a time when "a lot of people came here from Michigan after that Civil War."

"They lived out of the woods then," Brown said of the early settlers, who relied on the abundant fish and began planting orange groves throughout the area.

**BUT THE FREEZES** of 1895-96 wiped out the groves and most of the northern transplants vanished from the area shortly afterward.

Brown said the Hangover House once was home for the Lewis Head family, including five daughters, until Head sold it during the 1900-1930 Florida boom.

"Then I had an uncle that lived on the island right next to it and he had five boys, but none of them got married to each other," Brown explained.

The house lasted through the years, because it was constructed of "pitch pine," wood still laden with the turpentine substance often extracted from the trees. The foundation was constructed with hand-hewn beams.

**THE HOUSE** originally had two rooms off either side of a central hallway, and was heated by a stone fireplace, Brown said, and later three more rooms were added to the back, with an open porch on the front and a planked walkway to the entrance.

To erect such a structure on an island was common in Ozello's early history, and "each family had a motorboat just like we have a car now," Brown said.

The island location was perfect for Brown to leave his fishing equipment after he purchased the house, but

eventually he sold it to Leedy for \$250 after campers apparently set a fire that burned a hole in the floor of the house.

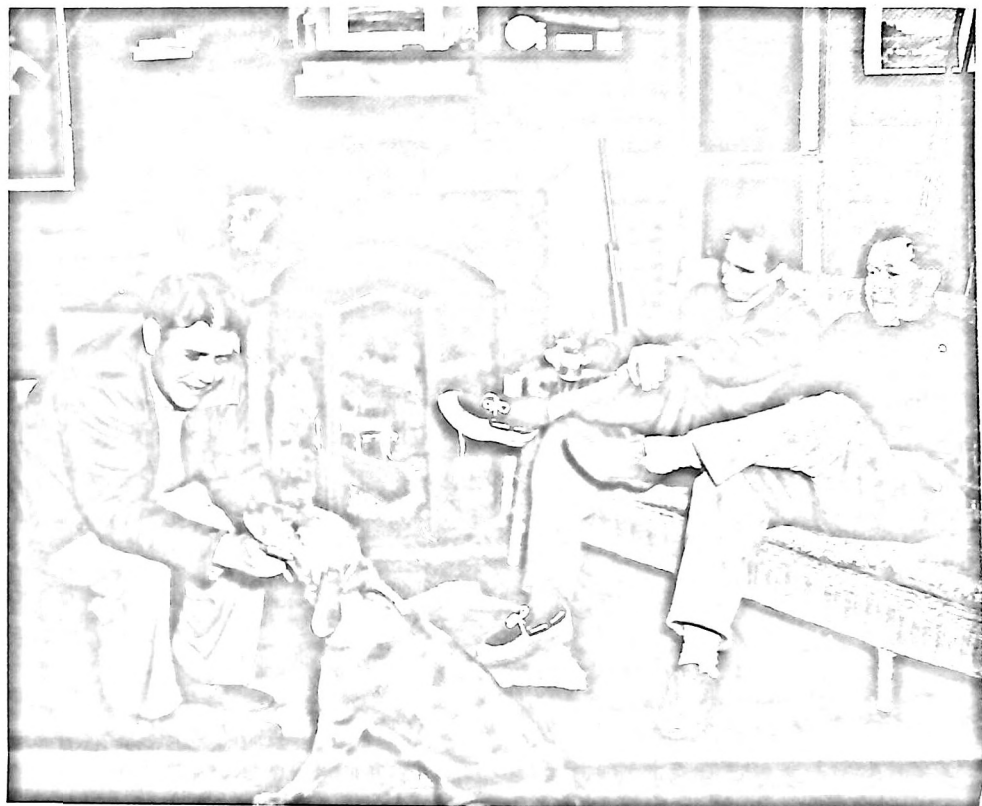
Brown speculates that a similar incident might have resulted in the Hangover House's demise, since there were no lightning storms on the night it burned and no electricity was hooked to the house.

**THE STRUCTURE** had been vacant since Leedy's death, Brown said, and was owned by Leedy's son.

The elder Leedy spent his last few years as a nearly permanent resident of the house, Brown said, after years of fishing and hunting with friends invited to Hangover House.

Mementoes of those years once filled the small home, but Brown said vandals took many items, including a painting Leedy commissioned that depicted his and Brown's boats docked in front of the house.

With the demise of the Hangover House, the title of "oldest in Ozello" now trans-



The Late L. C. Leedy And Hunting Companions In Livingroom Of Old Hangover House



John J. Brown and his fishing boat, both longtime residents of Ozello

fers to the waterfront structure where Brown grew up.

**THAT HOUSE** was owned by Brown's grandfather, also named John J. Brown (and the first school teacher at Ozello's famous island school

house), after the grandparents settled in the area as children and later married.

The second John J. Brown was raised as part of the Jim Brown family after Jim Brown purchased the old

house from his father. (There is a third John J. Brown in the Ozello-rooted family, one of four sons in the second John Brown family.)

The new holder of the "oldest in Ozello" title is, like its

predecessor, an unused home at present. But its wooden walls stand as straight as the old Hangover House once did, and it may house a few more families before it relinquishes the title.



idest home in Ozello area, where John J. Brown grew up.

# Early Citrus Settler Still Enjoys Camping

By BETTY ALEXANDER

Times Bureau

CRYSTAL RIVER — The tiny woman in a wheelchair wore a fireman's red housecoat, her face was perkily cocked and her eyes were bright as she reflected on the 95 years she's lived.

She is Mrs. Sallie DeBusk Brown and she'll be 96 in August. She is believed by friends and relatives to be the oldest resident in the city.

Asked why she thinks she's lived so many years, she said, "I worked hard and trusted in the Lord."

She has been confined to a wheelchair since she had a stroke two years ago and must read her Bible with a magnifying glass because the vision in those bright blue eyes has dimmed.

But she enjoys going on camping trips with the Rev. Roy Watson and his wife, Geneva, with whom she lives in her old house on Northeast First Street. Mrs. Watson is one of her 17 grandchildren.

Mrs. Brown had six children, three boys and three girls. But one daughter died of pneumonia at the age of seven in the family home in Ozello. From her five children she now has 35 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Watson said, "Grandma really enjoys it when we move her wheelchair out of our big camper and sit her in front of an outdoor fire. She loves the camping and hunting trips."

Although Mrs. Brown is a lifelong Baptist — baptized twice in the river when she was young — she now attends church with the Watsons. Rev. Watson is assistant pastor of the Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ.

Although Mrs. Brown's days of hard work are in the past, there was plenty of frontier-



Sallie DeBusk Brown And Four Generations

... Edith Black, Geneva Watson, Gwen Edge and Douglas Edge

style work when she raised her family in Ozello.

Born in Sumter County in 1878, she moved to Ozello in the early 1900s where she met her husband, J. M. (Jim) Brown. The family became an integral part of the history of Citrus County because Brown, who was a commercial fisherman, became a deputy sheriff in the 1920s when the sheriff's office had a sheriff and one deputy for each side of the county.

Later in the 1920s, Brown was elected to the County Commission, in the early 1940s, after the family moved to Crystal River, he was elected mayor without opposition.

When Mrs. Brown was raising her family in Ozello there were only six or seven families living in the area.

And housework then, Mrs. Brown said, wasn't the easy thing it is today.

"We had to wash clothes on a rubbing board," she said, making vigorous hand motions to show how hard she rubbed to get the family's clothes clean.

Mrs. Katherine Stephens, one of Mrs. Brown's daughters, was with her mother and Mrs. Watson, remembering with her mother the days when Ozello was a frontier wilderness.

"Whenever we went to town, we went by horse and buggy on dirt roads," said Mrs. Katherine Stephens, another of Mrs. Browns daughters. "We bought only a few things at the store, like flour, coffee and oil for the lamps. Mama had her vegetable gar-

den, chickens, milk cows and pigs. Daddy cured the pork in the family smokehouse because, of course, there was no refrigeration.

"Daddy shot deer, quail, ducks and even robins for the family's added meat."

Mrs. Brown and her daughter remember thousands of robins coming down from the north every year.

"It took a lot of robins to get much meat," Mrs. Stephens said. "But those little robins' breasts were good eating."

Her mother saved the feathers from the ducks and robins to make pillows and quilts for the family, she said.

All five of Mrs. Brown's children attended the Western Island school, going by row-

boat every day.

"We were the only children in the whole county who went to school in rowboats," Mrs. Stephens said. "And the eight grades in that one room school was all the formal education any of us children ever had."

She remembers her mother scrubbing the bare white wood floors of the house every week, so hard that the floors shone with cleanliness.

In those far off Ozello days there was no running water, no electricity and the family used outdoor privies.

Ozello didn't get electricity until the 1950s," Mrs. Stephens added.

Mrs. Brown also remembers her old woodburning stove on which she cooked all the family meals and the fireplaces that heated the rest of the house.

Mrs. Stephens said, "All Daddy had to do was go out and get some of the wood from the cedar trees all around us for firewood.

Now living a peaceful life with her granddaughter, Mrs. Brown enjoys visits from old friends and relatives.

Mrs. Brown also enjoys a good dish of Mulligan's stew," Mrs. Watson said. "And I've gotten her to eat eggs — she didn't like them before. And she enjoys her breakfast cereal.

"But Grandma is very fussy about the food she eats. She won't eat any of the fat on meat — that may be one of the reasons she's lived so long," Mrs. Watson added.

And she's nearly always in good health, except for the physical damage left by the stroke, Mrs. Watson added.

"I feel fine," Mrs. Brown said.

"She may outlive all of us," said Mrs. Stephens.

5/28/74

## OLD TIMES

# Growing Up In Ozello Was A Rewarding Adventure

By EPIE BULLARD

The year (1941) saw many changes. Our country was involved in World War II, with probably the most outstanding event the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Economic conditions made it necessary for families to cut corners, doing without luxuries we had been used to enjoying. That was the year our mother brought my brother, Gene and me to Ozello.

We attended Ozello School, "The Isle of Knowledge", as it was publicized in, "Ripley's Believe It or Not". Supposedly it was the only school in the United States completely surrounded by water.

The school was built in 1880, on an island in the center of the St. Martin River. It's said the people who lived at Ozello then could not agree on which side of the river the school should be built. Finally, they agreed to put it on an island, equal distance from each side. Families living in Ozello were the Heads, DeBusks, Stanalands, Stephens, Browns, Martins, and Boatrights.

The most amazing thing to me at the time was the fact that all the children from first to eighth grades had to row a boat to school. Needless to say, we had

and in motor boats. It was an important occasion and we dressed in our "Sunday Best", and had to wear shoes, miserable shoes!

The children would recite Bible verses and sing special songs. Our parents were proud of us. Sometimes the minister, and his family, went home with us, and Mom always had our favorite, "Chicken and Dumplings".

Our attempts to grow a garden were mostly futile. There were more shells than soil. The birds, rabbits, and squirrels enjoyed most of the crop. It was a challenge and sometimes worth the effort, when the animals let us have our share.

Spring flood time was great fun for us. The wind would blow for a few days and nights. Then one morning we'd wake up, and to our surprise, we'd see the water was almost up to the floor of our front porch. This was a time when we were glad the houses had been built up two or three feet above the ground. We would swim around in the yard, find the right size cabbage tree log, climb aboard, and paddle down the shell road to the fish house.

The fish house was the hub of Ozello. Fishermen gathered to sell their fish, and exchange news of the "Hauls of Mullet" caught the night before. They would spread their nets to dry, and to mend. Sometimes this was a family affair with the women and children helping.

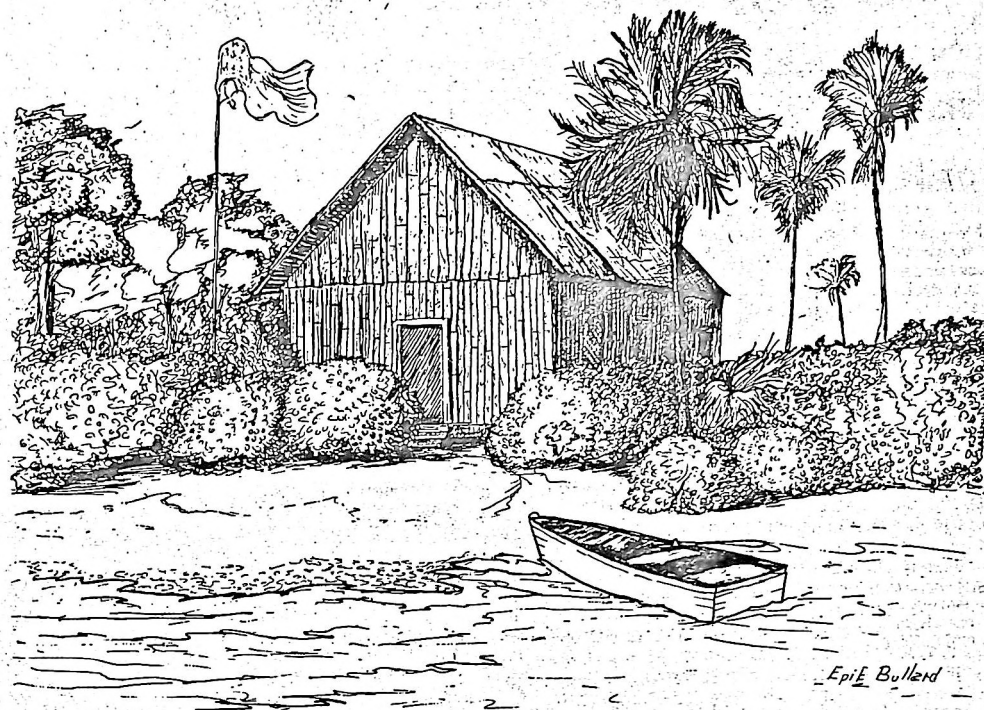
The net mending needle they used was "Hand whittled" from hickory wood, and filled with twine. They would trim the uneven holes to a neat square or rectangle, tie the twine to the upper left corner, and proceed to rebuild the net. They worked and told tales of the river and the sea, and we loved to listen.

If the Spring flood was high, the water would cover the only road leading out of Ozello. On these occasions we'd go by boat to Homosassa to re-stock our groceries and supplies. The children always looked forward to this as an adventure.

Pratts General Store, owned by John Pratt and his wife, Florence, was our destination. Their glass showcase had so many goodies, it was a delight to see. There were Baby Ruths, peppermint sticks, and loads of bubble gum. We always had a treat. Sometimes the grocery list contained "Old Faithful", Castor oil, but we'd rather forget that! And we enjoyed seeing our old friends who were always gathered around the store exchanging the latest news, and gossip.

At home, brother Gene and I had a "Tree House" in the swamp built on the huge limbs of a moss covered oak, a secret hide-away from all grown ups. He was Tarzan, and I was Jane. Our old brown and white spotted dog was our "Ape". How old Pooch hated to be hauled up our grape-vine rope to the heights of our tree house! We even had our own flower garden. A natural and exotic one, with Greenfly, Butter-fly, orchids, and ferns growing in profusion.

Many a feast we enjoyed at our tree house when oysters were in season. We'd build a fire, scout style, with cabbage fans, and small twigs. When the fire was red-hot, we'd throw in clumps of oysters. They snapped and popped and you'd better get out of the way, or you'd get hit by the hot shells! But the odor and taste of the little "coonie" oysters were well worth the "danger". They were called "coonies",



Epie Bullard

Isle of Knowledge opened 1880 - closed 1943

Ozello School, Ozello, Fla

Epie Bullard



plenty of muscles, blisters, and worn out seats.

When the weather was rough, we started out at least an hour earlier, for at times we would be washed ashore, no matter how hard we rowed. The bay in front of the school could have waves two or three feet high. When this happened, we would be late. The teacher could see us from the school, and knew we would get there eventually. Sometimes the passing fishermen would give us a hand.

Some days the teacher would accompany us to school in our boat. This was a special privilege, and on those days we were always on good behavior.

Most of the children wore the least amount of clothing necessary. Shoes were a nuisance! At lunch time, or recess, we'd swim, or wade around the edges of the island, which consisted of mostly oyster shells. I can't ever remember anyone being cut from them - we knew to step lightly, as the Indians had done, long before us.

Our main recreations were spelling bees, and softball. The ball diamond was a clearing out back of the school with thousands of "Fiddler Crabs", scurrying about. They never bothered us. We'd just have to stop a home run occasionally and shake one off a toe!

Another important and necessary place was located out back at the end of two well worn paths. These were called the little "Two-Holers". Winter

came to be there, or who made him. Maybe the Indians.

Fresh water for drinking, bathing, or washing clothes was scarce, especially when it was a dry season. The only usable water was rain-water that ran off the roof, caught in rain barrels. We kept them covered, but it wasn't easy to keep mosquito larvae, or small bugs out. We boiled our drinking water.

Our clothes were boiled in an old black three legged wash pot. My brother and I had the job of gathering the wood for the fire.

Once we dug a well about 10 feet deep, which, to our dismay quickly filled with brackish water. As it was no good for anything else, we used it for bathing. Saturday afternoon that well was a sight, filled with bubbles!

Our experience with hunting wild game, which consisted of ducks and rabbits, was the two of us carrying an old double barreled twelve gauge shotgun around in the marshes. Once, when we were trying to load that old gun, with Gene holding it and me putting in the shell, it fired off near the water, knocking us down in the mud, and nearly scaring the claylights out of us. The last rabbit we killed was the one we had to clean.

When we wanted to visit our friends that lived on

the Stanalands and DeBusks. If it was going out, we visited the Stephens. The tide was swift enough to carry us without much effort on our part. We would stop and rest on the islands in between. When the tide changed, we got back in the river, and would be home in no time at all.

We grew up clean, with all that water, and healthy from all the good things we had to eat.

(AFTER THOUGHT: Later Epie and Gene moved away from Ozello. He was a Paratrooper in the Korean Conflict, then worked at the Redstone Arsenal Space Program, and is credited with the invention of a number of useful items valuable to the U.S. Space program. He passed away in 1971, with a wife and three children surviving. Epie made her home in Southern California for nearly 25 years, where she was married and reared two sons, Lynn and Howard. Some busy civic worker. An artist of considerable talent, she has been an active member of the Citrus County Art League and has provided the inspiration for annual art exhibitions at Homosassa Springs and Inverness. She has also been an active member of the Crystal River Woman's Club and the Homosassa Civic Club. Last week the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce honored Epie Bullard and her husband, Howard, presenting them with an Outstanding Citizen Award.)

These were called the little "Two-Holers". Winter heat was an old black pot-bellied stove, which we all crowded around during the few cold months. Our water supply was held in a concrete cistern.

We were a well behaved group of kids that is, until we started home. All the children would load up their boats with the biggest oyster shells they could find, and then the "Shell Fight", would begin. If another boat came too close, look out! We never got hurt, because we were careful to keep our distance.

On Sundays, if we could get a minister, we went back to school for church, this time with our parents,

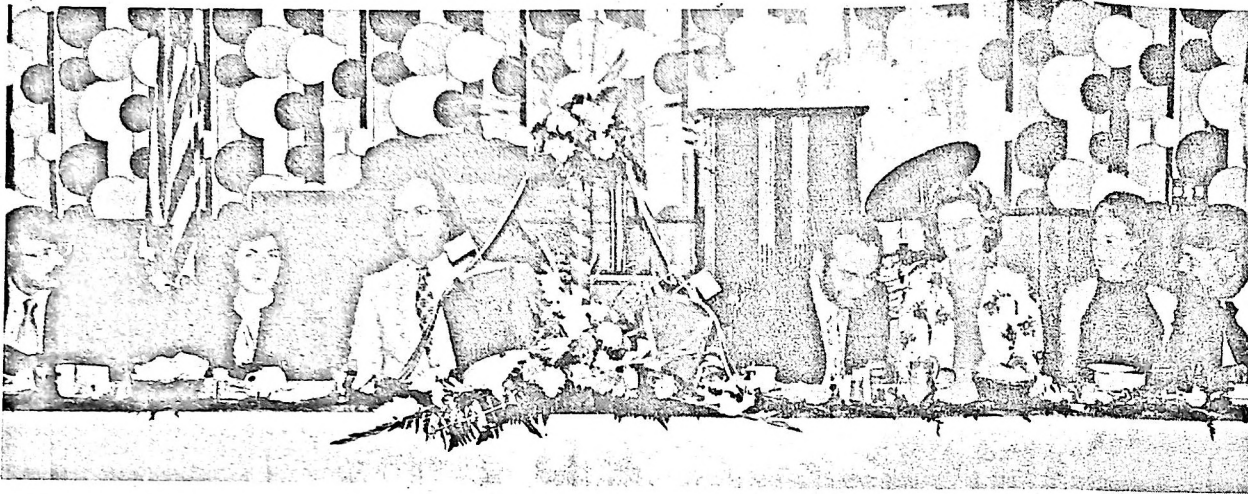
worth the "danger". They were called "coonies", because the coons loved them every bit as much as we did, making them a big part of their diet.

Sometimes we would play on the oyster shell mounds, which were made by the Indians when they lived here many years before us. We would find arrow heads, pieces of pottery with colored designs, and indescribable bones. We pretended we were Indians, and would hold war council, or have a "feast of the Pumpkin Dance", which was a part of the local Indian lore. Once we found a rabbit about two feet high, perfectly formed, made of what looked like limestone. To this day I've wondered how he

one we had to clean. When we wanted to visit our friends that lived on the river, the deciding factor would be the way the tide was going. If it was coming in, we would swim to

married and reared two sons, husband, Howard, presenting them with an Outstanding Citizens Award at the organization's annual banquet.)

CPS Photos  
By Sheila Jones



CHAMBER OFFICERS; GUESTS - Seated at the head table during recent installation of new Citrus County Chamber of Commerce officers held recently at the Fort Cooper Station, are, left to right, incoming president Jim Twitty, his wife, Kathy; outgoing president James Frye; Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Thigpen [Thigpen was guest speaker] and Col. and Mrs. Lonnie Davidson. During the evening the Chamber awarded nine persons seven awards for community service. [CPS Staff Photo]



OUTSTANDING SERVICE - Robert England, left, is seen above receiving a distinguished award plaque from the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce. Presenting the award is outgoing president James Frye. [CPS Staff Photo]



OUTSTANDING MEMBER - A former "Man of the Year" himself, Joseph Newton was honored by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce as its outstanding member during recent officer installation ceremonies. Presenting the award is Jean Conners, Chamber secretary. [CPS Staff Photo]



STUDENT HONORS - Accepting the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce's award to outstanding student Charlene Hood are her parents Maj. and Mrs. Eugene Hood. Presenting the award is incoming first vice president of the Chamber Lois Randall. [CPS Staff Photo]



AWARDEES - Homosassa's Epie and Howard Bullard, left, were praised in pairs for their outstanding work towards the betterment of all of Citrus County. Presenting their award is incoming chamber second vice president Woody Ray. [CPS Staff Photo]

# Remnants And Memories

From PAGE 1

"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 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 just dashed in and got it. They didn't mind in the least going back to lessons with their pants 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



**LUNCH SPOT**— As a child, Mrs. Epie Bullard, now of Homosassa Springs, attended the Ozello School. On a recent visit to the island school site, Mrs. Bullard found the old tree that students gathered around at lunch time. (CPS Staff Photo)

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 Sunday's 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 four hundred people. Half of those killed were servicemen 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 anxious for I would have lost my prestige.

The only sanitary facilities were the 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 motor and could tell which fisherman was coming long before the boat came into sight.

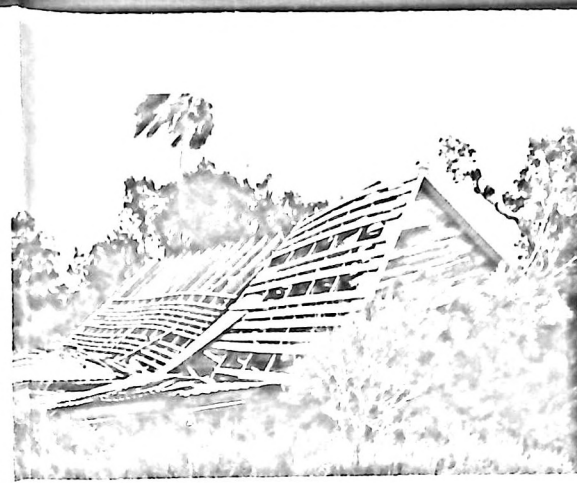
One day two fishermen put down their nets across from the school. The children and I went outside and watched them make a catch of approximately a thousand mullet.

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 a rural electrification, everyone has electric lights and many of the electric appliances are available.

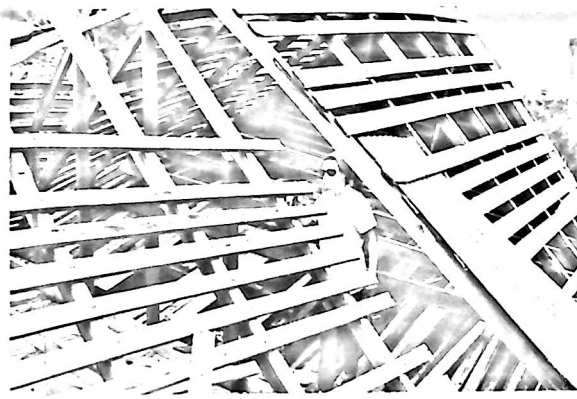
A state highway has replaced the old dirt and shell road and new subdivisions have been laid out and many new homes built. The state has provided one of the nicest roadside parks thus providing a recreation center that all may enjoy.

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 seventy-two year old school house still stands on it's lonely island, a silent reminder of the courage and determination of the people to provide an education for their children despite many difficulties.



**AFRAME**— All that remains of the old Ozello School is the roof structure that appears to be some kind of A-frame with a weathered history. The school was in operation from 1880 until 1942. (CPS Staff Photo)



**MEMORIES**— Mrs. Epie Bullard, of Homosassa Springs, formerly Miss Epie Boatright was a student at the Ozello School. The remains of the school are on the original site on a small island in the St. Martin's River near Ozello. (CPS Staff Photo)



Full Billing Address  
Expiration Date

Rem.  
nn  
orie

# Ozello-The Remnants Of A School, And The Memories It Still Stirs

**Editor's Note:** As our nation approaches the 1976 Bicentennial Celebration the Chronicle-Press-Sentinel and related publications and residents are looking back on our areas history. One point of interest in our area is the old Ozello School constructed on an island in the St. Martin's River in 1880 and operated until 1913. The story of the school has been written by a former teacher of the island institute of learning, Mrs. Cattie P. Martin.

By CATTIE P. MARTIN

Just a few miles off U.S. 19 in the little community of Ozello, Florida, there stands a little old school house 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 area 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 H. 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 who have taught in this unique school. They are: Miss Marian King, Miss Bessie King, Miss Emily Vause, Miss Rosa Hammond, Miss Leila Zerner, Miss Mamie Love, Mrs. Jessie Gay Winn, Miss Bessie Martin, David Tyre, Mrs. Cattie Priest, Mrs. Idella Wells, Miss Sallie Jim Moore, Miss Mary Dell Waring, Miss Sallie Feliston, Dan 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 stepmother.

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.

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 who 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 the north side of the river about one-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 a. m. each day, there would be from six to eight skiffs (as 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.

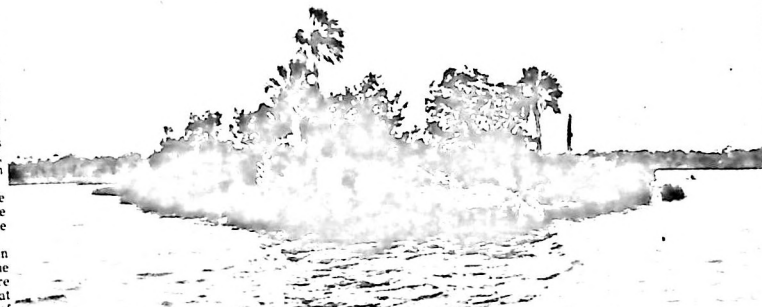
At noon groups could be seen sitting under cabbage palms or cedar trees eating their box lunches. There was a small oyster bar at the edge of the water, and many times I would watch the oysters feeding as I ate my lunch.

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

SEE "Remnants And Memories" PAGE 6



ISLAND SCHOOL - On a small island in the St. Martin's River near Ozello, stood a school that was used by area students from 1880 until 1913. There are still many residents in the area that recall the days when students rowed or swam to school. (CPS Staff Photo)

OLD TIMES

# Growing Up In Ozello Was A Rewarding

By EPIE BULLARD

The year (1941) saw many changes. Our country was involved in World War II, with probably the most outstanding event the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Economic conditions made it necessary for families to cut corners, doing without luxuries we had been used to enjoying. That was the year our mother brought my brother, Gene and me to Ozello.

We attended Ozello School, "The Isle of Knowledge", as it was publicized in, "Ripley's Believe It or Not". Supposedly it was the only school in the United States completely surrounded by water.

The school was built in 1880, on an island in the center of the St. Martin River. It's said the people who lived at Ozello then could not agree on which side of the river the school should be built. Finally, they agreed to put it on an island, equal distance from each side. Families living in Ozello were the Heads, DeBusks, Stanalands, Stephens, Browns, Martins, and Boatrights.

The most amazing thing to me at the time was the fact that all the children from first to eighth grades had to row a boat to school. Needless to say, we had



plenty of muscles, blisters, and worn out seats.

When the weather was rough, we started out at least an hour earlier, for at times we would be washed ashore, no matter how hard we rowed. The bay in front of the school could have waves two or three feet high. When this happened, we would be late. The teacher could see us from the school, and knew we would get there eventually. Sometimes the passing fishermen would give us a hand.

Some days the teacher would accompany us to school in our boat. This was a special privilege, and on those days we were always on good behavior.

Most of the children wore the least amount of clothing necessary. Shoes were a nuisance! At lunch time, or recess, we'd swim, or wade around the edges of the island, which consisted of mostly oyster shells. I can't ever remember anyone being cut from them - we knew to step lightly, as the Indians had done, long before us.

Our main recreations were spelling bees, and softball. The ball diamond was a clearing out back of the school with thousands of "Fiddler Crabs", scurrying about. They never bothered us. We'd just have to stop a home run occasionally and shake one off a toe!

Another important and necessary place was located out back at the end of two well worn paths. These were called the little "Two-Holers". Winter heat was an old black pot-bellied stove, which we all crowded around during the few cold months. Our water supply was held in a concrete cistern.

We were a well behaved group of kids that is, until we started home. All the children would load up their boats with the biggest oyster shells they could find, and then the "Shell Fight", would begin. If another boat came too close, look out! We never got hurt, because we were careful to keep our distance.

On Sundays, if we could get a minister, we went back to school for church, this time with our parents,

and in motor boats. It was an important occasion and we dressed in our "Sunday Best", and had to wear shoes, miserable shoes!

The children would recite Bible verses and sing special songs. Our parents were proud of us. Sometimes the minister, and his family, went home with us, and Mom always had our favorite, "Chicken and Dumplings".

Our attempts to grow a garden were mostly futile. There were more shells than soil. The birds, rabbits, and squirrels enjoyed most of the crop. It was a challenge and sometimes worth the effort, when the animals let us have our share.

Spring flood time was great fun for us. The wind would blow for a few days and nights. Then one morning we'd wake up, and to our surprise, we'd see the water was almost up to the floor of our front porch. This was a time when we were glad the houses had been built up two or three feet above the ground. We would swim around in the yard, find the right size cabbage tree log, climb aboard, and paddle down the shell road to the fish house.

The fish house was the hub of Ozello. Fishermen gathered to sell their fish, and exchange news of the "Hauls of Mullet" caught the night before. They would spread their nets to dry, and to mend. Sometimes this was a family affair with the women and children helping.

The net mending needle they used was "Hand whittled", from hickory wood, and filled with twine. They would trim the uneven holes to a neat square or rectangle, tie the twine to the upper left corner, and proceed to rebuild the net. They worked and told tales of the river and the sea, and we loved to listen.

If the Spring flood was high, the water would cover the only road leading out of Ozello. On these occasions we'd go by boat to Homosassa to re-stock our groceries and supplies. The children always looked forward to this as an adventure.

Pratt's General Store, owned by John Pratt and his wife, Florence, was our destination. Their glass showcase had so many goodies, it was a delight to see. There were Baby Ruths, peppermint sticks, and loads of bubble gum. We always had a treat. Sometimes the grocery list contained "Old Faithful", Castor oil, but we'd rather forget that! And we enjoyed seeing our old friends who were always gathered around the store exchanging the latest news, and gossip.

At home, brother Gene and I had a "Tree House" in the swamp built on the huge limbs of a moss covered oak, a secret hide-away from all grown ups. He was Tarzan, and I was Jane. Our old brown and white spotted dog was our "Ape". How old Pooch hated to be hauled up our grape-vine rope to the heights of our tree house! We even had our own flower garden. A natural and exotic one, with Greenfly, Butter-fly, orchids, and ferns growing in profusion.

Many a feast we enjoyed at our tree house when oysters were in season. We'd build a fire, scout style, with cabbage fans, and small twigs. When the fire was red-hot, we'd throw in clumps of oysters. They snapped and popped and you'd better get out of the way, or you'd get hit by the hot shells! But the odor and taste of the little "coonie" oysters were well worth the "danger". They were called "coonies" because the coons loved them every bit as much as we did, making them a big part of their diet.

Sometimes we would play on the oyster shell mounds, which were made by the Indians when they lived here many years before us. We would find arrow heads, pieces of pottery with colored designs, and indescribable bones. We pretended we were Indians, and would hold war council, or have a "feast of the Pumpkin Dance", which was a part of the local Indian lore. Once we found a rabbit about two feet high, perfectly formed, made of what looked like limestone. To, this day, I've wondered how he



Isle of Knowledge opened 1880 - closed 1941  
Ozello School, Ozello, Fla.

came to be there, or who made him. May! Indians.

Fresh water for drinking, bathing, or washing clothes was scarce, especially when it was season. The only usable water was rain-water run off the roof, caught in rain barrels. We kept covered, but it wasn't easy to keep mosquito's or small bugs out. We boiled our drinking water.

Our clothes were boiled in an old black legged wash pot. My brother and I had the gathering the wood for the fire.

Once we dug a well about 10 feet deep, which our dismay quickly filled with brackish water was no good for anything else, we used it for but Saturday afternoon that well was a sight, filled with bubbles!

Our experience with hunting wild game, consisted of ducks and rabbits, was the two carrying an old double barreled twelve shotgun around in the marshes. Once, when we trying to load that old gun, with Gene holding me putting in the shell, it fired off near the knocking us down in the mud, and nearly scaring daylight's out of us. The last rabbit we killed was one we had to clean.

When we wanted to visit our friends that lived in the river, the deciding factor would be the tide was going. If it was coming in, we would

COO PHOTOS

By Sheila Jones



# Gifted Education Takes Look At Citrus 'Heritage' People

## What The Gifted Ed. Program's All About

By ELIZABETH JOYNER  
Coordinator of Gifted Education  
Citrus County School System

The Gifted Education Program of Citrus County was initiated in the school year of 1972-1973. In the four years it has been in operation, it has doubled in size through the continuous process of screening, evaluating and identifying students who qualify for the program. The program serves grades three through eight, but in the future will expand to cover kindergarten through twelfth grade.

The philosophy of the program is that gifted children with such high ability need a differentiated educational program that takes their unusual abilities into account and provides them with greater challenges than the regular school services can offer. An effective program for the gifted requires teachers trained to identify gifted children and provide programs designed to encourage them to maximum development of potential and a greater understanding of their capabilities.

Through the Gifted Education Program, students participate in advanced activities such as the creative writing and thinking here, problem solving, drama, research, field trips, Career Education, Independent study and many other challenging activities.



LOUIS CONNELL

Sketches By Terry Knighten



ELVA JONES

## Connells Moved Here On Horse And Buggy

About four miles out of town toward Hernando is a large piece of land containing a white frame house. This is where Louis Connell has lived for the past 40 years.

Louis Connell's family moved to Florida in 1880 by way of horse and wagon. They settled down 18 miles outside of G. nenville. It was here Louis Connell was born in 1903. His family consisted of five members.

Due to the phosphate boom, the Connell family moved to Citrus County in 1908 where his father acquired the job of superintendent of a phosphate camp. Being the youngest of three boys does have its drawbacks. Chores such as bringing in the wood and milking the cows were done by Mr. Connell.

He started school in 1909 having Miss Nellie Miller, who is still alive at age 94, as his first grade teacher. Mr. Connell walked about two miles to the frame building known as school. Discipline of them and now is much the same. His family used the patchtree switch. Mr. Connell graduated in 1918 in a class of five boys and four girls.

From here he went on to become a school board member which he was for 12 years. In 1946, the county bought its first buses, each holding only 10-12 pupils. Today, 30 years later, the county has more than 70 buses holding 80 or more pupils each.

Phosphate mining was a very important industry in those days and brought people from all around in Citrus County. Phosphate was sold to Germany and later bought electricity to Inverness.

Looking back on his life, Mr. Connell says that indoor plumbing along with electricity have made the biggest changes in his life. "Talking to Mr. Connell was both fun and interesting. We wish to thank him for his hospitality and information which has helped us to better understand our county's past."

By  
Julie Kelly  
Cathy Matthews  
James Howard  
Kelvin Walsh  
Gifted Education Students



**SURROUNDED** -- Long time Citrus Countian, Elva Jones of Floral City, has lived in Citrus County all of her life and was a teacher for 40 years. Above eighth graders in the Citrus County Gifted Education program are seen following interviewing her.



**CLASS VISITOR** -- Historical society chairman, Joseph Bowler, attended class for the Citrus County Gifted Education program recently, during a study of historical Citrus County persons.



**HISTORICAL TALK** -- Members of Citrus County's Gifted Education program studied Citrus County History first hand when they talked with Mack Smith and his wife. Smith is reputed to be the oldest Citrus Countian alive.

One of the big events was to go down to the train station and watch people unload. The train fare from Floral City to Inverness was about 20 cents.

During this period the Magnolia Hotel was located where the present day Jiffy is. The Magnolia Hotel was owned by Mrs. Borland.

Most courting was done by swinging on a porch swing and playing such games as spin the bottle and post office.

Said Mrs. Jones, "Electricity changed my life the most." In our interview with Mrs. Jones we learned more things about our county's past and found it quite educational.

## Elva Jones Is Member



**CITRUS PIONEER** -- Gifted Education students who visited the home of Louis Connell during a study of Citrus County History were left to right, back row, Grace Gustafson, Susan Hope, Ruth McClashen, Kevin Walsh, and Pete Astajerick. At center are left to right, James Howard, Louis Connell and Bill Spivey, front row, left to right are Doug Grand, Terry Knighten, Greg Evans, Cathy Matthews and Julie Kelly.

## Mack Smith Maybe Citrus Oldest Native

**CITRUS PIONEER** - Gifted Education students who visited the home of Louis Connell during a study of Citrus County History were left to right, back row, Grace Gustafson, Susan Hope, Ruth McGlashen, Kevin Walsh, and Peter Atapichak. At center are left to right, James Howard, Louis Connell and Bill Spivey. Front row, left to right are Doug Grand, Terry Knighten, Greg Evans, Cathy Mathews and Julie Kelly.



**MAC K SMITH**

## Mack Smith Maybe Citrus Oldest Native

In 1901 in Inverness, Florida, Mack Smith was born. Today he is the oldest known person to be both born and raised in Inverness. His roots on Inverness soil go back a long way.

His mother moved here in 1884 from South Carolina. His father came here in 1870, his descent is unknown. They moved here in the then speedy means of transportation, horse and wagon. After the Smith family set up a homestead they had five children, five boys, Mr. Smith being the youngest. As a child he labored over the tasks of milking the cow and tending the goats. If he was overcome with laziness he labored over a good "switchin'".

As far as Mr. Smith's education went, he had to walk 2.5 miles to school every day, except on the weekends. The school was a single room complex. The school days back then were from 8 a. m. to 4 p. m. and a school year was only four months compared to the present day nine months.

He started his education at a mere four years of age because there were not enough pupils enrolled in the school. Miss Lilly Bassett, Mr. Smith's first grade teacher, boarded with the Smith family during the school year. In the summer when school was not in progress, Miss Bassett returned to her home town. So the teacher could keep the youngsters in line she gave them a switching as discipline.

Whenever little Mack got sick he went to old Doc Miller. He chased away the evil spirits with spirits such as Castor Oil, a variety of salts, cough remedies, laxatives, and the All American spirit chaser Calamint. Even Calamint couldn't chase away Malaria, diphtheria, chicken pox, measles, sore eyes, and whooping cough. Sounds bad but these diseases were very common back then.

However, in order to pay bills of different varieties, work had to be done to raise money. Back in the younger days of Mack Smith, most of the jobs in this area were found around Hernando and Floral City. Most work was centered around the sawmills and the phosphate mines. Mr. Smith worked in the dairy business



**ELVA JONES**

## Elva Jones Is Member Of Citrus Historical Family

Mrs. Joyner's eighth grade students chose Elva Jones to be interviewed because she is one of the oldest residents in Citrus County.

In 1885, Elva Jones' family moved by oxcart from Georgia to somewhere in Citrus County. Later in 1904 or 1905 they moved to Floral City, the once 4th largest city in Florida. There were nine in the Watson family counting Elva. Mr. Watson farmed and worked for the phosphate company making \$1 a day.

Most of the discipline was given by Mrs. Watson. Mrs. Jones was quoted, saying, "She fanned your pants if you did wrong." The first Mrs. Jones moved into burned down, so in 1910, with the help of her neighbors her parents built the house she is now living in.

Mrs. Jones went to a four-room school in Floral City. A school day lasted from 8 in the morning until 3:30 in the afternoon with one hour out for lunch. Since there was little or no transportation every community large or small had a school. All you had to do to become a school teacher was to pass a teacher's examination. When a doctor wasn't available, home remedies were used. One popular home remedy was the use of opium for toothaches.

Some dreaded diseases of those days were: Typhoid fever, Pertussis, Hookworm, and Malaria. At the general store, you could buy anything from coffee to coffins.

for almost 25 years and later worked with Standard Oil for 16-17 years.

The most important dates he looked forward to in his life were the day he sent his own children off to college. As a child though, Christmas time was the most sacred day all year. He got a few gifts under the tree and a banana or an apple in his stocking.

Different types of transportation back in earlier times included train, horse, and a horse and buggy connection. The first person in this area to own a car was W. H. Boswell.

When the interviewers asked Mr. Smith, what convenience changed their life the most he replied, "Electricity, of course."

As far as Inverness appeared many years ago, Mr. Smith said it looked very much the same as far as buildings were arranged, but there was a row of oak trees on each side of Main Street.

I imagine that Inverness was a lot different back then, not only Inverness but the life of the residents. Looking at all we learned I believe I would really like to live in "Nowsville".

By  
Greg Evans  
Bill Spivey  
Gifted Educations Students

## Infantino Nominated to Serve As Page

John Infantino, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Val Infantino of Inverness, has been selected to serve as a page in the U.S. Capitol, according to a report from Fifth Congressional District Congressman Richard Kelly, R-Florida.

Infantino attends the Bolles Academy in Jacksonville. He is in the top fifth of his class academically. Among his many extra-curricular accomplishments, he has served as sophomore and junior class president, president of the Ceruleans Club, and business manager of The Bugle, the school newspaper. He will be a senior at Bolles next year.

As a page, Infantino will carry messages for the Republican members of the

House. He will serve for the month of June. Infantino was nominated as a page by Congressman Kelly.



**JOHN INFANTINO**

## Fish Fry for Football Team

The Crystal River Athletic Boosters Club sponsored a fish fry for the high school football team on Thursday evening at 6:00 p. m. at the football stadium.

Approximately 150 people showed up for a dinner of fish, baked beans, cole slaw and iced tea. Doing the cooking and serving were Crystal River High coaches, Bramlett and Hickey. John Ferdinando, of the boosters club, was the head chef.

The highlight of the evening was the showing of the near completed press box atop the football stadium. The Boosters Club has sponsored the building of the press box. The building is elaborately car-

peted and air-conditioned.

The front of the building is glass lined for a fine view of the action. This press box and other improvements that have been made in the facilities at Crystal River High gives that school the best athletic facilities in Citrus County.



Experts tell us that the fruit Adam and Eve ate would not have been an apple, but more probably an apricot.

## "The Bible Tones" to Perform

The First United Methodist Church will have as their guests on Wednesday, June 2, "The Bible Tones" from Dawson Springs, Ky. They will perform at 7 p. m.

Their sound comes from a nucleus of six individuals who play their instruments and sing

their lyrics. The group consists of Gertrude and Bill Haupt and their son, David. Also in the group is Hank Cavanaugh, Mike Brandon and Jim Camplin.

The public is invited to attend by members of the Methodist Church.

## Homosassa Girl Graduates From Recruit Training

Navy Seaman Vonn C. Beilman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. DiPasqua of Homosassa Springs, Fla., was graduated from recruit training at the Naval Training Center, Orlando, Fla. Classes include instruction in

seamanship, military regulations, firefighting, close order drill, first aid and Navy history.

A former student of Antilles High School, San Juan, Puerto Rico, she joined the Navy in February, 1976.

**HISTORICAL TALK** - Members of Citrus County's Gifted Education program studied Citrus County History, first hand when they talked with Mack Smith and his wife. Smith is reputed to be the oldest Citrus Countian alive.

One of the big events was to go down to the train station and watch people unload. The train fare from Floral City to Inverness was about 20 cents.

During this period the Magnolia Hotel was located where the present day Jiffy is. The Magnolia Hotel was owned by Mrs. Borland.

Most courting was done by swinging on a porch swing and playing such games as spin the bottle and post office.

Said Mrs. Jones, "Electricity changed my life the most."

In our interview with Mrs. Jones we learned more things about our county's past and found it quite educational.

By  
Eddie Morris  
Doug Grant  
Ruth McGlashen  
Susan Hope  
Grace Gustafson  
Gifted Education Student

## Gardening in C-P-S Land

By Art Alston  
Citrus County Extension Director



Now that we have had a lot of rain in Citrus County, I would like to remind gardeners about some problems that might have been caused by this excessive rain we had had in the last few days.

Remember the \$3.29 you just paid for a bag of fertilizer, well it is probably all gone now. That's right, gone. Two of the nutrients in the fertilizer, nitrogen and potash, do not bond to the soil particles very well, but are held dissolved in the soils water. As a result, when the rain comes, it carries the plant nutrients down and out of the reach of the plant roots. This is called leaching loss.

Here in Citrus County you can expect to get some leaching whenever you get over an inch of rain at a time.

There really isn't much you can do to retard leaching loss of plant nutrients. There are some soil addments which might help. The two addments are organic material and colloidal clay.

Gardeners have known for a long time that organic matter improves growing conditions. It does this by holding water and provides greater holding points for plant nutrients. The only problem with adding organic matter to a soil is that the bacteria in the soil will start to break it down as soon as they can. So you will have to re-apply it often.

The other product is called colloidal clay (phosphate). It is a by-product of the phosphate mining industry and is quite prevalent in the area. Colloidal clay is just what the name implies, it is fine clay particles. Clay has good water and plant nutrient holding ability, so when applied to the soil in sufficient quantities, it can improve its ability to hold water and plant nutrients. One advantage it has over organic matter is that it does not break down the soil so it is a more permanent addition. We suggest you should apply about 100 pounds per 100 square feet to get enough, so you can see it will take a lot of colloidal clay even for a small area.

Another way you can reduce the amount of plant nutrient lost to heavy rainfall is to use fertilizer high in organic nitrogen. This will retard the leaching loss, but is considerably more expensive. You may find it is cheaper to reapply nitrogen after heavy rain than to use all organic nitrogen.

# Residents believe Ozello is their paradise

Continued from real-estate cover

large, and very fancy places on stilts. There are small communities, and there are one-family areas, and all of them are face-to-face with the abundance of Mother Nature. The majority of homes are either on natural waterways, or on man-made canals from those waterways.

Ronnie Green says it is one of the few "last frontiers" left where you also can have such conveniences as electricity, water, and telephone service, plus rural mail delivery (from Crystal River).

The area is a violent contrast in scenery. From the luxuriant forest areas, you pass into panoramas of nothing for miles but sawgrass. Then, you come to areas in which the tall, stately cabbage palms have literally "lost their heads" and stand like soldiers in a battlefield. Then, there are the bays, large and small, where the St. Martin's River comes sweeping in, bringing a variety of fresh and saltwater life with it.

In what may be designated as the "heart" of Ozello are a Civic Club, a Baptist Church, and not too far away is the Ozello Fire Department, manned by active volunteers. Near the church is the Ozello water tower.

When you keep going west until you cross the cause-way onto another smaller island, you find bait and fish houses, the Pirates Cove retreat, and a lot of new homes under construction.

Pirates Cove, operated by Bonnie and Paul Gullledge, has a motel, a parking area for RV vehicles, a boat ramp, a restaurant, a bar and a recreation room. Mr. and Mrs. Gullledge provide an amazing service: They provide a free fish dinner every Sunday afternoon. That's hard to believe, but that's exactly what they do. Why? It helps build interest in the area, builds business for the Cove, and, besides, the Gulledges "like people." They feed as many as 600 persons in a Sunday afternoon.

Ronnie Green, local Realtor, gives the Gulledges much credit for stimulating interest in the area, with their free fish fries, and all the fellowship that goes with it.

Green himself has done much to develop the area. He has a marina and boat storage area near his home, and a real estate office near the highway. You can see his green real estate signs everywhere.

Another "watering hole" in Ozello is the Palm Tavern, operated by Mr. and Mrs. Jim LaBree. The place once belonged to "Happy Helen," Ozello's former honorary mayor. The LaBrees have renovated the facility and changed it considerably. They also have installed a modern kitchen, where they plan to prepare full meals for patrons in the near future.

The Black Creek Trading Post is still another place where the Ozello folks gather to bend the elbow, tell tall tales and shoot a game of pool. The place also stocks a small supply of groceries for those who forgot an item, such as bread.

Ask nearly anyone in Ozello why they moved there, and the usual response is "because it is peaceful," or "because it is close to Nature," or "It's a good place to get away from everything and have all the fishing and hunting you could want."

In other words, for folks who like this kind of life-style, Ozello is Paradise.



The Ozello water company

Text and photos by Bill Dyer



Signs indicate to passersby who lives on the many small roads that leave the main highway

b. 1 June 1908  
77  
1985  
d. 30 Nov 1992

OZELLO COMM. BAPTIST CHURCH  
Bob Hindman, Pastor  
Rt. 1, Box 912  
Crystal River, Fla. 32629  
Telephone 904-795-4867

#### JOHN BROWN DAY IN OZELLO

Saturday, June 1st has been proclaimed John Brown Day by the Ozello Civic Club. John will be 77 years old that day and we invite all his relatives, friends and residents, (former and present), of Ozello to don their sunbonnets or bibbed overalls, bring a covered dish and join us at the Ozello Civic Building at 11:00 am for a day of fun. There will be an Old Fashioned Style Show for those who can rummage in the attic and find Grandma's old dress. Special recognition will be given to former school teachers of the famous (by Ripley's Believe It Or Not) Island School House and also anyone who was born in Ozello more than 50 years ago.

The Browns have been a prominent name in Ozello ever since John's grandfather, J.J. Brown came here after the Civil War. J.J. Brown carried the mail for 35 years, (in the earlier years this was done by boat), he was school teacher, County Commissioner when Citrus County was organized at Mannfield and oldest Mason in the state at the time of his death. John's father, James Newton, was also a resident of Ozello, a fisherman and guide and was Mayor of Crystal River at one time. John was born in Ozello June 1st, 1908 and the house still stands off Panther Road. John was on the School Board, drove the School Boat and Bus, was Constable of Ozello for 16 years; he was also a barber, an electrician with an Electric Shop in Crystal River, a fisherman and had a Fish House in Ozello.

Ozello is proud of the heritage of this fine family and invite you to come help us celebrate. Bring your family albums of Old Ozello to share. There will be string music, games such as horse-shoes, volley ball, and contests. Come and join us, for a good Old Fashioned Day.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!  
Official Proclamation

Whereas: Sat. June 1<sup>st</sup> is  
John Brown's 77<sup>th</sup> birthday;  
Whereas: John was born, raised  
and still living in OZELLO;  
Whereas: John has made dis-  
tinctive contributions to  
his community + society;  
Be it made known that  
we hereby proclaim Sat.  
June 1<sup>st</sup> as;

John Brown Day  
in OZELLO

Get out your sunbonnets, bibbed  
overalls or old Timey clothes,  
bring a covered dish + join us  
at 11AM at the OZello Civic Cen-  
ter. Fun, games, String music  
by order of:  
OZello Civic Club  
No alcoholic Beverages.

Calendar



# Eggs-actly what's in an egg?

By EMILY WILKENS

Dear Emily: Please tell me if there is such a thing as a cholesterol-free egg. I read something about this development but didn't save the clipping. — Fran Raden

Dear Fran: I've never heard of a cholesterol-free egg but just to make sure, I checked with the Cooperative Extension at Cornell University. They haven't heard of one either, though Christina Stark, a Cornell nutritionist, says the rumor keeps surfacing.

The egg of the Araucana chicken has been called cholesterol-free but, according to Ms. Stark, it actually has slightly more cholesterol than the eggs of Leghorn or Plymouth Rock chickens.

To clear the record further, fertile eggs (the kind sold in health food stores) have as much cholesterol as infertile eggs. Nor does the color of the egg (brown vs. white) or the type of feed fed the chicken eliminate cholesterol.

## Young

At any age

All egg yolks contain cholesterol. If you are on a low-cholesterol diet, limit the number of eggs you eat or use an egg substitute. You also can cut cholesterol intake by using this trick: When you scramble eggs, mix one egg with one additional egg white.

Dear Emily: For years I have not had time for myself. I had to work two jobs and raise six children. I've always had a weight problem. Is it too late for me? Now I have time but I don't know where to start. I don't have money to buy exercise equipment or go to a spa. What, if anything, can I do for myself? — J.G.

Check out adult education classes at local high schools and colleges. Often such programs offer aerobics, dance exercises, and slim-and-stretch classes at very modest cost.

See if your local YWCA has any classes or exercise that you can sign up for. Membership in the Y isn't always a must. Some Ys have a course fee plus a modest per-session charge for non-members.

Also contact your city's park department to see if there are any facilities, such as indoor swimming pools or skating rinks. Swimming and skating are good body toners. You also can begin your own exercise program at home. Your best bet is an exercise cassette. If there's an exercise program on TV, tune in and shape up.

Your public library is another source of diet and exercise help. Look for books on these subjects, then use them to put together your own self-improvement course.

If you are seriously overweight, join one of the many excellent diet groups around. Group support will help you lose weight and keep it off. You'll enjoy the friendly attitude of fellow dieters and look forward to your weekly weigh-in session as a social as well as a self-improvement occasion.

If you make up needs updating, visit a local department store. Very often demonstrators at cosmetic counters will do your makeup free. Of course, it's a sales pitch. They hope you'll purchase some of the products that make you look more glamorous. But you needn't feel obliged to buy all or any. The lesson should give you a little know-how in application techniques and color selecting. To save money, you can shop for similar shades at the dime store.

*'I relate well to little children— I really enjoy them. They are so open, so loving— so eager to learn and to please. I open the world of books to children. It's exciting when a child gets to the point when he can sit down and read a book by himself.'*

Mary Harrison



# LIFETIME OF DEDICATION

## School bells ring for Mary Harrison

By NANCY SUNDERS  
Correspondent

A precious commodity, a lifetime of dedication to teaching, is personified in Mary Harrison of Inverness Primary.

This August marked the 46th time Mrs. Harrison heard the bells chime the start of a new school year.

Her dedication is as basic as teaching youngsters the three R's. "For awhile, we got away from the basics," said Mrs. Harrison, who in 1978 was Citrus County's first Teacher of the Year. "Now we are coming back to them."

"For example, we got into contemporary writing. And it became a sort of fad to let older children make (too many) decisions on subjects they wanted to study. They naturally chose a number of the easy courses."

"I really believe in the three R's—the basics are necessary throughout schooling."

Tracing her roots deep in Citrus county, she graduated from Citrus High School in 1939.

"It was the largest class of graduates at that time— 36 in all."

In 1940, Mrs. Harrison began her teaching career at a one-room school house in a small settlement called Oak Grove, which was located on the present C.R. 481, close to the Hernando County line.

"I taught mostly first grade then," she said. "One room was used for teaching and a second room was the lunch room. We were under a federal commodities lunch program. Also, if children brought in home-grown crops, they received credit for their lunches."

Her salary during her first four years of teaching was \$50 a month for an eight-month period.

From Oak Grove, Mrs. Harrison went to teach at Crystal River Elementary. The first year there she taught second grade and then moved to first grade for four more years.

that changes have occurred and are noticeable in youngsters of today.

"I could teach those 38 then, but not so easily today. The attention span of many of them is much shorter. Children are really products of our society. They don't mold society. There are restless children coming from disturbed homes and homes where there are severe financial problems."

"I don't report problem children right away until I have a good view of the situation. In my own classroom I've learned that my job is to teach that child in spite of his problems. Success breeds success. I have to establish a working relationship with any child."

"A youngster's needs are still the same— love and attention. If only parents could create stable home situations— take time for the child—to read and to listen."

On what the future must hold for young students, Mrs. Harrison said, "We are going to add on computer literacy. But, even at that, we must stick with the basic three R's."

Her assessment of what is essentially the goal in the education of a child is, "that he achieve what he can achieve, even though that may not fit the grade he is in. It is what he is capable of achieving. We must let him feel successful even if it does not measure up to what the others do."

Mrs. Harrison and husband, William, have lived in Floral City for 38 years. They have a son, Mark, who assists his father with the family orange groves, and a daughter, Lynn Hagen, of Mobile, Ala., who also was a teacher until the birth of her child.

## Senior Neighbors

"Every teacher had to take turns conducting a high school study hall also," she recalled. "It was quite an adjustment handling first graders, then older children, then back to the first graders."

She came to Inverness when the school was still housed in a two-story brick structure.

"There were seven teachers including myself," she said. "There were too many children at the first and second grade levels, so I took the overflow for both grades. The children kept coming until there were two teachers required for every grade. I then became one of the first grade teachers."

"In 1949, when I left Crystal River Elementary, I was teaching 38 children," she said and added

# Disney has fall discounts for seniors

Florida's young at heart can see Disney's new Skytelescope, celebrate three international festivals, and enjoy a host of Christmas shows during Walt Disney World Young at Heart Days.

From Oct. 1 through Dec. 15, Walt Disney World salutes those 55 and older with special ticket prices and vacation packages which include backstage seminars.

During Young at Heart Days, a one-day ticket to the Magic Kingdom or Epcot Center is \$15, and a two-day ticket — offering admission for one day at each of the parks — is \$23.

As part of the continuing WorldFest celebration, Epcot Center honors China in October, Morocco in November, and the United Kingdom in December. WorldFest brings even more excitement to World Showcase, with entertainers, specialty food items, and merchandise from each nation highlighted.

In addition, a new entertainment experience, Skytelescope, will be presented as part of the weekend PartyGras entertainment each Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m. Skytelescope takes place in, around, and over World Showcase Lagoon.

The aero-nautical circus extravaganza features aircraft, watercraft, and daytime fireworks together in an unforgettable presentation. There's even a special appearance by Journey Into Imagination's Dreamfinder and Figment.

In the Magic Kingdom, Young at Heart participants will be able to enjoy daily parades down Main Street, U.S.A. and the many live shows throughout the theme park.

December in the Vacation Kingdom is highlighted by the most festive Christmas celebration of all. The traditional Candlelight Processional takes place in the Magic Kingdom Dec. 7 and 8. Beginning at Thanksgiving, Young at Heart participants can enjoy the seasonal presentations of the Country Bear Christmas Jamboree in Frontierland, the Christmas Follies at Fantasyland, the Fantasyland Christmas Parade, and Mickey's Night Before Christmas at Tomorrowland Stage.

There is also the nightly lighting of the 65-foot high Christmas tree in Town Square at the Magic Kingdom.

In the United Kingdom at Epcot Center, it's a Dickens Christmas all December long, with strolling carolers, special British entrees and festive turn-of-the-century decorations.

Florida residents 55 and older can benefit from reduced room rates and special vacation packages for Young at Heart Days in selected Walt Disney World resorts.

The Young at Heart Hotel Package includes a night's accommodations at the Golf Resort or Club Lake Villas, two 2-day Young at Heart tickets and inclusion in any of three in-park seminars, a \$20 value.

The featured seminars include "Capturing the Magic," a photographic tour of the Magic Kingdom, "Gardens of the World," a horticultural visit to Epcot Center, or "Hidden Treasures of World Showcase," a study of the art exhibits and architectural styles found in World Showcase.

The cost for the Young at Heart Hotel Package is \$75 per person (double occupancy) and participants may extend the accommodations for \$75 a night, plus tax.

Reservations can be made for the Young at Heart Hotel Packages by calling the CRO Special Program phone number, (305) 827-7300.

Young at Heart Days is available only to Florida residents 55 and older. Proof of age and Florida residency may be required.

**Plant talk** Master Gardener Jim Lamb will be the guest speaker **Wednesday, Oct. 16** at the Kiwanis Club of Four Rivers luncheon — at noon at the Homosassa Springs Attraction. Lamb will speak on Gardening and the 4-H Clubs.

**Learn to square dance** The Inverness Square Dance Club will be sponsoring Square Dance lessons for couples beginning **Wednesday, Oct. 16** at 8:15 p.m. at the East Citrus Community Center, S.R. 44, 3.5 miles east of Inverness (next to the Gospel Island Fire Dept.). For more information call 344-1551, 344-2303, 344-0377 or 344-4749.

**Time to celebrate** The Floral City Women's Club will celebrate its Diamond Jubilee Year (60 years) with a tea at the Floral City Community Building **Wednesday, Oct. 16**, from 2-4 p.m. All members and their guests are invited.

**Trip to Jai Alai** The Irish American Social Club of Beverly Hills is going to Ocala Jai Alai **Wednesday, Oct. 16**. A dinner stop is planned at Holiday House. For details and reservations, call John Cronin at 746-6579.

**Homemakers** Plans are now being made to organize a new homemakers club in the Inglis/Yankeetown area. There will be a Levity County Extension Homemakers Membership Tea, **Friday, Oct. 18**, 1:30 p.m. at the Inglis Town Hall. For more information on Extension Homemakers call, Marguerite Lintner, 447-2649 or the Cooperative Extension Office 486-2027.

**Flower show** "Amazon Adventure" is the theme of the annual flower show being planned by the Garden Club of Crystal River **Saturday, Oct. 19** in the Crystal River Middle School from 2-8 p.m. Admission is free.

**Dicken's Day** The second annual "Dicken's Day" Art and Craft Show will be **Saturday, Oct. 19**, at Nottingham Square south of Crystal River on U.S. 19. For more information please call Debby Gilman at 746-4862 after 4 p.m. or Judy Corrivreau at Towne N Country Tea during business hours 796-0000.

**Bride show** Inverness La Sertoma will present its 1st Annual "Here Comes the Bride Bridal Show" **Saturday, Oct. 19** at 1 p.m. at Andre's of Citrus Hills. A \$10 donation includes hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are available at: Andre's, J.J.'s Florist or call Deb or Carla-46-9422 or any La Sertoma member. Bridal gowns will be provided by Kay's Bridal Shop with flowers by B.J.'s Florist.

**Educators lunch** The Citrus County Retired Educators will have a luncheon and tour the Tech Center **Monday, Oct. 21**. Those retired educators wishing to learn more about the variety of services and information available to members of the organization may call Gayle Ballint, president, at 796-0004.

**Weather talk** Tampa Chamber weatherman Jim Smith will be guest speaker at the 9th Annual Inglis Yankeetown Chamber of

February 28, 1986

# Despite protests, redistricting approved

By ROY MAYS  
Associate Editor

When elementary school youngsters from Homosassa Hills board the bus next fall, they will be heading for Homosassa Elementary.

But their neighbors to the south, in Sugarmill Woods, will be heading to Lecanto Primary.

That's upset some Homosassa Hills residents.

There are also some worried parents in the northwest section of the county who don't want their kids uprooted from Crystal River Primary to help fill the classrooms of the new Citrus Springs Elementary.

About half a dozen parents appeared at a public hearing Tuesday night on the School Board's plans to redraw the attendance boundaries for the elementary schools.

That redistricting passed by a 5-0 vote.

But approval came only after an hour of protests from the parents.

Ed Richards of DeRosa Village said his two elementary age youngsters would be on the bus for two and a half hours if transferred to Citrus Springs whereas they now ride about half an hour to Crystal River Primary. Richards has another child who attends Crystal River Middle school.

"I strongly protest," said Richards. "If I have to sell my home to put my kids in Crystal River, I will take action on that."

Other couples in that section of the

county complained that Connell Heights students were remaining in their present school while their youngsters were being moved.

A similar problem came up for the parents of some Homosassa Hills students who felt they were being moved instead of students in Sugarmill Woods further south. Both groups of students have to travel by bus northward to get to school. Sugarmill Woods students will remain in Lecanto Primary.

Linda Carpenter of Homosassa Hills said she was "dead set" again the move. "I bought here so my children could go to Lecanto." She said she was concerned over the effect the move would have on her child.

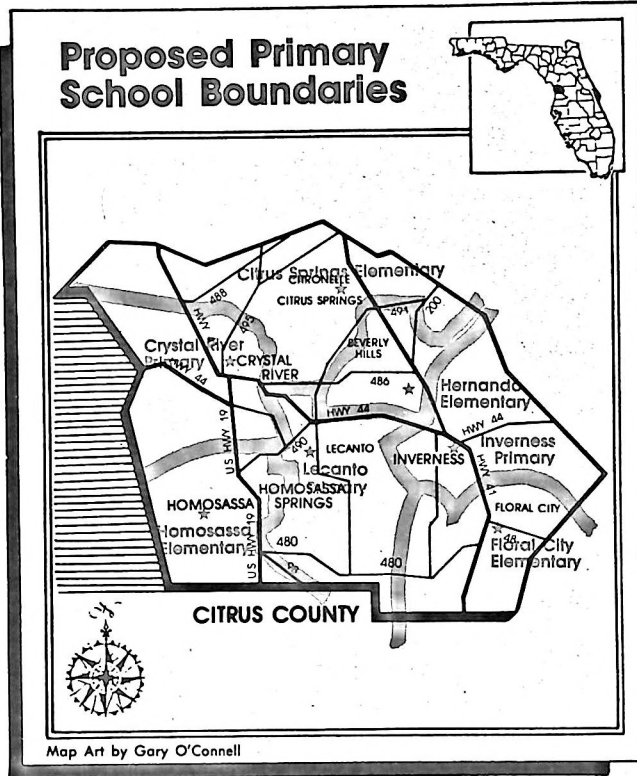
School Supt. Carl Austin said the redistricting was set up to give breathing room at all the county elementary schools until the next school is built in two years and no pain would satisfy everyone.

He added that no bus ride would be more than an hour long one-way.

As to why Homosassa Hills was picked for the move rather than Sugarmill Woods, Austin showed a pin map indicating where students lived to show the greater concentration of students in that development than in Sugarmill Woods.

School officials made no changes in the boundaries but told the parents present who had concerns that they could apply to Austin for an out-of-zone transfer for their children in the fall.

## Proposed Primary School Boundaries



THE MAP shows the redistricting plan approved by the county school board Tuesday making way for the opening of the new Citrus Springs Elementary School.

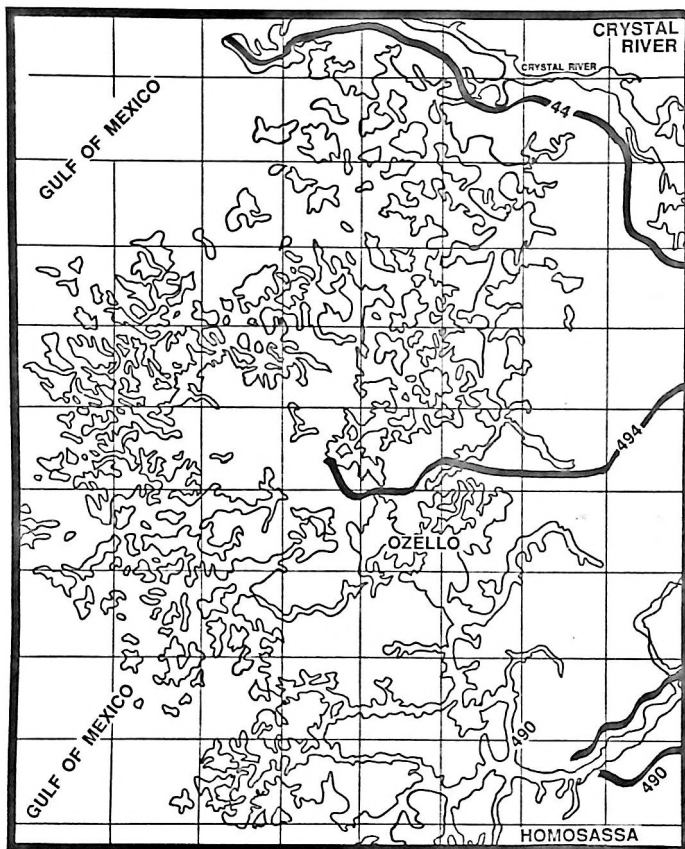


**No traffic here**

Tribune photo by ANDY JONES

What a way to get to work. ... These fishermen were seen passing near Ozello Trail, heading toward the St. Martins River Thursday morning.

## Local/State News



**ST. MARTIN'S PROJECT** - The state of Florida is considering the purchase of 13,000 acres of wetlands, islands and waterways on the coast of Citrus County under the CARL program. The

land, if purchased, would be preserved for recreational and environmental purposes. The screened area shows the property considered part of the St. Martin's Project. (Chronicle map).

### Project

Continued from page 1a

asked for and got the Citrus County Commission's backing for the project, and rallied others in the community to support the project.

The youthful engineer, an employee of Ralph D. Denuzzio & Associates Inc. of Crystal River, had 20,000 cards printed for Crystal River area residents to send to Tallahassee before the last CARL committee vote.

But Brotherton says the struggle has really just begun.

While five of the six-member committee of the CARL program agreed to further the study, other bureaucratic hoops must be jumped through, including more CARL committee votes.

Brotherton said that the only nay vote came from the representative of the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (DER).

He said that he hopes that the DER can also be convinced by the next vote that the project has merit.

"The first success of the St. Martin's project," Brotherton said, "was due to the enthusiastic response from county residents who wrote to the CARL committee when they last met."

According to state officials, the proposed purchase will be studied more completely, and with the results of those studies, the CARL committee will meet to vote again.

If the project passes muster then, a much more detailed study will be made, and the committee will again be asked to vote on the merits of the project.

If the CARL committee gives the project a third thumbs-up, then the project will be entered on a long list of other possible land purchases.

According to Brotherton, many of the landowners who own property within the project are willing to sell the state their land at 70 percent of the land's assessed valuation, and this, he believes, will mean the project has a better than average chance of getting final approval.

And now that the state has shown an interest, he said he expects other landowners to join their lands in for the next study.

As to what Brotherton himself or others might have to gain, he said that the firm for which he works could eventually get the job of surveying the project, and he added that a real estate broker also involved in the project, Wanda Wells, may get a

commission for the sale of some lands in the project.

"But," he said, "the real benefactors will be the people of Citrus County and of Florida, because it will mean that virtually all of the offshore lands from Chassahowitzka north would be saved from further development. The lands south of Chassahowitzka can no longer be saved."

And he noted that because of his personal interest in the project, he has spent over \$5,000 of his own money promoting it without thought of personal gain.

"There's everything out there: endangered birds, manatees, an estuarine system important as breeding grounds for the animals that feed our commercial and sport fishing industries, Indian mounds that have never been charted; it's a very special place," he said.

Brotherton pointed out that at the same meeting where the CARL committee agreed to consider the St. Martin's River Project, another possible CARL purchase, some 80 acres south of the Chassahowitzka River, was not approved.