SPIRES

COPY of original IN ARCHIVAL STORAGE CC

(4—404.)

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Homestead Certificate No. 7407
APPLICATION 11672

Whereas There has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Gainesville, Florida, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Richard M. Spires has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the South West quarter of the North East quarter, the South East quarter of the North West quarter, the North East quarter of the South West quarter and the North West quarter of the South East quarter of Section thirteen in Township eighteen South of Range eighteen East of Tallahassee Meridian in Florida containing one hundred and fifty nine acres and eighty-four hundredths of an acre according to the Official Plat of the survey of the said Land, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General:

Now know ye, That there is, therefore, granted by the United States unto the said Richard M. Spires the tract of Land above described: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said Richard M. Spires and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In testimony whereof, I, Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the fifth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and fourteenth.

BY THE PRESIDENT: Benjamin Harrison

By M. McKee, Secretary.

L. M. Sweringen, Recorder of the General Land Office.

Recorded, Vol. 14, Page 427

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MARRIAGE LICENSE.

Walker, Evans & Cogswell Co., Print., Charleston, S. C.—94231

STATE OF FLORIDA, Citrus County.

To any Minister of the Gospel, or any Officer Legally Authorized to Solemnize the Rite of Matrimony:

WHEREAS, Application having been made to the County Judge of Citrus *County, of the State of Florida, for a License for Marriage, and it appearing to the satisfaction of said County Judge that no legal impediments exist to the Marriage now sought to be solemnized,*

THESE ARE, THEREFORE, To authorize you to unite in the **HOLY ESTATE OF MATRIMONY,**
Alec Sampson of Centrelle Fla
Eva Houston " "

and that you make return of the same, duly certified under your hand, to the County Judge aforesaid.

WITNESS, my name as *County Judge, and the Seal of said Court, at the Court House in* Inverness, *this* 4th *day of* January *A. D. 1905*

Geo. W. de Muro County Judge

I Certify, that the within named Alec Sampson *and* Eva Houston *were by me, the undersigned, duly united in the Holy Estate of Matrimony, by the authority of the within License.*

Done this 18th *day of* January *A. D. 1905*

W M Lever
J. M Frances

Rev J. E. Frances

Filed for Record this 18 *day of* January *A. D. 1905, and Recorded in Marriage Record 1, this* 18 *day of* January *A. D. 1905.*

Geo. W. de Muro
County Judge.

STATE OF FLORIDA, Citrus County.

To any Minister of the Gospel, or any Officer Legally Authorized to Solemnize the Rite of Matrimony:

WHEREAS, Application having been made to the County Judge of Citrus *County, of the State of Florida, for a License for Marriage, and it appearing to the satisfaction of said County Judge that no legal impediments exist to the Marriage now sought to be solemnized,*

THESE ARE, THEREFORE, To authorize you to unite in the **HOLY ESTATE OF MATRIMONY,**
Mr Richard M Spiers of Hernando Fla.
Miss Ethel Ruth Corrington " " "

and that you make return of the same, duly certified under your hand, to the County Judge aforesaid.

WITNESS, Geo. W. de Muro *County Judge, and the Seal of said Court, at the Court House in* Inverness, *this* 6th *day of* January *A. D. 1905*

George W de Muro County Judge

I Certify, that the within named Mr Richard M Spiers *and* Miss Ethel Ruth Corrington *were by me, the undersigned, duly united in the Holy Estate of Matrimony, by the authority of the within License.*

Done this 8 *day of* January *A. D. 1905*

Rev. H. B. Frazer
Minister of M. E. Church South

Filed for Record this 10 *day of* Jan *A. D. 1905, and Recorded in Marriage Record 1, this* 10 *day of* Jan *A. D. 1905*

G W de Muro
County Judge.

State of Florida)
)
County of Citrus)

WILL.

In the name of God, Amen:

I, Richard Millage Spires, Sr, of the County of Citrus and the State of Florida, being of sound and disposing mind and memory and mindful of the uncertainty of life and of the objects of my bounty do hereby make, publish and declare this to be my last will and testament, that is to say:

1st - To my wife, Ethel Ruth Carrington Spires, I give and bequeath the following: to-wit: The home place with all its furnishings to have and to hold during her natural life, everything being held intact, this home being located and situated in the Town of Hernando, Citrus County, Florida, and better known as Lots 49,50 and 51 in said Town of Hernando. In the event that my present wife should outlive me and immediately after my death, this is to be her home during her lifetime and immediately after her death I want the property known as Lots 49, 50 and 51 and known as the "Home Place" and its tenements, hereditaments and belongings, to be sold, and the proceeds deposited in the Bank of Inverness, Florida, to the credit of my estate.

2nd - I give and bequeath unto Richard Millage Spires, Jr, One Dollar in cash of the said Richard Millage Spires Jr can be found, and if he cannot be found, this dollar is to revert to my estate.

3rd - As to my child, Harold Wilcher Spires, I have already made sufficient and legal settlement of his interest in my estate by giving and bequeathing him the farm in the Cove and my claim of hogs.

4th - I give and bequeath to my son, Lawton Van Spires or his heirs, the sum of One Dollar.

5th - I give and bequeath to the one heir of my daughter Lillian Spires Russell, (now deceased), the sum of One Dollar.

6th - I give and bequeath to my daughter Ethel Leone Spires Grono, the sum of One Dollar.

7th - I desire and request that all property, real or personal, that can be found in my name, be sold and the proceeds be diposited in the Bank of Inverness, Florida to the credit of my estate. Then the residue be equally distributed between the following, after all debts and expenses have been paid, including a __Per Cent commission to be paid the Bank of Inverness, Florida for handling the said accounts.

That Margaret Stephenson Wilson share equal with Lottie Leonorah Spires Edson Clarke, Napoleon Broward Spires, Pearl Carrington Spires, Beaulah Maude Spires Brown, Claude Hardee Spires, Francis Raymond Spires, and Ila May Spires.

8th - I nominate and appoint Lottie Leonorah Spires Edson Clarke and to be her assistant is to be Robert Carver Edson. They shall act as my Executors.

The above and foregoing instrument was at the date hereof signed, sealed, published and declared by the said Richard Millage Spires Sr, as and for his Last Will and Testament in the presence of us, who at his request and in his presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses hereto to said instrument, on this the 13 day of September A. D. 1947.

Richard Millage Spires Sr

Strauss L. Lloyd — Inverness, Fla.

J. A. Hester — Inverness, Fla.

James J. Hodge — Lecanto, Fla.

I, a Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at Large to hereby certify that the said instrument as above set out was signed and executed as mentioned and that the same is so executed and all parties hereto are known to me.

Strauss L. Lloyd (NotarialSeal)

Notary Public My commission expires on the 10th day of August A. D. 1948

Filed Oct. 1, 1947, Recorded Oct. 22, 1947

E. C. May, County Judge
CitrusCounty, Florida

State of Florida)
)
County of Citrus)

Renunciation of Right to Act as Executrix and Executor

The undersign__ have been named as executrix and executor in the last will and testament of Richard M. Spires deceased late of Citrus County, State of Florida, dated the 13th day of September A. D. 1947, hereby renounces their right to act as such executrix and executor and hereby requests the County Judge of Citrus County, Florida to appoint proper and competent person, or a trust company toact as an administrator Cum Testamento Annexo.

The reasons that said executrix and executor makes said renunciation is based upon business and personal reasons, and said executrix and said Executor are better known as Lottie Leonorah Clarke, and Robert Carver Edson.

Lottie Leonorah Clarke

Robert Carver Edson

Filed October 6, 1947, Recorded October 22, 1947

E. C. May, County Judge
Citrus County, Florida

State of Florida)
)
County of Citrus)

Leonorah Edson Clarke and Robert Carver Edson being sworn by me, the undersigned officer, says on oath that they have read the above and foregoing renunciation of their right to act as executrix and executor, and that they signed the same and that the statements contained therein are true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this the 4th day of October A. D. 1947.

Strauss L. Lloyd (Notarial Seal)
Notary Public State of Florida at Large
My Commission expires on the 10th day of August A. D. 1948.

Filed October6, 1947, Recorded October 22, 1947

E. C. Myam County Judge
Citrus County, Florida

IN THE COURT OF THE COUNTY JUDGE IN AND FOR CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA. IN PROBATE.

In Re Estate of)
Richard Millage Spires, Sr.,)
Deceased.)

PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL.

TO THE HONORABLE E. C. MAY, COUNTY JUDGE, CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA:

The petition of Ethel C. Spires respectfully shows:

1. That petitioner is the widow of Richard Millage Spires, Sr., who died testate on or about the 27 day of September, A. D. 1947, while he was a resident and citizen of Citrus County, Florida, leaving an estate, the approximate value of which is over $2,000.00.

2. The residence of your petitioner is Hernando, Florida, and the names, ages and residences of the surviving spouse and heirs at law of the decedent, and their respective relationships to the decedent are as follows:

NAME	AGE	RESIDENCE	RELATIONSHIP
Ethel C. Spires	63	Hernando, Florida	Widow
Lottie Leonorah Spires Edson Clarke	60	Floral City, Florida	Daughter
Lawton Van Spires	51	Unknown	Son
Nora Russell Hinkley	35	Brooksville, Florida	Grand-daughter
Ethel Leone Spires Crono	41	508 East Palm Ave. Tampa, Florida	Daughter
Richard S. Carrington formerly R. M. Spires, Jr.	40	126 Gilleck St. Park Ridge, Illinois	Son
Napolean Broward Spires	36	Box 1233, Vero Beach, Fla.	Son
Harold Wilcher Spires	35	Lake Road, Valley Cottage, New York	Son
Perl Carrington Spires	33	Rt. 1 Box 113A Clewiston, Florida	Son
Francis Raymond Spires	30	80 Belden St., New Britain, Conn.	Son
Beulah Maude Spires Brown	28	Box 1364, Vero Beach, Florida	Daughter
Claude H. Spires	26	5831 S.W. 62nd St., Miami, Florida	Son
Ida May Spires	21	Florida State Hospital Chattahoochee, Florida	Daughter

3. The Will of said deceased has been delivered to the county judge of Citrus County, Florida, and filed by him.

4. That Lottie Leonorah Spires Edson the Executor named in the Will and her assistant Robert Carver Edson have both renounced the right to serve as executors in this proceedings and filed the same in writing with the county judge of this court; that your petitioner is the surviving spouse of said decedent and as such is entitled to preference in the appointment as Administratrix of said estate.

Wherefore, petitioner prays that said will be probated if in the form of a will as required by law, and be admitted to record as the last will and testament of Richard Millage Spires, Sr., deceased, and that your petitioner be appointed as personal representative of said estate with the will annexed, by this Court, as is provided in such case by law.

Ethel C. Spires

State of Florida)
ss
County of Citrus)

Ethel C. Spires, being sworn by me, the undersigned officer, says on oath that the state-

Hester and James J. Hodge, as attesting witnesses; and proof of the same having been made as required by law; and that said Richard Millage Spires, Sr., died testate leaving a will but that the executor and assistant executor named in the will have in writing renounced the right to serve as such executors, and that no other executors are named in said will, and that said Ethel C. Spires, is the surviving spouse, and as such, is entitled to preference in appointment as personal representative of the foregoing estate, and the court being fully advised:

It is Ordered and Adjudged that said will be, and the same is hereby, admitted to record as having been satisfactorily proved.

And it is further Ordered and Adjudged that letters of administration with the will annexed be issued to the said Ethel C. Spires, upon her taking the usual oath and giving bond in the sum of $1,000.00, conditioned as required by law.

This order entered in Inverness, Florida, October 17, 1947.

E. C. May (Official Seal)

Filed October 17, 1947, Recorded October 22, 1947

E. C. May, County Judge
Citrus County, Florida

IN THE COURT OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, IN AND FOR CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA. IN PROBATE.

In Re: Estate of)
Richard Millage Spires, Sr.,)
Deceased.)

BOND OF THE ADMINISTRATRIX WITH THE WILL ANNEXED.

We, Ethel C. Spires, as principal, and Albert H. Sipf and T. E. Townsend, as sureties, are held and firmly bound unto the Honorable Millard Caldwell, Governor of the State of Florida, and his successors in office, in the sum of $1,000.00 (One Thousand Dollars), for the payment whereof, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators jointly and severally.

The condition of this bond is that, if the above bound Etel C. Spires, as Administratrix with the will annexed of Richard Millage Spires, Sr., deceased, makes or causes to be made a true inventory of all and singular the assets of said deceased which have come or may come into her coustody, possession, or knowledge, or into the custody of any person or persons for her as such administratrix with the will annexed, and causesthe same to be filed in the office of the county judge in and for Citrus County, Florida, as required by law, and that, if the said administratrix with the will annexed , faithfully accounts for all of the assets of said estate, without waste or diversion from their proper administration, and pays the debts of said estate as far as the assets permit, and otherwise distributes said assets as the law directs, and otherwise faithfully administers said estate accordidng to law, then this bond is to be void and of no effect; otherwise it is to remain in full force and effect.

Signed and sealed October 17th, 1947.

Ethel C. Spires (SEAL)
Principal

Albert H. Sipf (SEAL)
Surety

T. E. Townsend (SEAL)
Surety

Taken and approved by me this 20 day of October, 1947.

E. C. May, County Judge

Filed October 20, 1947, Recorded October 22, 1947

E. C. May, County Judge, Citrus County, Floirda

IN THE COURT OF THE COUNTY JUDGE IN AND FOR CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA. IN PROBATE.

In Re: Estate of)
Richard Millage Spires, Sr.,)
Deceased)

OATH OF ADMINISTRATRIX WITH THE WILL ANNEXED

State of Florida)
) ss.
County of Citrus)

Ethel C. Spires, being sworn by me, the undersigned, officer, says on oath that she will faithfull_ administer the estate of the decedent, Richard Millage Spires, Sr., pay the debts as far as the assets of the decedent will permit, make distribution of the estate according to law, and render due accounts of her administration.

Ethel C. Spires

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22 day of October, A. D. 1947.

(Official Seal) E. C. May, County Judge

Filed and Recorded October 24, 1947

E. C. May, County Judge
Citrus County, Florida

IN THE COURT OF THE COUNTY JUDGE IN AND FOR CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA. IN PROBATE.

In Re: Estate of)
Richard Millage Spires, Sr.,)
Deceased.)

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION WITH WILL ANNEXED.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

Whereas, Richard Millage Spires, Sr., late of Citrus County, State of Florida, died on or about the 27 day of September, A. D. 1947, leaving his last will and testament, which was admitted to probate and recorded on the 17 day of October, A. D. 1947;

And Whereas, the executor and assistant executor named in said Will of Richard Millage Spires, Sr., have renounced in writing the right to serve as executor herein.

And Whereas, Ethel C. Spires, has petitioned this Court for appointment as Administratrix with the Will Annexed, and said petitioner being the widow of the decedent, is entitled to first preference to appointment as such Administratrix, and she has taken the prescribed oath as required by law, and has furnished the necessary bond set by this Court and approved by this Court, and has performed all other acts necessary to her legal qualification as such Administratrix, with the Will Annexed.

Now, therefore, I, E. C. May, county judge in and for the county and state aforesaid, by virtue of the power and authority by law in me vested, do hereby declare the said Ethel C. Spires to be duly qualified under the laws of the State of Florida to act as administratrix with the will annexed of said last will and testament of Richard Millage Spires, Sr., Deceased, with full power, to administer according to law, under the terms of said will, all of the property of said Richard Millage Spires, Sr., Deceased, testate; to ask for, demand, sue for, recover and receive the same; to pay the debts of said deceased so far as the assets of said estate will permit and the law direct, and to make distribution of said estate according to law, under the terms of said will, and to render due accounts of her

ments contained in the foregoing petition for probate of will, are true.

Ethel C. Spires

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 14 day of October A. D. 1947

E. C. May (Official Seal)
County Judge

Filed October 14, 1947, Recorded October 22, 1947

E. C. May, County Judge
Citrus County, Florida

IN THE COURT OF THE COUNTY JUDGE IN AND FOR CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA. IN PROBATE.

In Re: Estate of)
Richard Millage Spires, Sr.,)
Deceased.)

PROOF OF WILL.

State of Florida)
County of Citrus)

Before me, the undersigned officer duly authorized to administer oaths and take acknowledgments, personally came Strauss L. Lloyd and J. A. Hester, who, being sworn by me, say on oath that the instrument exhibited to them as the last will and testament of Richard Millage Spires, Sr., is the same instrument that they, on September 18, A. D. 1947, as witnesses subscribed at the special instance and request of the said Richard Millage Spires, Sr., in his presence and in the presence of one another, after he, the said testator, had signed his name thereto; that the said Richard Millage Spires, Sr., in their presence freely and voluntarily signed and published the same as his last will and testament.

Strauss L. Lloyd

J. A. Hester

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17 day of October A. D. 1947.

E. C. May (Official Seal)
County Judge

Filed October 17, 1947, Recorded October 22, 1947

E. C. May, County Judge
Citrus County, Florida

IN THE COURT OF THE COUNTY JUDGE IN AND FOR CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN PROBATE.

In Re: Estate of)
Richard Millage Spires, Sr.,)
Deceased.)

ORDER OF PROBATE AND FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION WITH WILL ANNEXED.

The petition of Ethel C. Spires for probate of the last will and testament of Richard Millage Spires, Sr., deceased, and for letters of administration with the will annexed on the estate of Richard Millage Spires, Sr., deceased, coming on this day to be heard; and it appearing to the court from the evidence submitted that Richard Millage Spires, Sr., departed this life on or about 27 day of September, A. D. 1947, leaving as his last will and testament the instrument now presented to this court for probate, attested by Strauss L. Lloyd, J. A.

NOTICE

In the Court of the County Judge in and for Citrus County, Florida , in probate.

In Re: Estate of Richard Millage Spires, Sr., Deceased---Notice to Creditors.

All creditors of the estate of Richard Millage Spires, Sr., deceased, are hereby notified and required to file any claims or demands which they may have against said estate in the office of the county judge of Citrus County, Florida, in the court house at Inverness, Florida, within eight months from the date of the first publication of this notice. Each claim or demand must be in writing and must state the place of residence and post-office address of the claimant and must be sworn to by the claimant, his agent, or his attorney, or it will become void according to law.

Dated this 28 day of October, A. D. 1947.

Ethel C. Spires, Administratrix of Richard Millage Spires, Sr., Deceased.

Lovick P. Williams, Inverness, Florida,
Attorney for Administratrix
October 30; Nov. 6, 13, 20

Filed and Recorded
This Nov-28-1947
E. C. May
County Judge

C I T R U S C O U N T Y C H R O N I C L E
INVERNESS, CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA
PUBLISHED WEEKLY

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF CITRUS

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared George H. Johnston who on oath says that he is Editor of The Citrus County Chronicle, a weekly newspaper published at Inverness in Citurs County, Florida; that the attached copy of advertisement, being a Legal Notice in the matter of Estate of Richard Millage Spires in the County Court, was published in said newspaper in the issues of Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 1947.

Affiant further says that the said The Citurs County Chronicle is a newspaper published at Inverness; in said Citrus County, Florida, and that the said newspaper has heretofore been continuously published in said Citrus County, Florida, each Thursday and has been entered as second class mail matter at the post office in Inverness, in said County, Florida, for a period of one year next preceding the first publication of the attached copy of advertisement; and affiant further says that he has neither paid nor promised any person, firm or corporation any discount, rebate, commission or refund for the purpose of securing this advertisement for publication in the said newspaper.

George H. Johnston

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 21 day of Nov. A. D. 1947

Esther S. Scofield (Notary Seal)
Notary Public, State of Florida at Large
My commission expires May 29, 1950
Bonded by American Surety Co. of N. Y.

Filed and Recorded Nov. 28, 1947

E. C. May, County Judge
Citrus County, Florida

IN COURT OF COUNTY JUDGE, CITRUS COUNTY, STATE OF FLORIDA.

IN RE ESTATE OF
RICHARD MILLAGE SPIRES, SR.,
Deceased

WARRANT OF APPRAISEMNENT

BY THE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

TO: W. H. Van Ness and L. C. Chappell:

YOU ARE HEREBY APPOINTED APPRAISERS of the real and personal estate of Richard Millage Spires, Sr., deceased, late of said County, Florida, After taking the oath required by law, you will proceed to make an inventory and appraisement of all such of said estate as shall be produced to you, or which shall come to your knowledge, and after havimg signed the same and obtained the signature of Ethel C. Spires, Administratrix with the Will Anmexed, you will deposit said inventory and appraisement in the office of the County Judge of said County.

Given under my hand and the seal of the County Court of the County aforesaid, at Inverness, Florida, this October 24, 1947.

E. C. May (Official Seal)
County Judge

State of Florida
County Of Citrus

Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared W. H. Van Ness and L. C. Chappell and made oath in due form of law that they will truly and justly view and appraise, according to the best of their judgment and opinion, all the real and personal estate of Richard Millage Spires, Sr., deceased, which shall be produced to them or shall come to their knowledge.

W. H. Van Ness
L. C. Chappell

Sworn to and subscribed before
me this 30 day of October 1947

E. C. May (Official SeaL)
E. C. May, County Judge

Filed October 30, 1947, Recorded Dec. 12, 1947

E C May
E. C. May, County Judge
Citrus County, Florida

IN THE COURT OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, IN AND FOR CITRUS COUNTY, STATE OF FLORIDA. IN PROBATE.

In Re Estate of)
Richard Millage Spires, Sr.,)
Deceased.)

APPRAISEMENT AND INVENTORY.

We, the undersigned appraisers appointed by the county judge of Citrus County, Florida, to view and appraise the property belonging to the estate of Richard Millage Spires, Sr., deceased, having taken oath as required by law and having discharged the duties assigned to us by viewing and appraising all the property, so far as the same was produced to us or came within our knowledge, find that the value of said estate as of the date of death of the decedent, is $3,946.65; as set forth in the attached schedules numbered A, B and C and comprising pages 1 to 5 inclusive.

This 10 day of December, A. D. 1947.

L. Carl Chappell
Walter H. Van Ness
Appraisers

I hereby accept the above and foregoing appraisal and attached schedules of the assets and value of same, as and for my inventory so required by law, and consent to the same.

Ethel C. Spires
Administratrix with the Will Annexed of the Estate of Richard Millage Spires, Sr., Deceased

Filed and Recorded December 12, 1947

E. C. May, County Judge
Citrus County, Florida

GROSS ESTATE.

Schedule A.

REAL ESTATE.

Item No.	Description	Appraised Value
1	Lots 53,81,82,83,85 & 87 Hernando-- Section 26- Township 18 South-Range 19 East--Store building and six lots.....	$3,500.00
	Total...	$3,500.00

ESTATE OF RICHARD MILLAGE SPIRES, SR. SCHEDULE A- Sheet 1.

SCHEDULE B

ACCOUNTS DUE AND CASH

1	Cash Balance in Bank of Inverness, Inverness, Florida	$96.73
2	Payment in full on escrow agreement made by Beulah M. Carrington	37.17
3	Rent accrued and paid on store property subsequent to death of deceased....	15.00
	Total.....	$148.90

ESTATE OF RICHARD MILLAGE SPIRES, SR. SCHEDULE B- Sheet 1

SCHEDULE C.

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PROPERTY.

Item No.	Description	Appraised Value
1	Nine Glass Show Cases	$90.00
2	One Pair Computing Scales--Stimpson	5.00
3	One Six foot step ladder	1.00
4	One Horse Turning Plow & Parts	5.00
5	½ roll barb wire	4.00
6	One stool	.25
7	One tobacco cutter	.50
8	One office desk	5.00
9	One Safe-Iron Small	5.00
10	Miscellaneous Coins and Tokens, to wit: 5¢ piece- dated 1884 one Italian coin dated 1862 Camp Phosphate Token Lincoln penny date 1920 Coin (Cuban) date 1916 Foreign Coin, dated 1882 Smooth Coin-American Indian Head Penny dated 1902 ½ Dime dated 1852 Foreign Coin, dated (KB)-1882 Two Cent Piece ½ Dime dated 1851 Two Tokens.....	1.00
11	38 Smith & Wesson Pistol & Cartridges	5.00
12	Ten Inch Brace & Bit	1.50
13	Pocket Whiskey Flask	.75
14	Two Chairs	1.00
AND THE FOLLOWING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND EFFECTS LOCATED ON HOMESTEAD:		
15	Five Beds @ $5.00 each, complete bed,springs & mattresses	25.00
16	Two Dressers @ $3.75 each	7.50
17	One Marble Top Table	25.00
18	Organ	5.00
19	One Rug, Lineoleum	3.00
20	Chairs (20)	5.00
21	One Ice Box	10.00

ESTATE OF RICHARD MILLAGE SPIRES, SR. SCHEDULE C--Sheet 1

SCHEDULE C CONTINUED

22	One Wood Heater	7.50
23	One Kerosene Cook Stove	25.00
24	Cooking Utensils	10.00
25	Pressure Cooker	5.00
26	Set Dishes	7.50
27	Silver Ware	10.00
28	One Dining Table	5.00
29	China Closet	2.50
30	Two Bases for Dressers	1.00
31	One Mirror	10.00
32	One Radio Table	.75
33	One Wash Stand	.50
34	One Round Drop-leaf table	7.50
	Total	$ 297.75

ESTATE OF RICHARD MILLAGE SPIRES, SR. SCHEDULE C--Sheet 2

RECAPITULATION SHEET

Schedule A.	Real Estate	$3,500.00
Schedule B.	Accounts Due and Cash	148.90
Schedule C.	Other Miscellaneous Property	297.75
	Grand Total	$ 3,946.65

Filed and Recorded December 12, 1947

E. C. May, County Judge

Citrus County, Florida

Richard Millage Spires, Sr., Deceased

IN THE COURT OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, IN AND FOR CITRUS COUNTY, STATE OF FLORIDA. IN PROBATE.

IN RE ESTATE OF)
Richard Millage Spires,Sr.,)
Deceased.)

ELECTION TO TAKE DOWER.

TO THE HONORABLE E. C. MAY, COUNTY JUDGE:

Ethel C. Spires, the widow of R. M. Spires, deceased, who departed this life while a resident and citizen of Citrus County, Florida, on September 27, 1947, being dissatisfied with the portion of the estate of her husband to which she is entitled under the will of her husband, or to which she is entitled under the law of descent and distributi n, or both, does hereby elect to take dower in the estate of her husband as provided by law.

Ethel C. Spires (Seal)

State of Florida)
) ss.
County of Citrus)

Ethel C. Spires, being sworn by me, the undersigned officer, says on oath that the statements contained in the foregoing election are true.

Ethel C. Spires

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9 day of April, A. D. 1948.

E. C. May (Official Seal)
County Judge

Filed and Recorded April 9, 1948

E. C. May, County Judge
Citrus County, Florida

THE STATE OF FLORIDA, CITRUS COUNTY.

This Indenture, Made and entered into this the 19th day of February A. D., 1907, between R. M. Spires and his wife Ethel R. Spires of the County and State aforesaid, part es of the first part, and R. A. Williams of the same County and State part y of the second part;

Witnesseth, That the said part es of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Twelve hundred and fifty Dollars, to them in hand paid by the said part y of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, ha ve granted, bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents, do grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said part y of the second part, and his heirs and assigns forever, the following land, lying, being and situated in said County of Citrus, State of Florida, to-wit:

The South west 1/4 of the North East 1/4 and the South East 1/4 of the North west 1/4 and the North east 1/4 of the South west 1/4 and the North west 1/4 of the South east 1/4 of Section thirteen (13) Township Eighteen (18) Range Eighteen (18)

containing One hundred and Sixty acres, be the same more or less, together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging, or in anywise incident or appertaining.

To have and to hold, Said land and premises with the appurtenances, to the said part y of the second part his heirs and assigns, forever. And the said part es of the first part do hereby bind themselves and their heirs, executors, and administrators to warrant and forever defend the title to said premises unto the said part y of the second part, his heirs and assigns against the said part es of the first part and their heirs, executors and administrators, and against all persons whomsoever lawfully or equitably claiming or to claim the same.

In Witness Whereof, The said part es of the first part ha ve hereunto set their hand s and seal s the date aforesaid.

Signed, Sealed, and Delivered in our presence as Witnesses.

N. King
J. A. Holt

R. M. Spires (Seal)
Ethel R. Spires (Seal)

The State of Florida, COUNTY OF CITRUS, } SS.

I, G. D. Edwards a Notary Public in said county and State, do hereby certify that on this the 18th day of February A. D., 1907, personally appeared before me R. M. Spires and Ethel R. Spires his wife to me well known to be the parties described in and who executed and delivered the foregoing Deed of Conveyance, and severally acknowledged to me that they executed the same for the uses, purposes and consideration therein expressed, and make this acknowledgment to the end that the same may be admitted to record according to law.

And the said Ethel R. Spires wife of the said R. M. Spires being examined by me separately and apart from her said husband, acknowledged that she made herself a party to and joined with her said husband in the execution of said Deed for the purpose of renouncing and relinquishing all her dower, right of dower or separate property in and to the lands therein described, and that such renunciation and relinquishment is made by her freely and voluntarily, and without any constraint, apprehension or fear of or from her said husband.

Notorial Seal

My commission expires Feb. 11th 1908

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal the date last aforesaid.

G. D. Edwards (Seal)
Notary Public

Filed and Recorded March 6th 1907

Walter F. Ulmstock
Clerk of the Circuit Court,

By Mildred E. Summer
Deputy Clerk.

The Tampa Tribune-Times, Sunday, June 11, 1995

CITRUS HERITAGE
Ruth Mitchell Christ

Spires' life a pioneer tale

R.M. Spires of Hernando is one of the most representative of Citrus County's pioneers. As with many other early residents, he did whatever he could to support his family, and he put himself into it wholeheartedly.

In his early days in the county, he was a laborer, a farmer, a merchant, a postmaster and a cattleman.

His wife said he came to the area about 1880, seven years before Citrus County was carved out of Hernando County. Among his first jobs was chain man for the crew that did the first survey of the county's boundaries.

Like most pioneers, he came with few possessions and took any job he could find.

Ethel Carrington Spires, his second wife whom he married in 1905 when he was 44 and she was 21, tells his story in handwritten notes housed in the Historical Society Courthouse Museum in Inverness.

"My husband, the late R.M. Spires, came to this section in 1880 with his widowed mother, two older brothers and sisters.

"I think they settled near Stage Pond.

"He was born near Melrose, Florida, in Putnam County, Feb. 14, 1861.

"Having struggled for existence through the days of Reconstruction, and after hearing of opportunities for work down here, his family loaded their posses-

See SPIRES', Page 3

Spires' life a story of a pioneer

From Page 1

sions on an ox-cart and moved here.

"They had high hopes of bettering their condition.

"They began to prosper after they were able to secure work at a dollar a day, clearing land and planting orange groves.

"He and his brothers helped clear the Homosassa town site of dense hammock and palmettos. I do not know the date of this work because it was before I was born in Marion County.

"A day's work then was from sunrise to sunset, six days a week.

"When my husband became 21, he rode horseback to Ocala, [and] had his first train ride to Gainesville to stake a claim for 160 acres, the maximum limit.

"The trip took three days.

"He built a 12-by-18-foot log house on his homestead, which he covered with hand-rove [split] shingles, [made] shutters for windows and cleared a small plot to plant a crop.

"About 1885 [when he was 24], he married Leonarah Clark, the 15-year-old daughter of a highly respected pioneer family.

"He took this brave child-wife to his humble homestead with little more than faith and determination to start their life on.

"On their way, they stopped at Crystal River for supplies. They bought fewer than $4 worth.

"Together, they worked to make the best of what they had, and soon had better.

'The wife's dowry was a few head of range cattle, which finally increased through the years to several hundred head.

"Marking and branding the cattle was all the care they needed. They kept one or two of the best milkers to provide milk and butter for the family.

[The couple had four children. He and his second wife had 12 more. It is uncertain when his first wife died, but records show she was still living in 1896.]

"When the land adjacent to the lake was being opened for farming and planting orange groves, my husband walked five miles day and night with his ax and dinner pail to work.

"He had to leave his wife home alone with miles between her home and the nearest neighbors.

"[In the evening], he usually had to split rails by the light of a bonfire, as he always needed more rails to make more fences."

Spires was appointed postmaster in Hernando in 1907. He died in 1947 at age 86. Ethel Carrington Spires died in 1964. She was 80.

■ ■ ■

Ruth Mitchell Christ is a descendant of Citrus County pioneers and a local historian.

October 2, 1947

Citrus County Chronicle

ESTBALISHED 1890

GEORGE H. JOHNSTON,
Publisher

MEMBER
FLORIDA PRESS ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

Entered at the Postoffice at Inverness, Florida, as Second Class Mail Matter

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE:
Subscription Price, Year.....$2.00
Six Months 1.25

MARINE RECRUITERS IN TOWN FRIDAY

Friday, October 2, will be O-Day in Inverness, according to Capt. K. E. Flake, Marine State Recruiting Officer. Captain Flake went on to say that O-Day, of course, stood for Opportunity Day.

"And that is exactly what it's going to be," said the captain, "for on this coming Friday, the Little Red Jeep of the Marine Corps Recruiting Service will be in Inverness, piloted by Staff Sgt. Chris J. Bucurel. Sergeant Bucurel will be there for the purpose of giving the young men of Inverness and Citrus county the opportunity of joining the United States Marine Corps."

Starting Friday, October 2, a Marine sergeant will be on duty at Inverness Post Office on second and fourth Fridays from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m., for the purpose of interviewing and accepting applicants for the Marines.

The Florida Forest Service nurseries plant mainly slash pine seeds.

TWO BARBERS
MEET
YOUR FRIENDS
AT
YANDLE'S
BARBER SHOP
Hot and Cold Showers
F. E. Yandle Bill Wilder

Now . . .
TRAILWAYS

to ATLANTA
and
to MONTGOMERY
DAILY THRU EXPRESS
SERVICE
ATLANTA BUS
INVERNESS, Leave 11:40 p.m.
ATLANTA, Arrive 12:25 p.m.
MONTGOMERY BUSES
INVERNESS
Leave 11:40 p.m., 3:10 a.m., 9:25 a.m.
MONTGOMERY
Arrive 10:15 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m.
ALL BUSES LEAVE

R. M. SPIRES, CITRUS PIONEER PASSES AWAY

Richard Millege Spires, 86, prominent pioneer citizen of Citrus county, passed away Saturday night in an Ocala hospital. Mr. Spires had been in failing health for several years.

Mr. Spires was one of the most widely known and highly respected citizens of the county. He was a resident of Citrus county for 69 years and for many years was a merchant and cattleman. He retired from business several years ago.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon in the Hernando Methodist church, the Rev. W. T. Walters officiating. Interment was in Greenwood cemetery, with Porter Funeral Home of Inverness in charge of arrangements.

Pallbearers were B. E. May, Sr., Cyril Copadge, Ben Croft, Hughie Ogle, Tom Ed Townsend, W. A. Thomas.

Mr. Spires is survived by his wife, Mrs. Ethel C. Spires, Hernando; four daughters, Mrs. Lottie Edson Clark, Floral City; Mrs. W. E. Grono, Tampa; Mrs. John C. Brown, Vero Beach; Miss Ila May Spires, St. Augustine; sons, L. V. Spires, St. Augustine; Richard Spires, Carrington Park Ridge, Ill.; N. B. Spires, Vero Beach; H. W. Spires, Valley Cottage, N. Y.; P. C. Spires, Clewiston; F. R. Spires, New Britton, Conn.; C. H. Spires, South Miami; 25 grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

MANY NEWCOMERS ARE BUYING HOMES IN CITRUS COUNTY

The Chronicle has checked with real estate men and builders and finds that most of the recent buying and building of homes in Citrus county is by newcomers, non-Floridians. Similar information comes from other neighboring counties. It also is revealed that practically all of these people are interested in retiring rather than seeking employment or starting a business.

For some time now there has been a feeling, here and elsewhere, that Florida's best bet in advertising this state's attractions in outside publications, is to insert copy in magazines or other medio, whose subscribers are largely those who are reaching the age of retirement.

It has been repeatedly pointed out that Florida's liberal tax laws, especially the homestead, offer special inducements to people at the retirement age to buy or build homes in Florida. Undoubtedly large numbers of them have settled in Florida because of the homestead exemption.

Florida's superb climate, its warm sunshine days throughout the year have a tremendous appeal, especially for elderly people who have lived their active working lives in the cold sections of the nation.

Here in Citrus county they can live better, more pleasant lives for [illegible] than anywhere in

STATE GAME BODY ASKS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO REMOVE LAKE FENCE

For more than a year the Citrus County Sportsmen's Club has been endeavoring to ascertain what governmental body had jurisdiction over Lake Tsala Apopka. This was caused by fencing off of portions of the lake which were barred to the public.

The following letter from Ben C. Morgan, chairman of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, addressed to the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners, places jurisdiction in the hands of the county commissioners. The letter follows:

"Gentlemen:

"We have had numerous requests from the sportsmen of Citrus county to be of assistance in the removal of a fence which has been placed around a large portion of Tsala Apopka Lake.

"This matter was brought before the Commission recently at their meeting and we advised the good people who were trying to get us to do something about it that this was a local matter and should be handled by the Board of County Commissioners in that county.

"The Commission went on record further stating that they did not approve of any fencing fo public lands or waters. Certainly if this lake in navigable for motor boats, it is public water.

"Any assistance you could give the sportsmen of that area in removing the objections to the public by the fencing of any body of public water would be appreciated by the Commission and myself.

"With kindest personal regards, I am

"Very truly yours,
"BEN C. MORGAN,
"Director."

UNDERSTANDING OF RELIGIOUS FAITH NEEDED, PEPPER

Religious faith leads to the victory of democracy is the declaration of Senator Claude Pepper of Florida. He outlines his viewpoint in a recent statement endorsing Religious Education Week, which will be observed by Protestants of United States and Canada September 28-October 5.

"Our forefathers who fled from religious persecution abroad followed their respective religious faiths without fear," the senator pointed out. "The founders of our constitution pledged themselves to freedom for all religious faiths. A century and a half has shown that religious faith has led to the victory of democracy. If we are to continue along the path of freedom and security, children and youth must be provided with a full understanding of religious faith and education."

A man awaiting hanging for the robbery of a bank and the murder of three persons does not smoke or drink and is an earnest Bible student.

FLORAL C

By M. FRANCIS

Mr. and Mrs. George to have seriously entere for the largest bass ca rus county; there seem rivalry between George for the honor; both h some mighty fine speci but Mrs. Tooke seems lead at the present wri

Dr. and Mrs. Edward turned Saturday to th villa on the shores of L after spending the sum home in New York at L They both look very f vacation but are glad the land of sunshine an many friends.

Mr. Cleve Moore, Chiefland Church of preach at Floral City day morning and nig vices at 7:30.

Mr. Arnold Zellner, underwent an operatio pa Municipal hospital culation almost as go

Mr. D. A. Tooke, w Hernando hospital fo last week is reported ed and will return ho

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. L ed a new fence aroun the corner of Lake a nue, adding new shrub pleted this will be City's most beaut homes.

Mr. McClung has new island home in

Mr. M. J. Myers trip to Ocala Friday

The Lighthouse Service Station own by Mr. and Mrs. Pa ing extensive alte from which an inter ment will be expe future.

ST. PETE BANK SOUT

The First Natio Petersburg issues books to its southp

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FALL TERM
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AVERY PV119E M

James Carrington.

James Carrington, 85, passed away at the Confederate Soldier and Sailors home on Talleyrand avenue at an early hour Tuesday morning. He was born October 2, 1838 in Telfair county, Georgia. He served in the First Georgia regiment and was wounded at Spartanburg, Va., and upon his recovery continued with his company until the close of the civil war. Mr. Carrington was the oldest inmate of the home, which he entered fifteen years ago. He is survived by one son, James G. Carrington, and two daughters, Miss Beulah Carrington, of Ocala, and Mrs. R. M. Spicer, of Hernando. Funeral services will be held this afternoon at 3 o'clock from Burns and Clymore's funeral home, Rev. W. W. Lowery, officiating. The pallbearers will be selected from among his comrades at the Confederate home.

Young Pianist Scores Hit At Exchange Club

1948

Elizabeth Cannon Headlines Meeting Wtih Musical Program

Elizabeth Cannon 12-year-old Ocala school girl, yesterday headlined the luncheon-meeting of the Ocala Exchange club at the Marion hotel with a musical program.

The talented pianist, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Cannon, scored with three numbers, "Because," "The Woody Woodpecker," and "Baby Face."

Elizabeth, who has been studying piano for six years, fingered the keyboard with ease and grace. Her technique was flawless. She made a big hit with the Exchangeites, who greeted each rendition with hefty applause.

Second Appearance

Yesterday was the second appearance of the bright and charming young artist before the Exchange club. Several weeks ago Elizabeth substituted for Erin Pierce, the regular pianist for the Exchangeites, who was absent owing to illness.

"She made such a splendid impression at that time that we hailed her back for a solo musical," H. M. Hodges, president of the club, said.

Graham Rose, who arranged the musical program, in his introductory remarks, described Elizabeth as one of the "most talented pianists in Ocala."

President Hodges appointed Dick Adams, chairman, assisted by Bob Nettleton and Bob Baer, to begin plans for a picnic-barbecue to be staged in the near future.

Guests at the luncheon-meeting were Elliott Turner, manager of the F. W. Woolworth & Company's Ocala store, and John Wilder of the Gainesville Exchange club.

Mrs Jas Carrington's great-grand daughter

Book mark made by Mrs Cordero wife of Capt Cordero Pioneers of Ocala Florida, made in 1881 for Jas. Carrington who presented it to his fiancee Mrs Mary Ellen Turnipseed. Mr Carrington & Mrs Turnipseed were married in 1882. To them were born Ethel Ruth, James G. and Beulah M. Ethel became the wife of R. M. Spicer Jan 8 1905, James G. married Miss Annie Will Baker about 1911 & died in 1932 Beulah M.

Mrs Carrington died at their home near Kendrick Nov 10th 1907 Mr Carrington died in Confederate Veterans Home for Jacksonville Apr 15th 1924.

Discharge Book 1

SPIRES, Lawton 4484263
Last Ass. 19th Bat.
Army
Born Hernando, Fl.
Occ. Farmer
Age 22
Gray eyes
Light hair
Fair Complexion
5' 9
Discharged Camp Gordon, Ga. 10 May 1919
Enlisted 3 Sep 1918 Inverness, Fl.
married
Character Good

AVERY™ PV119E M

suffer respiratory and other health ... inants. Please see ...

Age takes its toll on historic homes

By John Dunbar and Gordon Jackson
Staff writers

The county began bulldozing two historically significant homes in Hernando Tuesday, both of which had fallen in disrepair, to make way for a road project.

The Spires home, built in 1892, was knocked down by a county public works crew. Judge E.C. May's home next door will be demolished next.

In spite of the significance of the two homes, they had fallen on hard times.

"They were in terrible shape," said Bob Wesch, director of the Citrus County Land Division. "They were safety and health hazards."

Wesch said there was evidence of vagrants living in the rat- and termite-infested houses.

The homes are being knocked down to make way for improvements to the U.S. 41-County Road 486 intersection. They're located on the west side of U.S. 41 just north of the intersection.

"Those two homes were in

Please see **HOMES,** *Page* **2A**

Matthew Beck/The Chronicle

County workers destroy the old Spires home in Hernando Tuesday afternoon. The home had been standing since 1892.

AVERY™ PV119E M

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Please see **HOMES,** *Page* **2A**

Matthew Beck/*The Chronic*

County workers destroy the old Spires home in Hernando Tuesday afternoon. The home had been standing since 1892.

HOMES

continued from Page 1A

such disrepair that I could not see how they could have any historical value," Wesch said.

According to Deborah Scott, director of historical resources for the county, both homes were declared historically significant following a survey of homes in the unincorporated area of the county conducted in 1987.

Lolita Dickinson, youngest daughter of Judge E.C. May, was born in the home in 1913, though she only spent her first five months there.

Mrs. Dickinson, who now lives in Inverness, said she was pleased the county was removing the eyesores.

"It must be just a shell," she said of the home, built around 1905.

Judge May came to Citrus County in 1892 and opened a general store, according to "Back Home, a History of Citrus County," by Florida author and historian Hampton Dunn.

May later became county judge, state attorney and served in other public positions.

He also was a historian and writer and often contributed articles to the Citrus County Chronicle.

Richard Milledge Spires came to Citrus in 1880. His wife, Ethel Ruth, known as "Granny Spires," wrote for the Chronicle for more than 27 years and was also Hernando postmaster. She died in 1964 at the age of 80.

PIONEER CITIZENS HONORED—Inverness, Nov. 14—Here are the pioneer citizens who received awards from the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce last week for long and continued service to the county. From left, front, Mrs. R. N. Spires, Hernando; Mrs. Jim Priest, Pleasant Grove; Mrs. Daisy Love, Floral City; Jim Priest, and Col. George Scoefield, Inverness.

Citrus County Honors Five Pioneer Residents

INVERNESS, Nov. 14 (Special)—The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce honored five pioneer residents at the annual meeting last week.

New officers were elected for the coming year and a full-scale review of the chamber's progress was made to the attending guests.

Mrs. R. N. Spires, Hernando; Mr. and Mrs. Jim Priest, Pleasant Grove; Col. George Scofield, Inverness, and Mrs. Daisy Love, Floral City, were presented certificates of appreciation for their contribution to the advancement of the county. Each honoree is 75 years old and has lived in the county 50 years or more.

Malcolm Williamson, Inverness businessman, was elected president; Leo Root, Hernando, vice president; Phil Bennett, Inverness, secretary, and Gene Jackson, Inverness, treasurer.

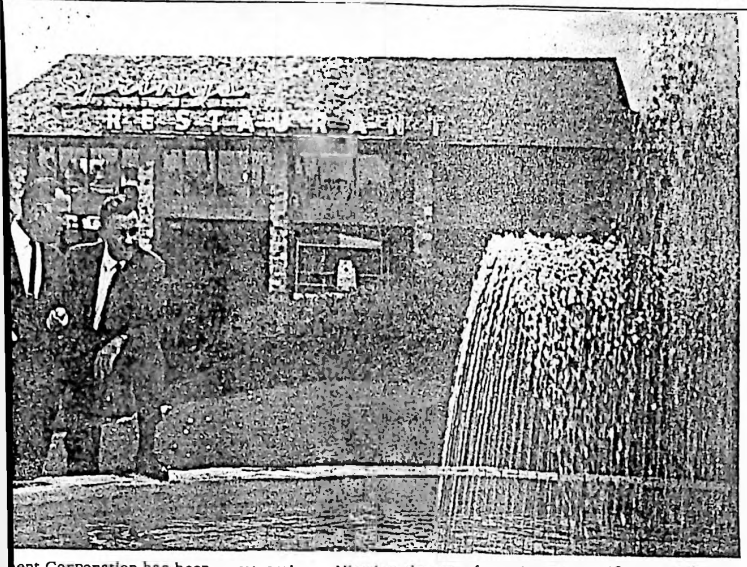
Retiring president Bill Keating was presented a gold plaque for his devotion to civic affairs and the affairs of the chamber. Keating was president when the new chamber building on Main Street was erected. It now is debt free. He has seen the Citrus chamber grow from an idea to its present 368 members.

Robert Ryals, Roy Poucher and John Hester represented the Florida Power Corp. at the meeting.

Refreshments were served during the social hour following the business meeting.

1961?

From Spires Coll



ent Corporation has been
n's first all electric build-
building at Homosasse
tion ceremonies, Springs
d from left, above, to k
tatives on a tour of the

attraction. Viewing the new fountain on U.S. 19 with Halfacre are, from left o right, Thomas Taylor, FPC's division sales manager, Central Division (Ocala); A.H. Hines, Jr., FPC manager of operations; and E.E. Dearmin, FPC central division manager. See accompanying story.

th

ward

d by Andrew Hines, man-
of division operations for
da Power, was accepted
W.L. "Bill" Halfacre,
s Development Company's
al manager for the att-
n and recreation complex
19.

so attending the luncheon
ony were E. Gene Dear-
f Ocala, division mana-
nd Thomas Taylor of
division sales manager.
award is sponsored nat-
y by the Edison Electric
te.

attractive bronze plaque
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and restaurant building.
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building, of native wood,
and glass was designed
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the American Institute
itects.

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point where miracle
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time keeping up with
her.

s Campsites

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urchased by Charles

Upon conclusion of
phases of the sale the
owner, James F. Mc-
erintendent-elect of the
hools of Citrus County,
out and management
to Lenz.

Lenz is a well known
executive in St.
g. He maintains an
home and lodge at
a near the junction of
nd Homosassa rivers,
her business interests
osassa area. The new
plans to make several
nd improvements in the
. These will be ann-
n after the purchase
inal.

School Board Seeks School Site

Citrus County School Board members voted to pursue another course in the selection of a building site for a new school building at Crystal River, when a deviation from original terms, offerred by board members, was not acceptable to S.A. Betz, the property owner.

In discussion with Mr. and Mrs. S.A. Betz at Tuesday's meeting it was learned that there was some restriction or deviation of the area involved and board members decided to withdraw the offer and pursue other courses. Betz stated that he has not refused the offer and board members are deviating from their original terms.

Another offer of property for the same school came Tuesday, and was made by Ed Tolle in a letter which offered a twenty acre site for $12,000 it was said to be centrally located to Crystal River and Homosassa, and described by board member Gene Allen as being about three miles south of Crystal River, off the Ozella road. Board members requested that anyone having property to offer in and around Crystal River, to please inform the Superintendent of Public Instuction.

Hurricane Warning Issued

At Chronicle press time Wednesday there appeared a remote possibility that Hurricane Cleo could sweep up the state of Florida, passing through this general area.

As an ordinary precaution, the Citrus County Civil Defense has issued the following statement:

Should a hurricane strike here the schools will be opened as shelters. Persons taking shelter in the schools are urged to bring food, blankets, water and flashlights.

Civil Defense Director Bell Land urged Citrus Countians to remain on constant alert by regularly listening to the hurricane reports issued frequently by area radio and television stations.

She said that residents should secure canned foods and water for the home in the event a hurricane causes a power failure.

She also warned that residents in low areas should take every precaution against flooding.

For further information, Citrus Countians may call the office of the Civil Defense Director at Inverness, 726-2912.

BACK TO SCHOOL

School bells are ringing early this year for the nurses in Citrus County. Nurses from the counties in District #26 of the Florida Nurses Association are kicking off their In-Service Training with a class on the role of the nurses in the care of a patient with a myocardial infarction. The class will meet in the Florida Power and Light Lounge, Brooksville, at 8:00 p.m., September 2. Mrs. Beulah Carman of Zephyrhills, President of he district, arranged the program with the Florida Heart Association which offers this training as a part of its Professional Education Program.

MRS. ETHEL SPIRES

Earned Host Of Friends

The death of Mrs. Ethel Ruth "Granny" Spires, 80, a resident of Hernando for 61 years, ended one of the most inspiring leaderships in Citrus County.

Mrs. Spires had a string of friends and fans that stretched the length and breadth of Citrus County. On many an occasion, when a project was worthy of it, she'd put herself to the task of uniting them in one force that got things done.

She was instrumental in the fund-raising program that saw the Citrus Memorial Hospital built, then turned around and lead in the organization of a Hospital Auxiliary.

Her participation accounted for the perpetuation of the Rebekah Lodge and the First Methodist Church of Hernando, as well as the Hernando Civic Club, Inc.

She was also a news correspondent for several area newspapers including the Chronicle, which she served for ten years.

She was one of the first officers of and active in founding the Hernando P.T.A. She served on the executive board in this organization until just recently.

"Granny" Spires raised many families, in addition to a large one of her own. Youngsters growing up in the Hernando area for these many years tagged her "Granny" because that's the way they felt about her!

Mrs. Spires passed away at Arcadia last Wednesday following a lengthy illness. She was a native of Kendricks.

Survivors include: six sons--Broward Spires Hernando; R.M. Spires, Jr., West Caldwell, N.J.; Harold Spires, Valley Cottage, N.J.; Perl Spires Clewiston; Francis Spires New Britain, Conn., and Claude Spires, Miami;

One daughter, Beulah Brown, Vero Beach; one step-daughter, Mrs. Lottie Grank, Inverness one sister, Mrs. Beulah Carrington, Hernando; two half-sisters, Mrs. Carrie Richie and Mrs. Annie Akin, Ocala; one half-brother, Jesse Turnipseed, Jacksonville; 21 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Saturday at the First Methodist Church, Hernando, with the Rev. E.D. Conway of Jacksonville, assisted by the Rev. E.E. Geist, Hernando, officiating. Interment was in the Oak Ridge Cemetery, Inverness. Th Porter Funeral Home, Inverness, was in charge of arrangements.

Pall bearers for the service were Major Bellamy, John E. Croft, Jr., W.H. Ogle, Jr., Cyril Coppedge, Baker Miley and Josh Spooner. Honorary Bearers were W.H. Ogle, Sr., Fred Spooner Walter Van Ness, T.C. Ellis, the Rev. W.D. Croft, and David Combes. Music was played by organist Gail Van Ness.

In a tribute to her passing, Norvell Bryant writes:

"She gave much of her time and effort for the betterment of this little community, which she loved so much.

Frank and outspoken, yet tolerant and considerate of others, particularly those less fortunate than herself, she was always ready to lend a helping hand to the civic and spiritual needs of Hernando.

Even as she approached the sunset of life, though ill and in pain, she carried on, doing whatever she could to help.

Granny Spires will be missed but her good deeds and life will live on in Hernando."

Budget To Be Aired

Citrus County Commissioners will air their proposed 1965 budget for the public next Tuesday at the regular meeting of the Board.

The budget, as reported in the Chronicle last week, moves the assessment here up a half mill, necessary to collect a total of $847,005 to operate the county for a year.

While the demands of the general fund dropped a half mill, the requirements of the road and bridge fund and the fines and forfitures fund rose a half mill each.

County Clerk Francis "Cowboy" Williams reports that the general fund this year includes a $2,500 increase for courthouse maintenance to cover bids already accepted for the construction of new sidewalks around the building and the painting of the courthouse trim.

Other increases include a $7,044 boost for the Sheriff's Department budget, the funds to be used for a $25 across-the-board raise in the monthly salaries for the department's employees. The Sheriff's office is also hoping to use the funds to hire an additional office employee, according to Sheriff B.R. Quinn.

SCHOOL BELLS--A score and more new teachers have joined the Citrus County school system this year. This week they have been busily preparing for the first day of school Monday. Above the newcomers to the system pause for a photo. They are, from left to right: seated--Sarah Jane Price, Erezelle Stafford, Alice Sparks, Laurie Engstrom, Barbara Coalson, and Mary Sue Reynolds; front row standing--Jane Hilliard, Brenda Cansler, Mrs. J.H. McGiboney, and Merle Cottle; 2nd row--P.W. Collins, Hurley Miller, William A. Bond, Stanley Kensak, Kenneth Williams, and Douglas Santine; 3rd row--Monty Van Ness, Gerald W. Elkins, Jerry Bryant, and Joe Dallas. (Chronicl Staff Photo)

Telephone Rates Go Up Here

Telephone rate increases for Florida Telephone Corporation service areas should bring the company an additional $57,000 a year, according to a report issued by the Florida Public

have both outgrown the lowest rate group and rates are expected to increase from $5.25 to $5.50 a month for private residential service.

The Public Utilities Commi-

LIONS SCHOLARSHIP

The Crystal River Lions Club is offering a scholarship loan of $150.00 to an area student in need of money to attend college. The loan is available to any high school graduate who plans to attend or is attending a college or university, and is in need of funds. This is an interest-free loan and is to be paid back beginning one year following completion of college.

Firemen Pick Merrit

The 76 members of the Inverness Volunteer Fire Department elected George W. Merrit, Jr., president, at a recent meeting. James Burkhard is the new vice-president, and Howard A.

TEACHING FELLOW

A former Citrus High School band director, William F. Lawes of Brooksville, has been awarded a teaching fellowship in music at East Carolina

C. 1900

Richard Millage Spires

first wife Lenora Irene Clark

Abernardo

? mystery of photographs in unidentified box

LINDGREN, Carl M. 29 Dec 1916 - 3 Oct 1975 S/Sgt US Army WWII & Korea
LINDGREN, Helen P. 12 Jan 1911 - 23 Aug 1991
ANDREW, Frank 1892 - 1965
ANDREW, Evelyn 1890 - 1982
LOHR, John S. 1882 - ____
LOHR, Ruby 1892 - 1971
WOODFERD, Herbert L. 21 May 1891 - 18 July 1969 -Kentucky Sgt. Btry E 68 Field Arty
CARLSON, Bessie Waite 7 Nov 1887 - 31 Jan 1968
SPIRES, Ethel Ruth 12 Mar 1884 - 19 Aug 1964
HOOE, Charles Robert 13 Nov 1890 - 25 Mar 1964 1st Sgt US Army WWI
HENSON, Thomas H. 20 Jan 1901 - 28 Nov 1963 Missouri, F1 US Navy WWI
GROUNDS, John W. 10 Aug 1883 - 5 Mar 1963
MENTZ, Marie A. 1917 - 1962
LIGHTFOOT, Melton E. 1893 - ____
LIGHTFOOT, Ruth J. 1904 - 1963
SEGAR, Joseph C. 1892 - 1962
SEGAR, Marguerite E. 1896 - 1970
SENN, Lilla Belle 25 Apr 1908 - July 1993
CARVER, Genetha Mae 4 Dec 1929 - July 1968
WESTFALL, Jonathan N. 27 May 1903 - 16 Dec 1969
DEWEES, Ada 20 Aug 1893 - 19 July 1969
FEGER, Michael, 1907 - 1989 Beloved Husband and Father
FEGER, Margaret, 1910 - ____ Beloved Wife and Mother
FREAR, Harold E. 1926 - ____
FREAR, Annie, H. 1920 - 1969
KINDER, Joe H. 30 July 1918 - 30 Jan 1967 W. Virginia, Tec 5 Co. C 11 Eng. EBT Bn WWII
HAIGHT, Lawrence 1888 - 1963 "Father"
HAIGHT, Mae Velleman 1903 - 1964
LUXFORD, Alfred J. 1890 - 1971 (FHM Porter)
WITTEKOEK, William 11 June 1889 - 19 Aug 1960 N.Y. Pvt.-1 Reg Fa REPL DRAFT WWI
WITTEKOEK,, Elizabeth 15 Nov 1885 - 5 Jan 1975
HUGHES, Gertude W. 1890 - 6 Feb 1971 "Mother"
TOORENBURCH, Minerva 1908 - 1992
WESTON, Elmer M. 1888 - 1968
WESTON, Clara D. 1892 - ____
WHITTON, William W. 1899 - 1967
WHITTON, Lena M. 1912 - ____
MARKER, Dale H. 7 Dec 1912 - 4 Jan 1992
MARKER, Charlotte L. 14 Aug 1912
MARKER, Roy Kyle 11 June 1882 - 12 July 1968
WALKER, Catherine Ann 14 May 1958 - 15 May 1966
THOMAS, John William 6 Feb 1929 - 2 July 1988 -U.S. Coast Guard

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Carrington
of Kendrick, Fla.,
announce the marriage of their
daughter
Ethel Ruth
to
Mr. Richard M. Spires
of Hernando, Fla.,
Sunday, January Eighth, Nineteen
Hundred and Five.

At Home,
HERNANDO, FLA.,
after Jan. 10.

By Mrs. R.M. Spires

HISTORY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA

A LONELY SCOTSMAN, FAR FROM HIS NATIVE HEATH GAZED UPON THE BLUE WATERS OF THE INDIAN-NAMED LAKE TSALA APOPKA AND THOUGHT, "BUT IT LOOKS LIKE INVERNESS, BETWEEN THE HEADLANDS AND THE LAKE" IN SCHOTLAND, AND THIS BEAUTIFUL PLACE DESERVES THE NAME OF INVERNESS."

THIS WAS BACK IN 1889 WHEN A COUNTY SEAT FOR THE NEW CITRUS COUNTY WAS UP FOR VOTE. ACTUALLY, WHEN THE NAME OF INVERNESS APPEARED, IT WAS THE FIRST TIME ANYONE HAD EVER HEARD OF IT. THE LITTLE TOWN ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE COUNTY WAS KNOWN AS TOMPKINSVILLE.

TOMPKINSVILLE WAS NAMED IN HONOR OF THE COUNTY'S FIRST TAX COLLECTOR, DANIEL TOMPKINS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR AFTER CITRUS COUNTY WAS CREATED BY LEGISLATIVE ACTION FROM THE HUGH HERNANDO COUNTY.

BECAUSE THE ROADS WERE VERY POOR, THE LACK OF TRANSPORTATION AFTER THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES WAS A SERIOUS DRAWBACK FOR REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. IN 1887, NICK BARCO OF RED LEVEL AND ALBERT WILLARD OF HOMOSASSA WERE AMONG THE DELEGATES TRAVELING TO TALLAHASSEE TO THE CREATION OF CITRUS COUNTY. THE UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE, AND WILLARD'S ACQUAINTANCE WITH GOVERNOR PERRY, BROUGHT THE BILL FOR THE GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE FOUR HOURS AFTER IT HAD PASSED.

THE NEW COUNTY WAS GIVEN TWO YEARS TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT COUNTY SEAT. IN ORDER TO GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT, THE TEMPORARY LOCATION OF MANSFIELD NAMED IN HONOR OF SENATOR A.S. MANN, WHO HAD SUCCESSFULLY GUIDED THE BILL THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE WAS CHOSEN.

AFTER SIX INDECISIVE ELECTIONS, THE CITY OF INVERNESS WAS CHOSEN AS THE OFFICIAL COUNTY SEAT IN 1891. NOT UNTIL 1889 HAD ANYONE EVER HEARD THE NAME. THE SCOTSMAN HAD DONE HIS WORK WELL.....

THE FIRST MEMBERS OF THE CITRUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WERE J.T. LANDRUM, JAMES BAKER, P.J. PEACHER, O.P. KELLER, AND C.D. CARROLL. TAX ACCESSOR WAS W.H.BROOKS; TAX COLLECTOR (THE DANIEL TOMPKINS MENTIONED); TREASURER, NICK BARCO; ATTORNEY, J.C.PHILLIPS; SURVEYOR, J.T. ALLEN, AND JUDGE J.W.FLEMING.

A SURVEYOR BY THE NAME OF MASON, WHO WAS EMPLOYED AT THE TIME FOR THE FLORIDA ORANGE AND TRANSIT CO. WAS ENGAGED TO SURVEY THE 160 ACRES OF THE ORIGINAL SITE FOR THE CITY OF INVERNESS. THE PLAT WAS BRAWN BY JOHN E. KING OF LE-CANTO, AND FRANCIS M. DAMFIER WAS EMPLOYED TO CLEAR THE SITE. AND SO WAS BORN THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA.

GOSPEL ISLAND, INVERNESS, FLORIDA

THIS ISLAND WAS SO NAMED BECAUSE A GROUP OF MINISTERS FROM THE NORTH CAME HERE AND BOUGHT IT, INTENDING TO BUILD HOMES HERE AND SETTLE UPON RETIRING FROM THE MINISTRY.

+ + + + + +

ABOUT 75 YEARS AGO ONE WANTON K. WEBB WROTE IN HIS HISTORY ABOUT FLORIDA A CHAPTER DESCRIBING HERNANDO COUNTY BEFORE CITRUS COUNTY WAS MADE A SPEARATE COUNTY. DESCRIPTIONS OF TOWNS NOW LOCATED IN CITRUS COUNTY WAS FLORAL CITY, DESCRIBED THUS: SETTLED IN 1883 BY TWO OR THREE FAMILIES, LOCATED THREE MILES FROM WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER ON CHOLO (TSALA) APOPKA LAKE, LATER JOINED BY 30 OR 40 FAMILIES (ALL WHITE) FROM ALMOST EVERY STATE IN THE UNION....REV.E. S. POOSER WAS PASTOR OF THE METHODIST CHURCH, (EVIDENTLY THE ONLY CHURCH THERE). ORANGE GROWING SEEMED TO BE THE CHIEF ATTRACTION. THE FAMILIES MENTIONED IN THE HISTORY WERE W.A. DUVAL, J.W. FLEMING, J.C.CLEMENTS, J.A.HAMPTON, J.H.PYLES AND F.G.POWELL. I AM QUITE SURE MRS. J.E.LIMS IS A DESCENDANT OF J.A.HAMPTON. DUVAL ISLAND, NOW A SCENIC SITE OF HOMES AND ORANGE GROVES BEARS THE NAME OF W.A.DUVAL. A COLLEGE, SOUTH FLORIDA COLLEGE, WAS PLANNED TO BE CHARTERED IN 1885. THE HISTORY GIVES NO FURTHER ACCOUNT OF IT. J.W. FLEMING WAS THE FIRST POSTMASTER. CRYSTAL RIVER WAS DESCRIBED AS A SMALL SETTLEMENT ON A RIVER BY THAT NAME. A BAPTIST PREACHER, W.G.GANES WAS POSTMASTER, IN CRYSTAL

RIVER, POPULATION OF ABOUT 100.

HERNANDO, 25 MILES FROM BROOKSVILLE WAS SETTLED IN 1881 BY E. CROFT, W.G.CROFT, AND DR.E.E. NICKERSON; DESCRIBED AS HAVING ONE CHURCH AND A SCHOOL; THE PRESIDENT OF THE WILMINGTON, COLUMBIA, AND AUGUSTA RAILROAD (MR.E. R. BRIDGES) WAS CREDITED WITH OWNING 800 ACRES OF LAND HERE....AS WAS E.G. (W.) AGNEW OF OCALA. I.D.SPOONER, T. HARRISON, A.D. TOMPKINS AND DUCY & COMPANY. IT WAS ALSO CREDITED WITH ORANGE GROVE ACADEMY WITH A MRS. PERKINS. SOME EARLIER RESIDENTS THAN I MIGHT KNOW ABOUT THAT...I NEVER HEARD OF IT....

SINCE THERE IS MENTION OF A.D. TOMPKINS, THIS AREA MUST HAVE TAKEN THE PRESENT SITE OF INVERNESS OF WHICH THERE IS NO MENTION MADE. THE PRESENT SITE OF INVERNESS WAS FIRST KNOWN AS TOMPKINSVILLE. I HOPE SOME ONE HAS THE DATE OF WHEN THE NAME WAS CHANGED TO INVERNESS.

HERNANDO WAS SETTLED BY THE CROFTS AND NICKERSONS WHO CAME FROM TEXAS IN 1881. IN 1882 A POST OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED BY W.G. CROFT AND WAS LOCATED AT HIS HOME, SOUTHEAST OF LAKE TSALA APOPKA NOT FAR EAST OF THE PRESENT BAPTIST CHURCH (FIRST BAPTIST). THE MAIL CARRIER WAS NOBE CASON WHO HAS A NUMBER OF DESCENDANTS IN CITRUS COUNTY NOW. MAIL WAS BROUGHT FROM BROOKSVILLE ON HORSEBACK. THE NEXT MAIL STOP WAS CAMP IZZARD ACROSS THE RIVER NEAR STOKES BRIDGE.

MANSFIELD WAS MENTIONED AS BEING MIDWAY BETWEEN CHALO (TSALA) APOPKA AND THE GULF OF MEXICO, 7 MILES FROM THE HOMOSASSA RIVER. STAGE AND RAIL TO JACKSONVILLE FARE WAS $6.00. FARE BY STEAMER TO CEDAR KEYS WAS $2.00. IT TOOK TWO DAYS TO GO TO JACKSONVILLE. IT WAS SETTLED IN 1884 BY CITIZENS FROM 16 DIFFERENT STATES, MAINLY FROM INDIANA. EDWARD BURR WAS FIRST POSTMASTER. MANSFIELD LATER BECAME THE FIRST COUNTY SITE OF CITRUS COUNTY. I AM QUITE SURE IT WAS NAMED FRO SENATOR MANN WHO INTRODUCED THE BILL TO FORM CITRUS COUNTY FROM PART OF HERNANDO COUNTY.

LECANTO WAS SETTLED IN 1882 BY DR. NORTON. AT THE TIME THIS WEBB HISTORY WAS WRITTEN, LECANTO HAD A POPULATION OF 125. A UNION CHURCH (WITH REV. J.B. HARRELSON AS RECTOR), A HIGH SCHOOL (E.A.HARRISON, PRINCIPAL), AND JOHN E.KING WAS POSTMASTER---OTHER RESIDENTS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO OWNED ORANGE GROVES AND FARMS WERE H. B. KING, JOSIAH KING, JOHN A. ALLEN, AND J.J. DAVIS. MANY DESCENDANTS OF THESE PIONEERS ARE LIVING IN LECANTO AND INVERNESS NOW.

MISS MARION KING, DAUGHTER OF JOHN E. KING WHO ONCE REPRESENTED CITRUS COUNTY AS SENATOR, I BELIEVE WAS ALSO COUNTY SURVEYOR.

THE HAIR BROTHERS OF INVERNESS ARE DIRECT DESCENDANTS OF J.B.DAVIS, A MAN WHO COULD HAVE ADDED MUCH TO AN AUTHENTIC HISTORY OF THIS COUNTY, BUT AS THE NEED FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES WAS NOT REALIZED, SO THE NEED FOR AUTHENTIC HISTORY WAS NOT RECOGNIZED UNTIL THE RANKS OF THOSE CLEAR-HEADED RESOURCEFUL PIONEERS BEGAN TO THIN. THE ALLEN FAMILIES, THE KING FAMILIES, THE JOHN BARNES DESCENDANTS AND OTHERS WHOSE NAMES I DO NOT RECALL AT THIS TIME ALL PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTY, GEOGRAPHICALLY....LECANTO IS ALMOST THE CENTER OF THE COUNTY.

THESE WERE THE ONLY TOWNS MENTIONED THAT THEN EXISTED IN THE AREA THAT LATER BECAME CITRUS COUNTY.

-- MY HUSBAND, THE LATE R.M.SQUIRES, CAME TO THIS SECTION ABOUT 1880 WITH HIS WIDOWED MOTHER, TWO OLDER BROTHERS AND A YOUNGER SISTER. I THINK THEY SETTLED NEAR STAGE POND. HE WAS BORN NEAR MELROSE, FLA. IN PUTMAN COUNTY, FEBRUARY 4, 1861. HAVING STRUGGLED FOR EXISTANCE THROUGH THE DAYS OR RECONSTRUCTION, THEY HEARD OF THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORK DOWN HERE, AND MOVED BY OX CART IN HIGH HOPES OF BETTERING THEIR CONDITIONS, WHICH THEY DID. SECURING WORK CLEARING LAND AND PLANTING ORANGE GROVES AT A DOLLAR A DAY, AND A DAY;S WORK THEN WAS FROM SUNRISE UNTIL SUNSET, SIX DAYS A WEEK. WHEN HE CAME 21, HE RODE HORSEBACK TO OCALA. HAD HIS FIRST TRAIN RIDE TO GAINESVILLE TO STAKE A CLAIM FOR A HOMESTEAD. THE TRIP TOOK THREE DAYS.

IN TAKING A HOMESTEAD ONE WAS ALLOWED TO STAKE A CLAIM FOR 160 ACRES, THE MAXIMUM LIMIT, BUT MUST IMPROVE AND LIVE ON THE PROPERTY FOR EIVE YEARS BECFORE SECURING FINAL TITLE. HE BUILT A 12 X 18 PINE LOG HOUSE COVERED WITH HAND-ROVE (SPLIT) SHINGLES, WOOD SHUTTERS FOR WINDOWS, CLEARED A SMALL PLOT TO PLANT A CROP. HE ALSO SPLIT RAILS WHENEVER HE HAD NO OTHER JOB. ABOUT 1885 HE MARRIED LEONARAH CLARK, 15 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER OF A HIGHLY RESPECTED FAMILY WHO WERE EARLIER PIONEERS. HE TOOK THIS BRAVE CHILD WIFE TO HIS HUMBLE HOMESTEAD WITH LITTLE MORE THAN FAITH AND DETERMINATION TO START LIFE. ON THEIR WAY, THEY STOPPED IN CRYSTAL RIVER AND BOUGHT SUPPLIES TO THE AMOUNT OF LESS THAN FOUR DOLLARS. TOGETHERY THEY WORKED TO MAKE THE BEST OF WHAT THEY HAD, AND, OF COURSE, SOON HAD BETTER. THE YOUNG WIFE'S DOWERY WAS A FEW HEAD OF RANGE CATTLE WHICH FINALLY INCREASED THROUGH THE YEARS TO SEVERAL HUNDRED HEAD. MARKING AND BRANDING THE CALVES WERE ALL THE CARE THE BATTLE NEEDED. ONE OR TWO OF THE BEST MILKERS WERE KEPT TO PROVIDE MILK AND BUTTER FOR THE FAMILY.

WHEN THE LAND ADJACENT TO THE LAKE WAS BEING OPENED FOR FARMING AND PLANTING ORANGE GROVES, HE WALKED FIVE MILES MORNING AND NIGHT WITH HIS AXE AND DINNER PAIL TO WORK. LEAVING HIS WIFE AT HOME MILES FROM ANY NEIGHBORS, HE WENT TO LAY FENCE RAILS TO ENCLOSE MORE LAND. MOST OF THE RAILS HE SPLIT AT NIGHT BY BOND FIRE LIGHT. I SHOULD HAVE MENTIONED BEFORE THAT HE AND HIS BROTHERS HELPED TO CLEAR THE HOMOSASSA TOWNSITE OF DENSE HAMMOCK AND PALMETTO GROWTH. I DO NOT KNOW THE DATE OF THIS WORK AS IT WAS BEFORE I WAS BORN IN MARION COUNTY. HE TOLD OF THE DELICIOUS OYSTER STEWS THE CREW ENJOYED SATURDAY NIGHTS. THEY GATHERED THE OYSTERS AFTER KNOCKING OFF WORK.

ONCE HE AND A BLACK BEAR HAD A MUTUAL EXPERIENCE OF FRIGHT. WHILE WORKING THERE HE WAS CUTTING UNDERBRUSH, AND THE BEAR WAS IN THE TOP OF A CABBAGE PALM, TRYING TO DIG OUT THE BUD TO EAT. THEY BOTH DISCOVERED EACH OTHER ABOUT THE SAME TIME, AND TOOK OFF IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. HE ALSO HELPED TO CARRY THE CHAIN FOR THE FIRST SURVEY OF THE COUNTY LAND.

I WAS NOT ABLE TO FIND THE DATE THAT CITRUS COUNTY WAS FORMED. ANOTHER COMMUNITY NOT MENTIONED IN HISTORY WAS WHERE THERE WAS A SCHOOL AND A POSTOFFICE. I AM NOT SURE WHO THE FIRST SETTLERE WERE AS THE POSTOFFICE AND THE SCHOOL WERE DISCONTINUED ABOUT THE TIME I CAME TO HERNANDO. THE POSTMASTER'S NAME WAS BROTT AND I THINK THEY CAME FROM MICHIGAN.. DUDLEY BROTT WHO WAS BORN THERE LIVED IN HERNANDO UNTIL HIS RECENT DEATH. TWO FAMILIES OF ANDERSON'S W.H. (BILLY) AND HUSTON...THEY WERE ALL NEIGHBORS OF MY HUSBAND AND FAMILY.

THE PRESENT POSTMASTER AT HERNANDO, ALSO MRS. SUSIE MULDROW AND THE SPOONERS OF HERNANDO ARE DESCENDANTS OF "BILLY" ANDERSON. THE SPOONER HOMESTEAD IS PART OF THE CHAPPELS PARADISE COTTAGES. FRED HENSLEY LAKESIDE COTTAGES AND OTHER HOMES ON THE NORTH END OF THE LAKE.

HERNANDO WAS ORIGINALLY A HOMESTEAD OWNED BY A MRS. NICKERSON WHO BARGAINED WITH WEST COAST DEVELOPEMTN COMPANY TO LAY OFF A TOWN SITE. SHE WAS TO OWN EVERY OTHER LOT, THE TOWN PLAT OR MAP WAS RECORDED AT THE COURT HOUSE IN 1891, I BELIEVE IN SEPTEMBER. THIS WAS AFTER THE DISCOVERY OF PHOSPHATE BY ALBURTUS VOGT. ALTHO OTHERS CLAIM TO HAVE DISCOVERED PHOSPHATE BEFORE THIS TIME.

THE STORY TOLD BY SOME PIONEERS IS THAT A DOG DIGGING INTO A GOPHER HOLE THREW OUT ROCKS WHICH LED TO FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND TESTING. THIS WAS BEFORE THE RAILROAD CAME THIS FAR, BUT WITH THE DISCOVERY OF PHOSPHATE, CAMPS OF LABORERS SPRUNG UP ALMOST OVER NIGHT. THE A.C.L. RAILROAD PROMISED THE TOWN IF THEY WOULD BE GIVEN A RIGHT-OF-WAY THROUGH TOWN, AND THEY WOULD ALWAYS MAINTAIN A DEPOT. THIS ARRANGEMENT IS ON RECORD IN THE COURT HOUSE IN INVERNESS, BUT AFTER THE GOOD ROADS AND THE AUTOMOBILES CAME INTO USE, THE RAILROAD COMPANY WAS OPERATING AT SUCH A LOSS THAT NO ONE TRIED TO MAKE THEM KEEP THEIR AGREEMENT.

AT ONE TIME WE HAD TWO NORTH BOUND PASSENGER TRAINS AND TWO SOUTH BOUND TRAINS DAILY WITH SEVERAL FREIGHT TRAINS. THESE WERE DRAWN BY STEAM ENGINES. AT FIRST WOOD BURNERS

WHICH WOULD STOP ALONG THE WAY AND LOAD THE TENDERS FROM WOOD FILLED RACKS BUILT ALONG THE SIDE THE TRACKS SEVERAL MILES APART. KEEPING THE WOOD RACKS FILLED GAVE JOBS TO MANY WOOD CUTTERS AND MEN WITH MULE TEAMS. AFTER WOOD BECAME SCARCE, THE ENGINES CHANGED OVER TO COAL BURNERS, THEN IN RECENT YEARS TO THE DIESEL ENGINES.

THE DEPOT WHICH HAD A LARGE FREIGHT ROOM, A TELEGRAPH, EXPRESS AND TICKET OFFICE COMBINED, HAD A WAITING ROOM FOR THE WHITE AND ONE FOR THE COLORED, PASSENGERS, BUT THERE WERE NO REST ROOMS AND NO WATER. OUTSIDE WAS THE LONG LOADING PLATFORM. THE MAIL WAS HUNG ON A MAIL CRANE AND THE MAIL CLERK REACHED IT BY A SORT OF HOOK ARRANGEMENT.

HERNANDO HAD A POST OFFICE TEN YEARS BEFORE THE TOWN WAS ESTABLISHED. AN ANCESTOR OF THE CROFT FAMILY WAS THE FIRST POSTMASTER AND THE MAIL WAS BROUGHT BY HORSEBACK FROM BROOKSVILLE. THE CARRIER WENT ON TO THE NEXT POST OFFICE WHICH WAS CAMP IZZARD JUST ACROSS THE WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER NEAR THE PRESENT BRIDGE ON HIGHWAY 200. THERE WAS NO BRIDGE THEN SO PEOPLE CROSSED BY FERRY OPERATED BY A MAN NAMED STOKES. AND FOR MANY YEARS THE CROSSING HAS BEEN CALLED STOKES FERRY. I AM SORRY I DO NOT KNOW THE NAMES OF THE FIRST MERCHANT TO COME HERE.

THE FARMERS ALL OVER THE COUNTY SOLD ALL THE PRODUCE THAT IS, VEGETABLES, CHICKEN, EGGS, FRUIT, BEEF, PORK, AND MELONS THAT THEY COULD RAISE. MANY OF THEM SOLD THEIR PRODUCE TO OTHER COVERED WAGONS, USING SCALES AND MEAT KNIVES AS MEASURES....POTATOES AND ORANGES WERE SOLD BY THE PECK AND BUSHEL. THESE PEDDLERS WENT TO THE VARIOUS LABOR CAMPS WHERE LARGE TENTS WERE USED TO SERVE THE LABORERS AS WELL AS TO THE HOUSES. WHAT HAD BEEN BUILT FOR THE SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE PHOSPHATE PLANTS AND THE RAIL ROADS BEING BUILT. ALL LABOR WAS DONE BY HAND. THESE OLDEST PHOSPHATE PITS WERE DUG WITH PICK AND SHOVEL, AND MEN ROLLING THE DIRT OUT IN OVERBURDENED WHEELBARROWS UNTIL A LITTLE LATER MULES AND SCRAPES WERE USED. THERE WAS NO CHILD LABOR LAW THEN AND NO LAW COMPELLING CHILD-

REN TO GO TO SCHOOL. SO MANY CHILDREN DROVE MULES OPENING THE PHOSPHATE PITS.

EVERYBODY HAD LOTS OF MONEY, BUT, AS IS ALWAYS THE WAY IN TIMES OF PLENTY, THEY DID NOT SPEND IT WISELY. THERE WAS MUCH DRUNKENNESS AND GAMBLING ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER LAWLESS ACTS, BUT NOT MUCH STEALING. MRS. NICKERSON DEEDED FOUR LOTS TO THE TOWN HERNANDO FOR A CEMETARY. THIS IS NOT AS WELL CARED FOR AS IT SHOULD BE, FOR HERE RESTS SOME OF THE PIONEERS OF OUR TOWN. AT ONE TIME, THE NEGROES USED THE ADJOINING LOTS FOR BURIAL GROUND, BUT LATER MOVED TO A PLOT ACROSS TOWN. DURING THE EARLY DAYS, THE PHOSPHATE COMPANIES EMPLOYED A NUMBER OF ITALIANS AS LABORERS

THESE ARE NATIVES OF THE ISLAND OF SICILY AND THEIR GROUPS WERE KILLED IN AN ACCIDENT AND THE COMPANY SENT SOME NEGROES TO DIG A GRAVE. THE NEGROES DUG THE GRAVES IN THE NEGRO CEMETARY AS THE SCILIANS HAD ALWAYS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NEGROES. WHEN THE COFFIN WAS BROUGHT INTO TOWN IN A TWO MULE WAGON LOADED WITH FRIENDS, AND THEY FOUND THE GRAVE IN THE NEGRO CEMETARY, THEY FAIRLY WENT WILD AND GOT SHOVELS AND ALMOST GOT IN EACH OTHER'S WAY TO OPEN A GRAVE IN THE WHITE CEMETARY. I THINK THE IRON CROSS THEY PUT AT THE HEAD OF THE GRAVE IS STILL THERE.

MOST OF THE TOWN USED WATER FROM AN OPEN WELL IN THE CENTER OF THE CROSSING OF LAKE AND MAIN STREETS. TRAVELERS WOULD DRAW WATER AND DRINK FROM THE BUCKET. THEN THEY WOULD WATER THEIR TEAM IN A WOODEN TROUGH ALONG SIDE OF THE WELL.

I FIRST CAME HERE IN 1902 WHEN THE PAYROLL NUMBERED 2,000 OR MORE. I CLERKED AND HELPED TO DO DRESSMAKING. AT THAT TIME THE READY-MADE DRESSES WERE OF VERY CHEAP MATERIAL AND NO STYLE. WITH EVERYONE MAKING A LOT OF MONEY, WE MADE DRESSES FROM VERY LOVELY MATERIAL.

THERE WAS SO MUCH DRUNKNESS AND SHOOTING NO WHITE

WOMAN OR CHILD WENT ON THE STREETS AFTER THE WHISTLES BLEW TO KNOW OFF WORK IN THE EVENING.

THIS IS AS MUCH HISTORY AS I CAN OBTAIN AT THIS TIME. IT MAY BE CORRECT AND IT MAY NOT BE....LIKE ALL OTHERS THAT HADE TRIED, SOME HOLES HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO SHOW UP....AS NO REGULAR HISTORY HAS BEEN KEPT.

(THIS HAS BEEN COPIED FROM A HISTORY TAKEN FROM THE INVERNESS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE....IT HAS THIS NOTATION: ".....EDITHOR'S NOTE: THROUGH THE COURTESY OF MRS. MARY MACRAE OF HOMOSASSA, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNTY"S HISTORICAL SOCIETY, THE CHRONICLE BRINGS THIS STORY OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS.)

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IN THE VERTICAL FILE AT THE INVERNESS LIBRARY, ARE SEVERAL OLD PICTURES OF HOMES, DRAWINGS, AND ARTICLES WITH REFERENCE TO CITRUS COUNTY.

ALSO ON THE WALL BY THE DOOR IS A PICTURE OF INVERNESS TAKEN IN 1927, SHOWING THE TOWN AT THAT TIME.

BOOKS MAY BE BORROWED FROM THE INVERNESS LIBRARY ON CITRUS COUNTY.....JUDGE MAYS "GATORS, SKEETERS, AND MALARY" (VOLUMN 1) AND HIS BOOK "FROM DAWN TO SUNSET" (VOLUMN 2). FILED IN CLASSIFICATION # 917.59 ARE SEVERAL BOOKS ON FLORIDA....AND IN CLASSIFICATION #973 ARE ALSO BOOKS ON FLORIDA HISTORY.

Group File Number: 501.30

Type of Document: Scrap Book

Origin : Family Papers

Spires, Ethel Carrington

MANUSCRIPTS & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: Citrus County Archives

Number of Pages in Original:

Number of Pages Typed: 1 of 3 pages

Cross-Reference Notations:

By:

SCRAP BOOK MEMORABELIA

1- Wedding Announcement of Ethel Ruth Carrington to Richard M. Spires, Hernando, Fl. 1905

2- Typewritten Poem - "Growing Old"

3- From newspaper -
Poem- "Getting into Trouble"
Clipping - "Portraits"
Birthday Card
Poem- "New Leaf"

4- Newspaper Clippings
Poem- "Our Own"
" "Friends"
" "Trees"
" "My Prayer"
" "The Promise"
" "Mothers Friend"
" "Two Quotes"
Poems - "Day by Day"
" "To Old Friends"

5- Newspaper Clippings
Obituary - James Carrington (Father of Mrs. R.M. Spires)
Young pianist Scores Hit at Exchange Club (Elizabeth Cannon - great grandaughter of Mrs. Jas. Carrington)
Bookmark - made by Mrs. Cordero 1881 for Jas. Carrington to give to his fiancee Mrs. Mary Ellen Turnipseed

6- Clipping - "House of Life"

7- Clippings
Poem - "The Very Help"
Prayer
Poem - "How long Shall We LOve"
Wedding Announcement of Staff Sgt Claude H Spires (son of Mr. and Mrs. R.M. Spires) and Olyve Irene Beavers.
Valentine- With Picture of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Spires

Cross Reference Not

8- Newspaper Clippings
Poems- "Twilight Over Tampa"
"Two Hands"
"The Weary Mother"
"On Mothers Day"
"My Mother"
"Unamed"
Christianity's Hope
Picture- Woman with Bouquet of roses

9- Newspaper Clippings
Poems- "Something to You"
"He Depends Upon Us"
"The Common Road"
"Trust and Rest"
"The Secret Place of Prayer"
"Homeward Bound"
A Mothers Love

10-Newspaper Clippings
Poem- "Our Thoughts for the Week"
Card of thanks from R.M.Spires
Empty Envelope

11- Letter to Mrs. R.M. Spires written by her fathers nurse in the "Old Confederate Soldiers Home in Jacksonville, Fl 10/13/18

12- Newspaper Clipping- "I Like the Depression"

13- Newspaper Column by Eleanor Roosevelt
Typewritten note- The Ladies Aid
Birth Announcement- of Millage Carrington to Mr. & Mrs. P.C. Spires of Clewiston, Fl.

14- Newspaper Clippings
Mr. & Mrs. John Brown built new house
Obituary- Rev. Charles Cook of Micanopy
Obituary- Mrs. Margaret Elizabeth Perkins 5/3/59

15- Newspaper Clippings
R.M. Spires, Citrus County Pioneer passes away 9/27/47
Ila May Spears Dies in Hernando 10/27/48
Death Comes to Mrs. W.E. Grono 8/7/58
Poem- "Silent Prayer"

Cross Reference Notes

16- Newspaper Clippings with Pictures
Two year old boy receives dead father's Air Medal (James Patrick Carrington of Tampa)
Missing in Action Sgt. William Carrington

17- Newspaper Clipping with picture
Elaine Carol Spires is bride of R.O. Heavner

18- Newspaper Clpping and picture
Veteran Citrus County Farmer Has November Watermelon Crop (R,E, VanNess 1949)
Poem- "What I Live For"

19- blank page

20- blank page

21- blank page

22- Newspaper Clippings
Poems- "Imperfect English"
"Old Fashioned and Gray"

23- blank page

24- blank page

25- blank page

26- blank page

27- Mementos from New York City
Napkin from N.Y. State Observatory
Paper Coaster from N.Y. State Observatory
Program from "Golden Jubilee

Rest of the book is blank pages but included in the book are the following
Photo- R.M.Spires and Mrs. Ethel Carrington in carraige (Nov. 1904)
Newspaper Clipping with photo- Big Business Enterprize Nets Tuxedo Road Youngster Ten Dollars Judy Carrington 8/20/48
Announcement of Engagement of Miss Alma Schnatterer to Richard Carington*
Photo- Three young men (unidenified)
Newspaper Photo- "Going with the Grain" 7/8/49
Photo of Home taken 11/5/46 (Unidenified)

Handwritten Prayer

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Carrington
of Hendrick, Fla.,
announce the marriage of their
daughter
Ethel Ruth
to
Mr. Richard M. Spires
of Hernando, Fla.,
Sunday, January Eighth, Nineteen
Hundred and Five.

At Home,
HERNANDO, FLA.,
after Jan. 10.

COPY of original in ARCHIVAL storage CCA

(4—404.)

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Homestead Certificate No. 7407
APPLICATION 11672

Whereas There has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Gainesville, Florida, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Richard M. Spires has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the South West quarter of the North East quarter, the South East quarter of the North West quarter, the North East quarter of the South West quarter and the North West quarter of the South East quarter of Section thirteen in Township eighteen South of Range eighteen East of Tallahassee Meridian in Florida containing one hundred and fifty nine acres and eighty four hundredths of an acre according to the Official Plat of the survey of the said Land, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General:

Now know ye, That there is, therefore, granted by the United States unto the said Richard M. Spires the tract of Land above described: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said Richard M. Spires and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In testimony whereof, I, Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the fifth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and fourteenth

BY THE PRESIDENT: Benjamin Harrison

By M. McKean, Secretary.

J. M. Tanner, Recorder of the General Land Office.

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Beq. Mrs. R.M. Spires

HISTORY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA

A LONELY SCOTSMAN, FAR FROM HIS NATIVE HEATH GAZED UPON THE BLUE WATERS OF THE INDIAN-NAMED LAKE TSALA APOPKA AND THOUGHT, "BUT IT LOOKS LIKE INVERNESS, BETWEEN THE HEADLANDS AND THE LAKE" IN SCHOTLAND, AND THIS BEAUTIFUL PLACE DESERVES THE NAME OF INVERNESS."

THIS WAS BACK IN 1889 WHEN A COUNTY SEAT FOR THE NEW CITRUS COUNTY WAS UP FOR VOTE. ACTUALLY, WHEN THE NAME OF INVERNESS APPEARED, IT WAS THE FIRST TIME ANYONE HAD EVER HEARD OF IT. THE LITTLE TOWN ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE COUNTY WAS KNOWN AS TOMPKINSVILLE.

TOMPKINSVILLE WAS NAMED IN HONOR OF THE COUNTY'S FIRST TAX COLLECTOR, DANIEL TOMPKINS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR AFTER CITRUS COUNTY WAS CREATED BY LEGISLATIVE ACTION FROM THE HUGH HERNANDO COUNTY.

BECAUSE THE ROADS WERE VERY POOR, THE LACK OF TRANSPORTATION AFTER THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES WAS A SERIOUS DRAWBACK FOR REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. IN 1887, NICK BARCO OF RED LEVEL AND ALBERT WILLARD OF HOMOSASSA WERE AMONG THE DELEGATES TRAVELING TO TALLAHASSEE TO THE CREATION OF CITRUS COUNTY. THE UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE, AND WILLARD'S ACQUAINTANCE WITH GOVERNOR PERRY, BROUGHT THE BILL FOR THE GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE FOUR HOURS AFTER IT HAD PASSED.

THE NEW COUNTY WAS GIVEN TWO YEARS TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT COUNTY SEAT. IN ORDER TO GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT, THE TEMPORARY LOCATION OF MANSFIELD NAMED IN HONOR OF SENATOR A.S. MANN, WHO HAD SUCCESSFULLY GUIDED THE BILL THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE WAS CHOSEN.

AFTER SIX INDECISIVE ELECTIONS, THE CITY OF INVERNESS WAS CHOSEN AS THE OFFICIAL COUNTY SEAT IN 1891. NOT UNTIL 1889 HAD ANYONE EVER HEARD THE NAME. THE SCOTSMAN HAD DONE HIS WORK WELL.....

THE FIRST MEMBERS OF THE CITRUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WERE J.T. LANDRUM, JAMES BAKER, P.J. PEACHER, O.P. KELLER, AND C.D. CARROLL. TAX ACCESSOR WAS W.H.BROOKS; TAX COLLECTOR (THE DANIEL TOMPKINS MENTIONED); TREASURER, NICK BARCO; ATTORNEY, J.C.PHILLIPS; SURVEYOR, J.T. ALLEN, AND JUDGE J.W.FLEMING.

A SURVEYOR BY THE NAME OF MASON, WHO WAS EMPLOYED AT THE TIME FOR THE FLORIDA ORANGE AND TRANSIT CO. WAS ENGAGED TO SURVEY THE 160 ACRES OF THE ORIGINAL SITE FOR THE CITY OF INVERNESS. THE PLAT WAS BRAWN BY JOHN E. KING OF LE-CANTO, AND FRANCIS M. DAMPIER WAS EMPLOYED TO CLEAR THE SITE. AND SO WAS BORN THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA.

GOSPEL ISLAND, INVERNESS, FLORIDA

THIS ISLAND WAS SO NAMED BECAUSE A GROUP OF MINISTERS FROM THE NORTH CAME HERE AND BOUGHT IT, INTENDING TO BUILD HOMES HERE AND SETTLE UPON RETIRING FROM THE MINISTRY.

+ + + + + +

ABOUT 75 YEARS AGO ONE WANTON K. WEBB WROTE IN HIS HISTORY ABOUT FLORIDA A CHAPTER DESCRIBING HERNANDO COUNTY BEFORE CITRUS COUNTY WAS MADE A SPEARATE COUNTY. DESCRIPTIONS OF TOWNS NOW LOCATED IN CITRUS COUNTY WAS FLORAL CITY, DESCRIBED THUS: SETTLED IN 1883 BY TWO OR THREE FAMILIES, LOCATED THREE MILES FROM WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER ON CHOLO (TSALA) APOPKA LAKE, LATER JOINED BY 30 OR 40 FAMILIES (ALL WHITE) FROM ALMOST EVERY STATE IN THE UNION....REV.E. S. POOSER WAS PASTOR OF THE METHODIST CHURCH, (EVIDENTLY THE ONLY CHURCH THERE). ORANGE GROWING SEEMED TO BE THE CHIEF ATTRACTION. THE FAMILIES MENTIONED IN THE HISTORY WERE W.A. DUVAL, J.W. FLEMING, J.C.CLEMENTS, J.A.HAMPTON, J.H.PYLES AND F.G.POWELL. I AM QUITE SURE MRS. J.E.LIMS IS A DESCENDANT OF J.A.HAMPTON. DUVAL ISLAND, NOW A SCENIC SITE OF HOMES AND ORANGE GROVES BEARS THE NAME OF W.A.DUVAL. A COLLEGE, SOUTH FLORIDA COLLEGE, WAS PLANNED TO BE CHARTERED IN 1885. THE HISTORY GIVES NO FURTHER ACCOUNT OF IT. J.W. FLEMING WAS THE FIRST POSTMASTER. CRYSTAL RIVER WAS DESCRIBED AS A SMALL SETTLEMENT ON A RIVER BY THAT NAME. A BAPTIST PREACHER, W.G.GANES WAS POSTMASTER, IN CRYSTAL

RIVER, POPULATION OF ABOUT 100.

HERNANDO, 25 MILES FROM BROOKSVILLE WAS SETTLED IN 1881 BY E. CROFT, W.G.CROFT, AND DR.E.E. NICKERSON; DESCRIBED AS HAVING ONE CHURCH AND A SCHOOL; THE PRESIDENT OF THE WILMINGTON, COLUMBIA, AND AUGUSTA RAILROAD (MR.E. R. BRIDGES) WAS CREDITED WITH OWNING 800 ACRES OF LAND HERE....AS WAS E.G. (W.) AGNEW OF OCALA. I.D.SPOONER, T. HARRISON, A.D. TOMPKINS AND DUCY & COMPANY. IT WAS ALSO CREDITED WITH ORANGE GROVE ADADEMY WITH A MRS. PERKINS. SOME EARLIER RESIDENTS THAN I MIGHT KNOW ABOUT THAT...I NEVER HEARD OF IT.....

SINCE THERE IS MENTION OF A.D. TOMPKINS, THIS AREA MUST HAVE TAKEN THE PRESENT SITE OF INVERNESS OF WHICH THERE IS NO MENTION MADE. THE PRESENT SITE OF INVERNESS WAS FIRST KNOWN AS TOMPKINSVILLE. I HOPE SOME ONE HAS THE DATE OF WHEN THE NAME WAS CHANGED TO INVERNESS.

HERNANDO WAS SETTLED BY THE CROFTS AND NICKERSONS WHO CAME FROM TEXAS IN 1881. IN 1882 A POST OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED BY W.G. CROFT AND WAS LOCATED AT HIS HOME, SOUTHEAST OF LAKE TSALA APOPKA NOT FAR EAST OF THE PRESENT BAPTIST CHURCH (FIRST BAPTIST). THE MAIL CARRIER WAS NOBE CASON WHO HAS A NUMBER OF DESCENDANTS IN CITRUS COUNTY NOW. MAIL WAS BROUGHT FROM BROOKSVILLE ON HORSEBACK. THE NEXT MAIL STOP WAS CAMP IZZARD ACROSS THE RIVER NEAR STOKES BRIDGE.

MANSFIELD WAS MENTIONED AS BEING MIDWAY BETWEEN CHALO (TSALA) APOPKA AND THE GULF OF MEXICO, 7 MILES FROM THE HOMOSASSA RIVER. STAGE AND RAIL TO JACKSONVILLE FARE WAS $6.00. FARE BY STEAMER TO CEDAR KEYS WAS $2.00. IT TOOK TWO DAYS TO GO TO JACKSONVILLE. IT WAS SETTLED IN 1884 BY CITIZENS FROM 16 DIFFERENT STATES, MAINLY FROM INDIANA. EDWARD BURR WAS FIRST POSTMASTER. MANSFIELD LATER BECAME THE FIRST COUNTY SITE OF CITRUS COUNTY. I AM QUITE SURE IT WAS NAMED FRO SENATOR MANN WHO INTRODUCED THE BILL TO FORM CITRUS COUNTY FROM PART OF HERNANDO COUNTY.

LECANTO WAS SETTLED IN 1882 BY DR. NORTON. AT THE TIME THIS WEBB HISTORY WAS WRITTEN, LECANTO HAD A POPULATION OF 125. A UNION CHURCH (WITH REV. J.B. HARRELSON AS RECTOR), A HIGH SCHOOL (E.A.HARRISON, PRINCIPAL), AND JOHN E.KING WAS POSTMASTER---OTHER RESIDENTS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO OWNED ORANGE GROVES AND FARMS WERE H. B. KING, JOSIAH KING, JOHN A. ALLEN, AND J.J. DAVIS. MANY DESCENDANTS OF THESE PIONEERS ARE LIVING IN LECANTO AND INVERNESS NOW.

MISS MARION KING, DAUGHTER OF JOHN E. KING WHO ONCE REPRESENTED CITRUS COUNTY AS SENATOR, I BELIEVE WAS ALSO COUNTY SURVEYOR.

THE HAIR BROTHERS OF INVERNESS ARE DIRECT DESCENDANTS OF J.B.DAVIS, A MAN WHO COULD HAVE ADDED MUCH TO AN AUTHENTIC HISTORY OF THIS COUNTY, BUT AS THE NEED FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES WAS NOT REALIZED, SO THE NEED FOR AUTHENTIC HISTORY WAS NOT RECOGNIZED UNTIL THE RANKS OF THOSE CLEAR-HEADED RESOURCEFUL PIONEERS BEGAN TO THIN. THE ALLEN FAMILIES, THE KING FAMILIES, THE JOHN BARNES DESCENDANTS AND OTHERS WHOSE NAMES I DO NOT RECALL AT THIS TIME ALL PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTY, GEOGRAPHICALLY....LECANTO IS ALMOST THE CENTER OF THE COUNTY.

THESE WERE THE ONLY TOWNS MENTIONED THAT THEN EXISTED IN THE AREA THAT LATER BECAME CITRUS COUNTY.

-- MY HUSBAND, THE LATE R.M.SQIRES, CAME TO THIS SECTION ABOUT 1880 WITH HIS WIDOWED MOTHER, TWO OLDER BROTHERS AND A YOUNGER SISTER. I THINK THEY SETTLED NEAR STAGE POND. HE WAS BORN NEAR MELROSE, FLA. IN PUTMAN COUNTY, FEBRUARY 4, 1861. HAVING STRUGGLED FOR EXISTANCE THROUGH THE DAYS OR RECONSTRUCTION, THEY HEARD OF THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORK DOWN HERE, AND MOVED BY OX CART IN HIGH HOPES OF BETTERING THEIR CONDITIONS, WHICH THEY DID. SECURING WORK CLEARING LAND AND PLANTING ORANGE GROVES AT A DOLLAR A DAY, AND A DAY;S WORK THEN WAS FROM SUNRISE UNTIL SUNSET, SIX DAYS A WEEK. WHEN HE CAME 21, HE RODE HORSEBACK TO OCALA. HAD HIS FIRST TRAIN RIDE TO GAINESVILLE TO STAKE A CLAIM FOR A HOMESTEAD. THE TRIP TOOK THREE DAYS.

IN TAKING A HOMESTEAD ONE WAS ALLOWED TO STAKE A CLAIM FOR 160 ACRES, THE MAXIMUM LIMIT, BUT MUST IMPROVE AND LIVE ON THE PROPERTY FOR EIVE YEARS BECFORE SECURING FINAL TITLE. HE BUILT A 12 X 18 PINE LOG HOUSE COVERED WITH HAND-ROVE (SPLIT) SHINGLES, WOOD SHUTTERS FOR WINDOWS, CLEARED A SMALL PLOT TO PLANT A CROP. HE ALSO SPLIT RAILS WHENEVER HE HAD NO OTHER JOB. ABOUT 1885 HE MARRIED LEONARAH CLARK, 15 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER OF A HIGHLY RESPECTED FAMILY WHO WERE EARLIER PIONEERS. HE TOOK THIS BRAVE CHILD WIFE TO HIS HUMBLE HOMESTEAD WITH LITTLE MORE THAN FAITH AND DETERMINATION TO START LIFE. ON THEIR WAY, THEY STOPPED IN CRYSTAL RIVER AND BOUGHT SUPPLIES TO THE AMOUNT OF LESS THAN FOUR DOLLARS. TOGETHERY THEY WORKED TO MAKB THE BEST OF WHAT THEY HAD, AND, OF COURSE, SOON HAD BETTER. THE YOUNG WIFE'S DOWERY WAS A FEW HEAD OF RANGE CATTLE WHICH FINALLY INCREASED THROUGH THE YEARS TO SEVERAL HUNDRED HEAD. MARKING AND BRANDING THE CALVES WERE ALL THE CARE THE BATTLE NEEDED. ONE OR TWO OF THE BEST MILKERS WERE KEPT TO PROVIDE MILK AND BUTTER FOR THE FAMILY.

WHEN THE LAND ADJACENT TO THE LAKE WAS BEING OPENED FOR FARMING AND PLANTING ORANGE GROVES, HE WALKED FIVE MILES MORNING AND NIGHT WITH HIS AXE AND DINNER PAIL TO WORK. LEAVING HIS WIFE AT HOME MILES FROM ANY NEIGHBORS, HE WENT TO LAY FENCE RAILS TO ENCLOSE MORE LAND. MOST OF THE RAILS HE SPLIT AT NIGHT BY BOND FIRE LIGHT. I SHOULD HAVE MENTIONED DEFORE THAT HE AND HIS BROTHERS HELPED TO CLEAR THE HOMOSASSA TOWNSITE OF DENSE HAMMOCK AND PALMETTO GROWTH. I DO NOT KNOW THE DATE OF THIS WORK AS IT WAS BEFORE I WAS BORN IN MARION COUNTY. HE TOLD OF THE DELICIOUS OYSTER STEWS THE CREW ENJOYED SATURDAY NIGHTS. THEY GATHERED THE OYSTERS AFTER KNOCKING OFF WORK.

ONCE HE AND A BLACK BEAR HAD A MUTUAL EXPERIENCE OF FRIGHT. WHILE WORKING THERE HE WAS CUTTING UNDERBRUSH, AND THE BEAR WAS IN THE TOP OF A CABBAGE PALM, TRYING TO DIG OUT THE BUD TO EAT. THEY BOTH DISCOVERED EACH OTHER ABOUT THE SAME TIME, AND TOOK OFF IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. HE ALSO HELPED TO CARRY THE CHAIN FOR THE FIRST SURVEY OF THE COUNTY LAND.

I WAS NOT ABLE TO FIND THE DATE THAT CITRUS COUNTY WAS FORMED. ANOTHER COMMUNITY NOT MENTIONED IN HISTORY WAS WHERE THERE WAS A SCHOOL AND A POSTOFFICE. I AM NOT SURE WHO THE FIRST SETTLERE WERE AS THE POSTOFFICE AND THE SCHOOL WERE DISCONTINUED ABOUT THE TIME I CAME TO HERNANDO. THE POSTMASTER'S NAME WAS BROTT AND I THINK THEY CAME FROM MICHIGAN. DUDLEY BROTT WHO WAS BORN THERE LIVED IN HERNANDO UNTIL HIS RECENT DEATH. TWO FAMILIES OF ANDERSON'S W.H. (BILLY) AND HUSTON...THEY WERE ALL NEIGHBORS OF MY HUSBAND AND FAMILY.

THE PRESENT POSTMASTER AT HERNANDO, ALSO MRS. SUSIE MULDROW AND THE SPOONERS OF HERNANDO ARE DESCENDANTS OF "BILLY" ANDERSON. THE SPOONER HOMESTEAD IS PART OF THE CHAPPELS PARADISE COTTAGES. FRED HENSLEY LAKESIDE COTTAGES AND OTHER HOMES ON THE NORTH END OF THE LAKE.

HERNANDO WAS ORIGINALLY A HOMESTEAD OWNED BY A MRS. NICKERSON WHO BARGAINED WITH WEST COAST DEVELOPEMTN COMPANY TO LAY OFF A TOWN SITE. SHE WAS TO OWN EVERY OTHER LOT, THE TOWN PLAT OR MAP WAS RECORDED AT THE COURT HOUSE IN 1891, I BELIEVE IN SEPTEMBER. THIS WAS AFTER THE DISCOVERY OF PHOSPHATE BY ALBURTUS VOGT. ALTHO OTHERS CLAIM TO HAVE DISCOVERED PHOSPHATE BEFORE THIS TIME.

THE STORY TOLD BY SOME PIONEERS IS THAT A DOG DIGGING INTO A GOPHER HOLE THREW OUT ROCKS WHICH LED TO FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND TESTING. THIS WAS BEFORE THE RAILROAD CAME THIS FAR, BUT WITH THE DISCOVERY OF PHOSPHATE, CAMPS OF LABORERS SPRUNG UP ALMOST OVER NIGHT. THE A.C.L. RAILROAD PROMISED THE TOWN IF THEY WOULD BE GIVEN A RIGHT-OF-WAY THROUGH TOWN, AND THEY WOULD ALWAYS MAINTAIN A DEPOT. THIS ARRANGEMENT IS ON RECORD IN THE COURT HOUSE IN INVERNESS, BUT AFTER THE GOOD ROADS AND THE AUTOMOBILES CAME INTO USE, THE RAILROAD COMPANY WAS OPERATING AT SUCH A LOSS THAT NO ONE TRIED TO MAKE THEM KEEP THEIR AGREEMENT.

AT ONE TIME WE HAD TWO NORTH BOUND PASSENGER TRAINS AND TWO SOUTH BOUND TRAINS DAILY WITH SEVERAL FREIGHT TRAINS. THESE WERE DRAWN BY STEAM ENGINES. AT FIRST WOOD BURNERS

WHICH WOULD STOP ALONG THE WAY AND LOAD THE TENDERS FROM WOOD FILLED RACKS BUILT ALONG THE SIDE THE TRACKS SEVERAL MILES APART. KEEPING THE WOOD RACKS FILLED GAVE JOBS TO MANY WOOD CUTTERS AND MEN WITH MULE TEAMS. AFTER WOOD BECAME SCARCE, THE ENGINES CHANGED OVER TO COAL BURNERS, THEN IN RECENT YEARS TO THE DIESEL ENGINES.

THE DEPOT WHICH HAD A LARGE FREIGHT ROOM, A TELEGRAPH, EXPRESS AND TICKET OFFICE COMBINED, HAD A WAITING ROOM FOR THE WHITE AND ONE FOR THE COLORED, PASSENGERS, BUT THERE WERE NO REST ROOMS AND NO WATER. OUTSIDE WAS THE LONG LOADING PLATFORM. THE MAIL WAS HUNG ON A MAIL CRANE AND THE MAIL CLERK REACHED IT BY A SORT OF HOOK ARRANGEMENT.

HERNANDO HAD A POST OFFICE TEN YEARS BEFORE THE TOWN WAS ESTABLISHED. AN ANCESTOR OF THE CROFT FAMILY WAS THE FIRST POSTMASTER AND THE MAIL WAS BROUGHT BY HORSEBACK FROM BROOKSVILLE. THE CARRIER WENT ON TO THE NEXT POST OFFICE WHICH WAS CAMP IZZARD JUST ACROSS THE WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER NEAR THE PRESENT BRIDGE ON HIGHWAY 200. THERE WAS NO BRIDGE THEN SO PEOPLE CROSSED BY FERRY OPERATED BY A MAN NAMED STOKES. AND FOR MANY YEARS THE CROSSING HAS BEEN CALLED STOKES FERRY. I AM SORRY I DO NOT KNOW THE NAMES OF THE FIRST MERCHANT TO COME HERE.

THE FARMERS ALL OVER THE COUNTY SOLD ALL THE PRODUCE THAT IS, VEGETABLES, CHICKEN, EGGS, FRUIT, BEEF, PORK, AND MELONS THAT THEY COULD RAISE. MANY OF THEM SOLD THEIR PRODUCE TO OTHER COVERED WAGONS, USING SCALES AND MEAT KNIVES AS MEASURES....POTATOES AND ORANGES WERE SOLD BY THE PECK AND BUSHEL. THESE PEDDLERS WENT TO THE VARIOUS LABOR CAMPS WHERE LARGE TENTS WERE USED TO SERVE THE LABORERS AS WELL AS TO THE HOUSES. WHAT HAD BEEN BUILT FOR THE SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE PHOSPHATE PLANTS AND THE RAIL ROADS BEING BUILT. ALL LABOR WAS DONE BY HAND. THESE OLDEST PHOSPHATE PITS WERE DUG WITH PICK AND SHOVEL, AND MEN ROLLING THE DIRT OUT IN OVERBURDENED WHEELBARROWS UNTIL A LITTLE LATER MULES AND SCRAPES WERE USED. THERE WAS NO CHILD LABOR LAW THEN AND NO LAW COMPELLING CHILD-

REN TO GO TO SCHOOL. SO MANY CHILDREN DROVE MULES OPENING THE PHOSPHATE PITS.

EVERYBODY HAD LOTS OF MONEY, BUT, AS IS ALWAYS THE WAY IN TIMES OF PLENTY, THEY DID NOT SPEND IT WISELY. THERE WAS MUCH DRUNKENNESS AND GAMBLING ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER LAWLESS ACTS, BUT NOT MUCH STEALING. MRS. NICKERSON DEEDED FOUR LOTS TO THE TOWN HERNANDO FOR A CEMETARY. THIS IS NOT AS WELL CARED FOR AS IT SHOULD BE, FOR HERE RESTS SOME OF THE PIONEERS OF OUR TOWN. AT ONE TIME, THE NEGROES USED THE ADJOINING LOTS FOR BURIAL GROUND, BUT LATER MOVED TO A PLOT ACROSS TOWN. DURING THE EARLY DAYS, THE PHOSPHATE COMPANIES EMPLOYED A NUMBER OF ITALIANS AS LABORERS

THESE ARE NATIVES OF THE ISLAND OF SICILY AND THEIR GROUPS WERE KILLED IN AN ACCIDENT AND THE COMPANY SENT SOME NEGROES TO DIG A GRAVE. THE NEGROES DUG THE GRAVES IN THE NEGRO CEMETARY AS THE SCILIANS HAD ALWAYS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NEGROES. WHEN THE COFFIN WAS BROUGHT INTO TOWN IN A TWO MULE WAGON LOADED WITH FRIENDS, AND THEY FOUND THE GRAVE IN THE NEGRO CEMETARY, THEY FAIRLY WENT WILD AND GOT SHOVELS AND ALMOST GOT IN EACH OTHER'S WAY TO OPEN A GRAVE IN THE WHITE CEMETARY. I THINK THE IRON CROSS THEY PUT AT THE HEAD OF THE GRAVE IS STILL THERE.

MOST OF THE TOWN USED WATER FROM AN OPEN WELL IN THE CENTER OF THE CROSSING OF LAKE AND MAIN STREETS. TRAVELERS WOULD DRAW WATER AND DRINK FROM THE BUCKET. THEN THEY WOULD WATER THEIR TEAM IN A WOODEN TROUGH ALONG SID. OF THE WELL.

I FIRST CAME HERE IN 1902 WHEN THE PAYROLL NUMBERED 2,000 OR MORE. I CLERKED AND HELPED TO DO DRESSMAKING. AT THAT TIME THE READY-MADE DRESSES WERE OF VERY CHEAP MATERIAL AND NO STYLE. WITH EVERYONE MAKING A LOT OF MONEY, WE MADE DRESSES FROM VERY LOVELY MATERIAL.

THERE WAS SO MUCH DRUNKNESS AND SHOOTING NO WHITE

WOMAN OR CHILD WENT ON THE STREETS AFTER THE WHISTLES BLEW TO KNOW OFF WORK IN THE EVENING.

THIS IS AS MUCH HISTORY AS I CAN OBTAIN AT THIS TIME. IT MAY BE CORRECT AND IT MAY NOT BE....LIKE ALL OTHERS THAT HADE TRIED, SOME HOLES HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO SHOW UP.....AS NO REGULAR HISTORY HAS BEEN KEPT.

(THIS HAS BEEN COPIED FROM A HISTORY TAKEN FROM THE INVERNESS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE....IT HAS THIS NOTATION: ".....EDITHOR'S NOTE: THROUGH THE COURTESY OF MRS.MARY MACRAE OF HOMOSASSA, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNTY"S HISTORICAL SOCIETY, THE CHRONICLE BRINGS THIS STORY OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS.)

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IN THE VERTICAL FILE AT THE INVERNESS LIBRARY, ARE SEVERAL OLD PICTURES OF HOMES, DRAWINGS, AND ARTICLES WITH REFERENCE TO CITRUS COUNTY.

ALSO ON THE WALL BY THE DOOR IS A PICTURE OF INVERNESS TAKEN IN 1927, SHOWING THE TOWN AT THAT TIME.

BOOKS MAY BE BORROWED FROM THE INVERNESS LIBRARY ON CITRUS COUNTY.....JUDGE MAYS "GATORS, SKEETERS, AND MALARY" (VOLUMN 1) AND HIS BOOK "FROM DAWN TO SUNSET" (VOLUMN 2). FILED IN CLASSIFICATION # 917.59 ARE SEVERAL BOOKS ON FLORIDA....AND IN CLASSIFICATION #973 ARE ALSO BOOKS ON FLORIDA HISTORY.

Book 026 Page 00769

THE STATE OF FLORIDA, CITRUS COUNTY.

This Indenture, Made and entered into this the 19th day of February A. D., 1907, between R. M. Spires and his wife Ethel P. Spires of the County and State aforesaid, parties of the first part, and R. A. Williams of the same County and State party of the second part;

Witnesseth, That the said parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Twelve hundred and fifty Dollars, to them in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents, do grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said party of the second part, and his heirs and assigns forever, the following land, lying, being and situated in said County of Citrus, State of Florida, to-wit:

The South west ¼ of the North East ¼ and the South East ¼ of the North west ¼ and the North east ¼ of the South west ¼ and the North west ¼ of the South east ¼ of Section thirteen (13) Township Eighteen (18) Range Eighteen (18)

containing One hundred and Sixty acres, be the same more or less, together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging, or in anywise incident or appertaining.

To have and to hold, Said land and premises, with the appurtenances, to the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns, forever. And the said parties of the first part do hereby bind themselves and their heirs, executors, and administrators to warrant and forever defend the title to said premises unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns against the said parties of the first part and their heirs, executors and administrators, and against all persons whomsoever lawfully or equitably claiming or to claim the same.

In Witness Whereof, The said parties of the first part have hereunto set their hand S. and seal S. the date aforesaid.

Signed, Sealed, and Delivered in our presence as Witnesses.

N. King
J. A. Holt

R. M. Spires (Seal)
Ethel P. Spires (Seal)

The State of Florida, COUNTY OF CITRUS, } SS.

I, G. D. Edwards a Notary Public in said county and State, do hereby certify that on this the 18th day of February A. D., 1907, personally appeared before me R. M. Spires and Ethel P. Spires his wife to me well known to be the parties described in and who executed and delivered the foregoing Deed of Conveyance, and separately acknowledged to me that they executed the same for the uses, purposes and consideration therein expressed, and make this acknowledgment to the end that the same may be admitted to record according to law.

And the said Ethel P. Spires wife of the said R. M. Spires being examined by me separately and apart from her said husband, acknowledged that she made herself a party to and joined with her said husband in the execution of said Deed for the purpose of renouncing and relinquishing all her dower, right of dower or separate property in and to the lands therein described, and that such renunciation and relinquishment is made by her freely and voluntarily, and without any constraint, apprehension or fear of or from her said husband.

Notorial Seal

My Commission expires Feb. 11th 1908

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal the date last aforesaid.

G. D. Edwards (Seal)
Notary Public

Filed and Recorded March 6th 1907

Walter F. Allsmock
Clerk of the Circuit Court,

By Mildred E. Summer
Deputy Clerk.

palm water."

Her note of authority was the result of having 41 is widened, according to son, Perl.

Spires had come by ox cart from Putnam County in 1880, bringing his widowed mother, two older brothers and a younger sistar, settling near Stage Pond at Homosassa Springs. Later, he homesteaded land at Hernando, ran a general store and served for a time as postmaster.

When the bride arrived in Hernando, the phosphate industry was beginning to boom.

Later, she wrote of the 2,000 people employed in the burgeoning community, most living in tents — thus creating a demand for all kinds of produce, fruit and meats. She wrote of the children hired to drive teams of mules and of "people who crowded into town, interested only in good wages, not in things spiritual."

Though wages were only a $1 for a sunrise to sundown work day, Mrs. Spires implied they were very good for the times and resulted in "everyone having money to spend." In fact, Hernando at one time had five general stores.

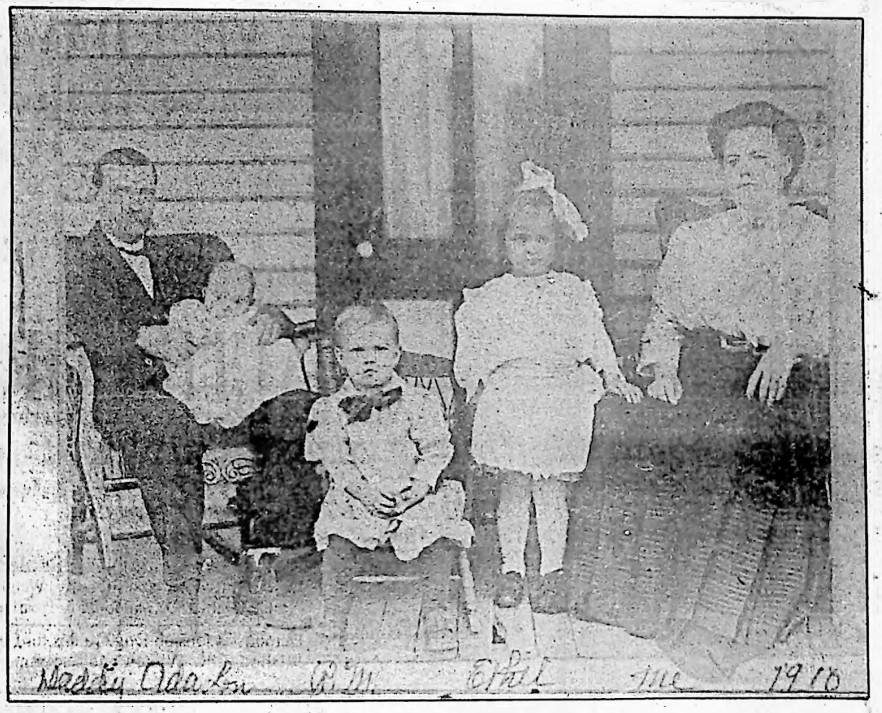
She recorded the names of Hernando's original families from Texas who homesteaded land there in 1881, their plan to plant orange groves. The three homesteaders were Edward Croft who later served as judge and postmaster, his son, William, and Dr. E. Nickerson.

One of Mrs. Spires' subjects was Hernando's first school, a 40x20-foot wood building erected by those called patrons of the school.

She wrote that most of the teachers were just out of school themselves, some of them holding only third-grade certificates. Their salary was $35 a month out of which $10 was paid for board and laundry. The superintendent himself, who walked from school to school, received only $25 a month according to one of her accounts.

Mrs. Spires painted a vivid picture of women's clothes at the turn of the century, pointing out that no respectable lady wore less than three petticoats besides a chimese, and that her drawers came well below the knees.

Please see **SPIRES**, *Page* **2C**



This Spires' family portrait was taken in 1910, showing the Mrs. Richard Milledge Spires and her husband posing on the front porch of the home he built in 1892. Three of their 12 children are gathered about them: baby Ada Lou, Richard Milledge, named after his father, and Ethel beside her mother. Four children are still living, are two residents of Hernando, Perl and his brother, N.B.

SPIRES

continued from Page 1C

"My father thought fashion was the devil," she recalled. "So patterns came from neighbors who secured them from city relatives. They were not mentioned in the family circle."

One of her vivid childhood memories was of the family doctor, who impressed her as he stepped down from his buggy, "looking very tall and dignified in his stiff top hat, black cutaway coat and gray striped trousers."

"In my childish imagination, I was sure the devil looked like him," she confessed, "except the devil had horns."

She described one of his typical visits.

"He would look at the tongue, check the pulse, call for a saucer and some syrup, plus a spoonful of flour. From his black bag he'd take a bottle of quinine, measure a bit into a saucer with some of the flour, mix with the syrup, pinch off a roll, sprinkle the saucer with flour, forming round pills, which he set aside to dry with calomel."

The whole process involved more "sorcery," according to her, and was to be taken in the next eight hours with castor oil.

The Chronicle correspondent recalled scrubbing the pine floors with lye to which soap and coarse white sand were added.

According to Mrs. Spires, the great scourge of the day was typhoid fever and many died from it.

In those days the funeral had to be held the day after the death. Since there were no undertakers, the community turned out to help. One or two prepared the body for burial. Someone built the coffin. Others dug the grave. Clothes to be worn at the funeral were washed and ironed by helping hands.

"Most families," her account stated, "had only one best outfit for such special occasions as church, a funeral or wedding."

In her later years she wrote, "There weren't as many diseases as now. We ate wholesome food which was fertilized by natural organic material. We worked hard,

Women made their brooms from broom sedge in the fall when it was no longer in the growing stage.

felt the need of being clean, went to bed early, started the work day while it was cool and the air fresh.

"We found that you could get as much work done in the early morning as you could in all the rest of the day."

In a later article she admitted that she loved all the modern conveniences, but would love to go back to the time "when breakfast was cooked on a wood stove, dinner was served by lamplight and there would be vegetables grown in a cowpen garden gathered while dew was on them. Cooked with home cured meat, sweet potatoes, corn pone, soda biscuits, home made preserves and boiled coffee for dinner."

"But I confess,"she wrote with humor, "I would end my visit before the old wash board and boiled pot wash day arrived."

Photos of three or four of the good-looking Spires sons can be found in Hampton Dunn's book on Citrus County history, "Back Home, A History of Citrus County, Florida." Two survivors are residents of the Hernando area.

N.B., one of the sons who is now a widower, recently stated that his father disliked his first name, Richard. "Everyone called him by his second name, Milledge."

He spoke of his mother's active role in Hernando's early days. "She was among those who got the PTA started," he said. "She also helped to found the Civic Club and the Methodist Church."

According to him, his father was quite a disciplinarian. "I guess that's why I left home at an early age." he admitted good-naturedly.

His younger brother, Perl and his wife, who lived in southern Florida for many years and who also retired to the family hometown, have a fine collection of Spires photographs, plus the deed to the Spires homestead and other treasured mementos.

He recently spoke of "a little, old mule" his father owned when he was a boy, saying he thought his father had the mule around "more or less to keep us boys off the streets."

When they arrived home from school they had to change their clothes and drive out to some land their father owned.

"We'd work until it was almost dark," Perl recalled. "Coming home, we could lay down in the wagon and that mule would come up to the highway, then stop. If a car was coming, he'd wait until it was safe to cross."

He described how some of the orange trees his father planted from seeds that he and his brothers had saved were recently bulldozed down.

"The freezes had hurt them badly," he said. "Still, they were giants and I hated to see them go."

Like the orange trees, the turn-of-the-century couple who lived to celebrate their 46th wedding anniversary, are now just a memory.

Spires died at the age of 86 shortly after their anniversary gathering. Mrs. Spires who, in her old age was affectionately called "Granny Spires." died at the age of 80 August 19, 1964.

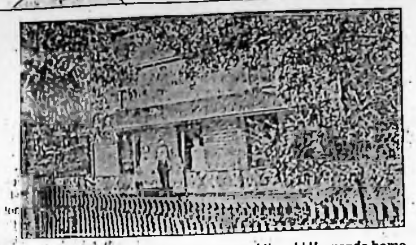
At the time of her funeral Norvell Bryant eulogized her: "She was always ready to lend a helping hand to the civic and spiritual needs of Hernando. She will be missed, but her good deeds and life will live on."

One of those who remembers Granny Spires vividly is Mrs. John Croft whose husband went to school with some of the Spires youngsters and who is descended from Hernando's original settlers.

"I used to have stacks of feed bags I'd share with her," Mrs. Croft remembered. "She'd run them up as aprons and give me half. I think I still have one of those aprons."

The Chronicle correspondent would no doubt be as pleased that some of her handiwork has been saved as she would be upon learning that someone preserved a few of her long-ago newspaper articles.

A look at the early Hernando area from the writings of a Chronicle newspaper correspondent who commented on styles, health and people in the early 1900 s.



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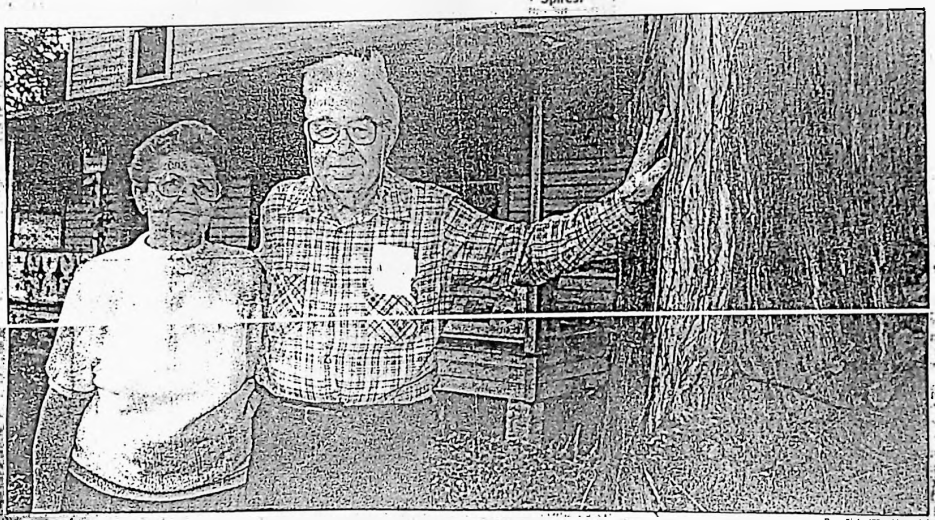

Dave Sigler/The Chronicle

The Hernando home of the century-old Chronicle's first correspondent, Mrs. Richard Milledge Spires, who died at 80 in 1964, is scheduled to be torn down when U.S. 41 is widened. Her son, Perl Spires, and his wife, Nettie, residents of Hernando, stand in front of the old house which brings back many memories of his boyhood.

STROLLING DOWN MEMORY LANE

By Esther Duncan
Chronicle writer

HAVE YOU EVER heard of pot liquor? Mrs. Richard Milledge Spires, the 100-year-old Chronicle's first correspondent, considered it the elixir of life for people around the turn of the century.

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"Then they got the idea of straining baby food, giving mothers more time to feel sorry for themselves or find fault with their lot in life."

Pot liquor was a broth from garden vegetables cooked slowly for a long time. According to Mrs. Spires, it was enjoyed as a pick-me-up by babies, work-weary men and women and school children.

The Chronicle correspondent, who began her career with the paper sometime around 1915 contributed to the paper for more than 27 years, writing disdainfully of the new method of cooking vegetables only 10 or 15 minutes: "The difference between the old and new is that between milk and

played a leading role for many years in the county's Home Demonstration group.

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For Mrs. Spires, no subject was too big or too small. They ranged from such human interest tales as the caretaker to a detailed history of Methodism in Hernando. "My hobby is people," she wrote in an account of her life.

Born and raised on a farm near Ocala, the former Ethel Ruth Carrington married Spires, a widower, in 1905. She raised his motherless children and a family of her own, spending the rest of her days in the same two-story Hernando house. Still

Even as a little girl, Mrs. Spires loved to write, according to her son, Perl, who recalls his mother sitting at the table and writing news items and her tales for the Chronicle when he was just a b

Ethel Carrington Spires

Parents: Mary Ellen Turnipseed
b:
d: 10 Nov. 1907
m: 1882
James Carrington
b: 17 Oct 1838
d: 15 Apr. 1924 Confederate Veterans Home, Jacksonville, Fl

Children:
Ethel Ruth b: 12 Mar. 1884
James G.
Beulah M.
Carrie Richie half sister
Annie Akin half sister
Jessie Turnipseed half brother

Richard Millage Spires
1st wife: Lenora Irene Clark

Children: four, names not known

2nd wife: Ethel Ruth Carrington M: 1882

Children: Ethel Leone (Mrs.W.E.Grono)
Beulah M. (Mrs.John C Brown)
Ila May never married
Lottie (Mr.Clark)
Ada Lou
L.V.
Richard M.Jr.
N.B
Harold W.
Perl
Francis R
Claude H

25 grandchildren, 1 great grand child

Richard Millage B: 14 Feb.Putnam Co D: 28 Sept 1947
bur:Greenwood,Ocala
Ethel Carrington D: 19 Aug 1964

Ethel Spires helped her husband in the post office where he

was
postmaster in Hernando, Fl. They both took the oath of office.
She worked beside him for the first three years of her marriage.
She later worked with him in a general store. For forty years
she was a reporter for the Citrus County Chronicle.

Her many articles were written by hand in a journal style, they
are now preserved in the archives of the Historical Society and
have been transcribed and typed for ease of reading.

The articles are from the founding of towns around Citrus County
to small histories of many of the pioneer families. Phosphate
mining, early postmasters, family doctors to how to make a coffin.

Her articles are fascinating to read and have been put into two
notebooks by the Society.She had much of a hand in the fund raising
for the building of Citrus Memorial Hospital. She helped in the
founding of the hospital auxiliary.

Her participation accounted for the Rebekah Lodge and the First
Methodist Church of Hernando, as well as the Hernando Civil
Club, Inc. She was one of the first officers active in the
founding of the Hernando PTA. She died at the age of 80.

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here at the Crystal River Inn. Mr. Michael spent most of his time on the river fishing while here and caught some wonderful fish. Wednesday of last week he caught three red fish weighing 14, 18 and 20 pounds each, and on Thursday he caught a 26 pound red fish beside a number of other fish.

Miss Thelma Hood spent the week-end in Inverness as the guest of Miss Lena Sassard.

The Woman's club will hold their annual Halloween party at the club house Friday, October 31. There will be fun and stunts for old and young. Be sure to come.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Sirkin of Daytona Beach, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Phil Rubin Sunday.

A. S. King and son of Inverness were here on business Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Waters of Dunnellon, were here Monday.

Letter From Harold Spires, U. S. Marines in China

Shanghai, China,
Sept. 8, 1930.

Dear Mother:

Your letter of August 23rd received and it was the second I have received since I landed. We had a pleasant trip of 75 days so I spent the summer on the water. Our first stop was Port Au Prince where we remained overnight. I didn't take liberty there. Their money is gourds, and five of them are equal to one of our dollars. From there we went to Colon and Crystobal where we stayed overnight and I made liberty. Their money is about the same a ours. The people are black and speak Spanish. The people in Haiti are black and speak French. It took us eight hours to go through the canal and on the other side are Balboa and Panama City, where we stayed three days and two nights. I made two liberties there. The money is the same as ours and there are a good many people from the States in Panama City and Spanish is the native language. From there we went to Nicaraugua, where we stayed a few hours but did not go ashore, then to San Diego, Cal., where we spent the Fourth of July, then to Frisco and Mare Island where we went into dry dock for six days. We went from there to Honolulu for two days. The city had a band to greet us in and to bid us forewell. They played until we were too far out to hear them. There are people from all over the world there but we saw very few Hula Hula people. From there to Guam was our longest trip, ten days' calendar time and nine days sailing time. We went to sleep Tuesday night and woke up Thursday morning. There was a typhoon and we lay out of the harbor for three days before we could go in. We were planning on staying there three days but only tsayed eight hours. It was so rough while we were lying out in the harbor that the ship would go under at the front. The skipper said that we were making 45 foot dips so you know that was some dive. From there we went to Manila where we had planned to stay three days but had to stay six to unload freight. Their pesos are equal to one half of our dollar and if you know what language they speak you can beat me. The people are brown. Our next stop was Hongkong where we stayed ten hours. I didn't make liberty there, and then to Shanghai where I am now and like it very much. The money runs from 2.48 to 4.00 for one of our dollers. They have so many names for their money. The dollars are yens and mecks and they have ten, twenty and fifty cent bills.

Will close for this time. Write soon as it takes from fifteen to nineteen days for us to get mail from the States.

Love,
HAROLD SPIRES,
4th Marines, Co. 19,
Shanghai, China, via Seattle, Wash.

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

1. Who wrote "Crossing the Bar?"
2. What woman spent over $200,000 of her own money seeking election to the senate?
3. In what year was Texas admitted to the Union?
4. What is Mahatma Ghandi trying to bring about?
5. Who was the shepherd boy that became King of Israel?
6. Who is vice president of the United States?
7. When did the United States enter the world war?
8. Who was the founder of the Methodist Episcopal church?
9. What is a submarine?
10. Who was Gene Tunney?
11. What nations are not members of the League of Nations?
12. What is the Dutch greeting?

Answers will be found on page 7.

Pleasant Grove

Mr. Leroy Rooks was a business visitor in Inverness Friday of last week.

Mr. Evan Landrum was a visitor in Inverness Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Rooks are the proud parents of a baby daughter, Wanda Mae, born Saturday night, October 18th.

Mr. Mitchell Langford and family of Tampa, were visitors at the home of W. J. Baker Sunday.

A number of young folks of Pleasant Grove attended a dance at Lake Iolla Saturda ynight.

HERE'S TH

The following, which is
recorded in the office
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We, L. C. Yeomans, acting as Cha
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and as such being and constituting the
that at the Primary election held on t
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ceived two hundred and four (204) v
and two votes (202).

Accordingly we hereby declare a
the nomination of the Demacratic pa
and for said Fifth Conmmissioner's D

Dated at Inverness, Florida, on t

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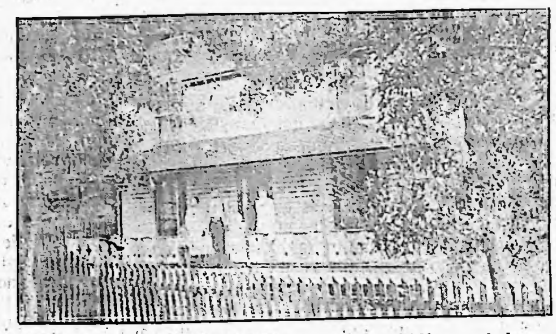
J. K.

Candidate County Com

A look at the early Hernando area from the writings of a Chronicle newspaper correspondent who commented on styles, health and people in the early 1900 s.



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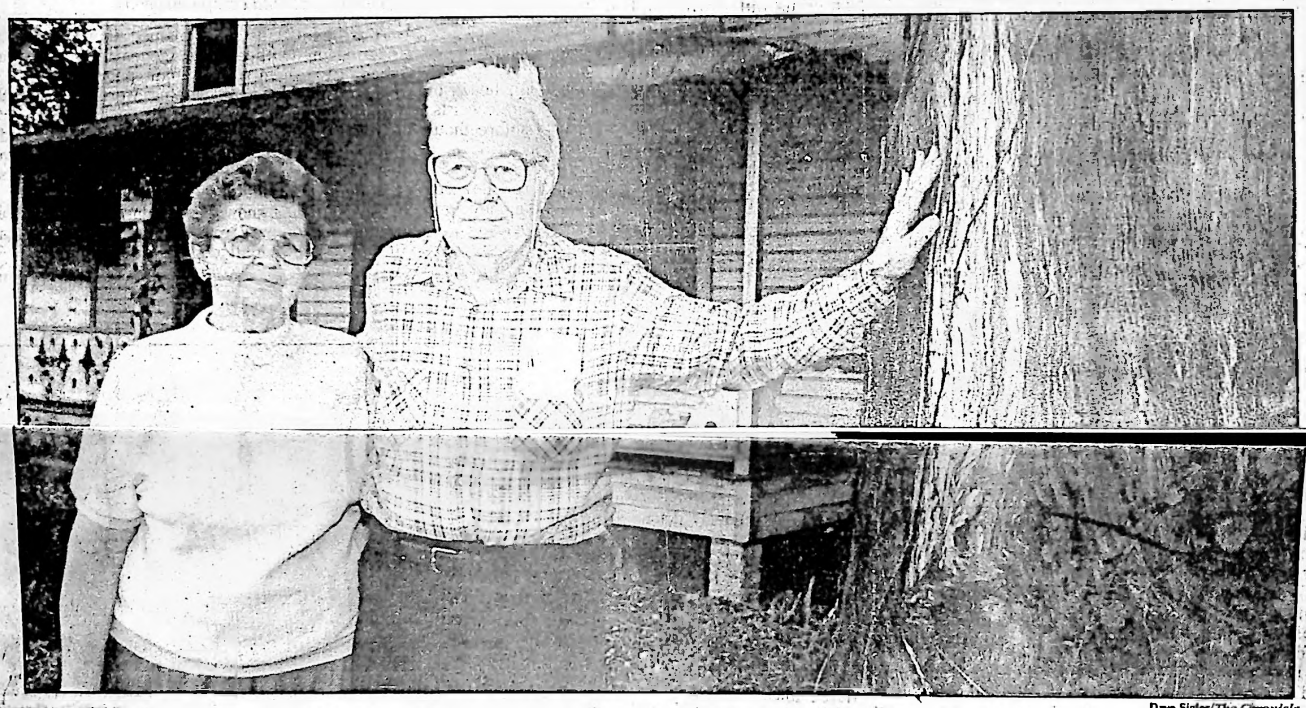

Dave Sigler/*The Chronicle*

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