

# THE DESOTO COUNTY NEWS.

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The News is the Official Paper of the Board of Public Instruction of DeSoto County, also Publishes All the County Commissioners Reports and Proceeding.

## HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK AT SCHOOL BUILDING ATTRACTS

MANY VISITORS AT LAST NIGHT'S SESSION. TWENTY-EIGHT CLUB GIRLS PRESENT, REPRESENTING PRACTICALLY THAT MANY SCHOOLS LOCATED IN VARIOUS PORTIONS OF THE COUNTY. THE GIRLS ARE ENTERTAINED IN THE HOMES OF CITIZENS OF ARCADIA.

### MANY PROMINENT CLUB WORKERS

ARE PRESENT AT THE MEETING. SOME OF THEM OF STATE AND NATION WIDE REPUTATION. THE INSTITUTE IS A GREAT SUCCESS. AND THE LOCAL SCHOOL OFFICERS AND MISS STRIBBLING, THE COUNTY AGENT FOR DESOTO COUNTY, IS TO BE CONGRATULATED ON THE SUCCESS OF THE ENDEAVOR.

One of the most interesting and instructive programs that has been presented to the citizens of Arcadia in a long time was the one last night by the home demonstration workers and the members of the Girls' Canning and Poultry Clubs and Boys' Corn Clubs of the county, at the DeSoto County High School building. A good sized audience was present, and every moment of the time was seen joyfully enjoyed by all.

Prof. Lynch, principal of the DeSoto County High School, presided at the meeting, and he made things go without any loss of time.

The first number on the program was a solo, "Days of Old When Knights Were Bold," sung by Pete McDermott. Pete was in good voice and sang so well that the audience roundly applauded him, and continued at it so long that he was compelled to respond with another song in order to let the program continue.

Captain Lynch then introduced Miss Sherman, district nurse, who made an excellent talk on preservation of the health. She showed the great danger in permitting tubercular children to attend the public schools, and emphasized the fact that the only time to cure children who were thus affected is when they are young. She gave out the astounding figures that medical science states that not fewer than 95 per cent. of the people born into the world at some time or other are affected with tuberculosis in some form. She emphasized the necessity of fresh air, sunlight, and wholesome food for all tubercular patients.

Miss Sherman told the audience what the state is now doing in the way of instruction in these matters of health. There were at first only three nurses working under the authority of state health officer, Porter, but now this number has been increased to twelve regular workers.

Miss Sherman again astounded the audience by saying that it is estimated that at least one person in every three who die from preventable diseases. This in itself appears to be a crime, and should arouse every thinking person to renewed activities and hearty co-operation in every way to help in this great work.

Miss Sarah W. Partridge, manager of the central and eastern counties of the state of the Girls' Canning Club work, was then introduced, and she made many practical suggestions in regard to this work. She told how that only a few years ago, more than 95 per cent. of the canned goods used in Florida were imported from other states. This, however, has now been greatly reduced, and she hoped it would be but a short while until Florida will export canned vegetables and fruits instead of importing them.

Miss McGriff, the home demonstration agent for Manatee county, was introduced as the next speaker. She

## THE ROAD PROPOSITION

DISCUSSED BY "FREEHOLDER," WHO BELIEVES IN A BOND ISSUE, "MOST ASSURELY," BUT BELIEVES THAT CERTAIN WORK CAN BE DONE MORE CHEAPLY BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THAN BY CONTRACT. HE MAKES A "KNOCK OUT" BLOW ON THE SPECIAL TAX LEVY PROPOSITION BY SHOWING THE LOSS ENTAILLED IN THE MURDOCK DRAINAGE PROPOSITION. HIS WORDS ARE WORTHY OF YOUR CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

Mr. Editor: In connection with the many ideas and suggestions in regard to road building in districts of the county not now bonded and building, I have seen none so far that proposes to profit by the experience of our people in this matter—that is, according to my idea, and I am going to add my ideas to the list already submitted, that in the multitude of council some good may be discovered.

In the first place, in considering a special tax district, we should be governed by our experience in this way of doing things, and the only job that the county has tackled by this method, so far, that has been carried anything like to completion, is the Murdock Drainage District.

I noted in the News a few days since that the contract for this work was let at 20 1/2 cents per cubic yard, to be paid for in time warrants, while the bid for cash work was 15 1/2 cents per cubic yard, or an approximate loss of \$8,500 because of having to pay in time warrants, but does this tell the whole story? The county records show that the total estimates for work done was \$107,427.59, while the payments not only include this amount, but \$4,907.84 for crossing railroads, etc. This latter payment was made in the face of the fact that the original contract and specifications included all this work at the one price, the records further show that these payments were made on the O. K. of the Murdock Drainage Committee, by the Honorable Board of County Commissioners. The full amount of the contract price, with a very small exception, was also paid, while the law contemplates a retention of 20 per cent. of the estimates until the work is finally completed and accepted. So, instead of a loss of \$8,500, as indicated in the News, because of the payment for the work in time warrants, you should add the \$4,907.84, which makes a total of \$13,407.84, practically enough to complete the work in the district, which has been suspended for want of funds.

Some might attack blame to the Honorable Board of County Commissioners for the way in which this matter has been handled, but the county records show that they paid no bills except upon the O. K. of the Murdock Drainage Committee, whose duty it was to investigate and pass upon the bills (and if you will investigate still further you will find that all of these concessions were considered necessary in order to get the work done with TIME WARRANTS, therefore, the consequent loss and seeming mismanagement is the result of the system of special tax, rather than of the officials who attempted to do the business of the district under this faulty system.

Many of our people forget that Special Tax is but another form of bonds, as a tax MUST be levied each and every year until the full amount of the warrants are paid, and all work done under this system is governed by the same law as governs work under a bond issue, viz: The work must be contracted, and can not be done by the Board of County Commissioners with day labor, as they spend the general road fund. These being the facts, the principal difference between a bond issue and a special tax district is, with a bond issue the entire amount is issued at one

time, the cash realized thereon, and the work paid for in cash. With the special tax, the warrants are issued as the work progresses, and in payment for the work, and have no definite date of retirement. These are the facts that are considered by the bidders, and the basis on which bids are submitted; therefore, the difference in a cash and a time warrant bid, as evidenced by the Murdock transaction, is easily understood, in the light of this information.

But I promised to give my idea of the best and most economical way to make the improvements desired, in the light of the past experience of the county. You can readily guess from reading the above that I believe that the funds for the work should undoubtedly be provided by a bond issue. Most assuredly, No Murdock Drainage experience for this district, of you please. After the funds have been provided, I favor asking the legislature for a special act, allowing the Board of County Commissioners to do all work, opening up, grading, laying the base of rock, clay or marl, etc.; everything, in fact, except the final surfacing, where other than a clay, rock or marl surface is required, and the building of the concrete bridges to do this, with the machinery and equipment belonging to the district, and with their regular force, with the addition of an engineer to supervise the work.

District I owns sufficient machinery, tools, etc., to do this work in an economical manner, and can get as many contracts as needed to do the work. The commissioner from district four, Major Welles, is one of the most experienced road builders in the county, and has demonstrated his ability beyond question by giving his district a long mileage of good hard surfaced roads with his regular road fund. The entire Board of Commissioners have now had large experience in road construction and, under the arrangement which I suggest, the county would be saved the entire profit of the contractors, and in addition, a large part of his expense in the transportation of machinery, etc., to this section.

Another thing to be gained in this method of construction is the better foundation thus provided for the final surface. Clay and sand can't be packed right off the reel. Time and rain alone can do this thoroughly, and if the commissioners are allowed to build the foundations as suggested, the district will not only secure a longer mileage of hard surfaced roads, but the foundation will have a chance to thoroughly settle before the application of the final surfacing, and the road will be more serviceable.

Concretely put, I favor giving the commissioners the cash with which to build the proposed roads, and then let the commissioners do all the work with their regular force that they can do more economically than by contract. I believe absolutely in the ability and fidelity of the Board of County Commissioners, and they have had the necessary experience to determine whether or not they can build cheaper than a bid offered—in fact, they know what roads should cost, and what materials are best suited to this district. Give them a chance.

FREEHOLDER.

## FARM LOAN BOARD WILL BE IN JACKSONVILLE, OCTOBER 26TH

SENATOR FLETCHER, THE JACKSONVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE W. A. McRAE URGE THE FARMERS AND BUSINESS MEN FROM ALL OVER THE STATE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.

### BOARD WANTS FACTS AND FIGURES

SUCH AS CAN BE FURNISHED ON LY BY REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITIES. JACKSONVILLE SEEKS TO BECOME THE SEAT OF ONE OF THE TWELVE FARM LOAN BANKS, AND EVERY CITIZEN OF THE STATE SHOULD HELP GO TO THIS MEETING IN SUCH NUMBERS AS WILL CAPTIVATE THE FARM LOAN BOARD.

The Federal Farm Loan Board will visit Jacksonville October 26th, and it is desired that the farmers and business men of the state shall meet there on this occasion in great numbers. Jacksonville will leave nothing undone to secure one of these Farm Loan Banks for the state of Florida, and every farmer and every business man in the state should lend his influence to this end. Commissioner of Agriculture W. A. McRae is sending out a circular letter inviting the farmers and business men of the state to come to Jacksonville on this occasion, and it is to be sincerely hoped that there will be a liberal response to this invitation. Mr. McRae's letter is as follows:

To the Farmers and Business Men of Florida,

The Federal Farm Loan Board will visit Jacksonville October 26th, and it is the request of Senator Duncan U. Fletcher, and the Chamber of Commerce of Jacksonville that I urge you to attend what must be a very important meeting.

The Farm Loan Board wants facts and figures about our state, and you can give them, and also tell the distinguished visitors your needs and help them to reach a truthful idea of the condition of affairs of our state. No greater law has been passed in recent years than the Federal Farm Loan Act for farmers and business men who need its assistance most. I assure you that to secure one of these banks for Florida will be a notable honor to our state, give it distinction as a worth while region, and be of untold benefit to our people from a source right at our own doors.

Your attendance at this gathering will be appreciated by all well wishers of our state, by the city of Jacksonville, the host of the occasion, by Senator Fletcher, who deserves recognition for his unceasing activity, and by the Farm Loan Board anxious to meet you face to face, counsel with you and learn your needs.

W. A. McRAE,  
Commissioner of Agriculture.

## SPLENDID OUTING FOR CLUB BOYS AND GIRLS

Furnished By the Boys of the High School Commercial League to the Visitors. Mrs. E. Prouty Gives the Young People a Lecture on Poultry Raising.

Yesterday afternoon the Commercial League of the DeSoto County High School furnished automobiles to convey members of the Girls' Canning Club, the Poultry Club and the Boys' Corn Club, to the country residence of Mr. and Mrs. E. Prouty, near Joshua Creek. The Canning Club and the Corn Club has been organized several years, but the Poultry Club is a recent organization. It is also under the supervision of the Home Demonstration Department of University Extension Work. Miss Floyd is the head of this department, with headquarters in Tallahassee. This promises to be one of the leading factors of the demonstration work, as it has long since been a recognized fact that poultry will be a leading industry in this state some day. Now that the clubs have been formed, watch the poultry interests of Florida increase!

On arriving at the Prouty place, the guests were met at the gate by Mr. Prouty and shown to the rear of the house, where comfortable seats had been arranged in the shade, all facing the speaker, Mrs. Prouty had prepared an interesting lecture on poultry raising, and it was listened to by the young people with profound attention. Mr. and Mrs. Prouty have raised nearly eight hundred chickens in the past year, and only two have died. There are no mites or fleas there, which is an unusual record, and shows Mr. and Mrs. Prouty to be experts in the business. After the lecture the guests were shown around the farm, viewing many things of interest, and especially the Belgian Hares, which are practically unknown in this section. The party returned to Arcadia late in the afternoon, saying they had a good time and were especially grateful to the young men of the High School Commercial League for furnishing the cars in which to make the trip.

Except his daughter, Mrs. E. Collins, Mrs. McDuffie, his wife, died just twelve years ago to the day. Mr. McDuffie was buried Sunday morning at Joshua Creek cemetery, and the funeral services were conducted by Rev. Mr. York, at Mt. Maria church.

## AT LEAST 175 ACRES PLANTED TO VEGETABLES

Of Various Kinds in This Section. If the Weather Continues Favorable, Cukes Should Be Ready for the Market Within the Next Few Weeks. Lack of Moisture Seems to Be the Only Thing Likely to Stand in the Way of a Good Crop. Rains Have Been Plenty Up to This Time, But the Soil Is Now Becoming a Little Dry.

Arcadia is more rapidly becoming a trucking section than many are aware of. According to the latest reports from the two associations of this community, that agreed to cooperate with each other at a meeting held at the court house Tuesday night of this week, it developed that at least 175 acres of various kinds of vegetables have been planted, and practically all of it is looking well.

So enthusiastic are the truckers in the matter that they have decided to build a packing house in this city in the very near future. Young cukes are beginning to form on some of the vines, and if the season continues favorable shipping should begin within a few weeks at most.

### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

A very encouraging meeting of the School Improvement Association was held Monday afternoon in the high school building. More than thirty members were present.

After the usual routine of business was disposed of, Miss Sarah Partridge, district agent for South Florida of the home demonstration department, gave a most interesting and instructive talk on the work being accomplished by this home making branch of education, explaining the origin and object of same in a very pleasing manner.

Other visitors present were Miss Minnie Floyd, poultry club organizer for this section of the state, and Dr. Alexander, of the First Baptist church of this city.

A cordial welcome is extended all visitors and any one who would like to join the association and help build up our school.

The meetings are held the first and third Mondays of each month in the high school building.

B. A. Brown, one of the best known traveling men on the road, is in Arcadia today representing the Tampa branch of the Consolidated Grocery Company.

## SENATOR D. U. FLETCHER WILL SPEAK IN ARCADIA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

ON THE FEDERAL FARM LOAN ACT THAT WAS PASSED AT THE LAST SESSION OF CONGRESS. SENATOR FLETCHER HAD MUCH TO DO WITH THE PASSAGE OF THIS SPLENDID LAW, AND PROBABLY NO MAN IN THE UNITED STATES IS MORE FAMILIAR WITH ITS WORKINGS AND BENEFITS TO THE FARMERS AND GROWERS. COME OUT IN GREAT NUMBERS TO HEAR HIM.

A letter just received by Secretary G. S. Gardner, of the Arcadia Commercial Club, from Senator Fletcher stating that he will be in Arcadia October 28th, and will address the voters on the Farm Loan Act passed at the last session of congress. Senator Fletcher, who had much to do with the passage of this splendid law, knows probably more

of its workings and its possibilities in behalf of the farmers and growers than any man in the United States, and the citizens of Arcadia are fortunate in having him to come here. It will be announced later the exact hour and place the speaking will occur. Tell your friends of this announcement, and let's give the distinguished gentleman a royal reception.

Piano solo, The Conquered Warrior, Virgil; Mrs. W. W. Duke.  
Vocal solo, My Ain Folk; Lemon; Miss Elsie Ridder.  
Vocal solo, Springtide; Becker; Miss Ella M. Polk.

At the conclusion of the program the club adjourned to meet Saturday afternoon, October 21st, at 3:30 o'clock in the Ladies' Friday Musical hall.

ELLA M. POLK, Reporter.

## THE OLD MILLS HOME TO BE CONVERTED INTO APARTMENTS

One of the Landmarks of the City To Be Turned Into a Model Up-to-Date Apartment House By Mrs. Lela A. Royal, the New Owner.

What is known as the old Mills Home, on East Oak street, is to be converted into a model, up-to-date apartment house. This property has recently been purchased from R. A. Mills by Mrs. Lela A. Royal, and a contract has been let to Mr. D. L. Lence, who will begin at once to remodel the house, at a cost of some five or six thousand dollars.

Mrs. Royal believes in Arcadia real estate investments. She has recently had constructed a number of residences on East Magnolia, at a cost of more than \$10,000, besides being the owner of a number of residences near

the city school building. Mrs. Royal knows that all such investments pay good dividends on her money, and believes that such buildings erected in Arcadia under present conditions and under the prospect of her glorious future will be both safe and profitable. The firm of D. L. Lence & Company has done all this work by contract.

JAMES McDUFFIE.

James McDuffie died Saturday, October 14, 1916, at 3 o'clock, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. B. L. Cline, of Arcadia, Fla., after a lingering illness. He was born in Georgia May 15, 1849, and when quite a small boy he came to Florida and has made this his home ever since. He was married to Miss Nancy North, December 4, 1878, and to this union eight children were born.

Following are the children: James D. McDuffie, Winter Haven; John W. McDuffie, Arcadia; Mrs. Ed. Brown, Arcadia; Mrs. B. L. Cline, Arcadia; Mrs. E. Collins, Moffitt; Walter H. McDuffie, Venus; William H. McDuffie, Venus; Robert McDuffie, Venus.

All the children were at his bedside when the death summons came

Reading, The Violin Fantasy; Miss Martha Livingston.