

# The Punta Gorda Herald

PUNTA GORDA — In Tropical Southwest Florida, a Seaport on the Famous Charlotte Harbor — a Town that is Known for its Natural Attractions and the Hospitality of a Cosmopolitan Citizenship

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## AGRICULTURISTS COULD SAVE WHERE THEY HAVE WASTED

### ASHES AS A FERTILIZER

**Certain Potash and Phosphoric Acid—Should be Kept Dry and Not Permitted to Leach**

The farmer who burns wood for heating and cooking should carefully store the ashes and not permit them to leach, as they have a peculiar fertilizing value. They not only contain potash and phosphoric acid in appreciable amounts, but also contain magnesia and lime, and when applied to the land they also act indirectly to increase the available nitrogen content of organic matter in the soil.

Ordinary house ashes contain on the average about 8 or 9 per cent of potash and 2 per cent of phosphoric acid. Investigators have considered that there is enough potash and phosphoric acid in a bushel of ashes to make it worth 20 or 25 cents. Besides that, some 10 or 15 cents additional might be allowed for the "alkali power" of the ashes. This power is that which enables ashes to rot weeds and to ferment peat. The potash content of ashes will be lost if they are permitted to leach, and care should be taken to store them in a dry place.

Wood ashes may be profitably applied as a top dressing to grass land and to pastures, where they will encourage the growth of clover and the better kinds of grasses, which will then crowd out inferior kinds and weeds. Wood ashes also may be used for corn and roots. Because of their lime content they are not so good for potatoes, although sometimes used for this crop.

Ashes from hardwoods (deciduous trees) are richer in both phosphorus and potash than those from pines and other softwoods (conifers). The ashes of twigs (faggots, for example) are worth more for agricultural purposes than the ashes of heartwood taken from the middle of an old tree. In general, the smaller and younger the wood burned the better ashes. The ashes of coal do not contain enough potash to make them valuable in this connection.

The hulls of cotton seed, according to specialists, yield ashes which contain from 18 to 30 per cent of potash and from 5 to 10 per cent of phosphoric acid. Cotton hull ashes therefore as a fertilizer are much more concentrated than ordinary wood ashes. As a matter of fact, in the opinion of some investigators, the ashes from cottonseed hulls contain such a large proportion of potash that they might do considerable harm to certain crops if they were used in large quantities.

These ashes have been used with advantage for manuring tobacco, and have in times past brought as much as \$35 or \$40 a ton in New England. One objection to their use is that they vary widely in composition. At the present time, however, the hulls are used for feed to such an extent that it is difficult to secure their ashes for fertilizing purposes.—U. S. Dept. of Agri. Weekly News Letter.

Greatness is the simplest thing in the world—simple and natural or else it would not be greatness.

It is rather a puzzle as to whether the Allies are saving the Serbians or the Serbians the Allies.

### The County Fair

Arcadia is to have a county fair.—Wauchula Advocate.—No; DeSoto county is to have a fair at Arcadia. Fall in, Bro. Goolsby, and let's make it a huge success.—Punta Gorda Herald. Well said, Bro. Jordan. This is not intended as an Arcadia fair; and if our people take the lead in any way, it is merely because of the fact that we are deeply interested and are rather expected to do so. In fact, it is the expressed desire of Arcadia people that, when the permanent organization of the fair association is perfected, the officers be selected from various sections of the county, so that the people at large will control it and feel that it is altogether a county proposition.—Arcadia Enterprise.

## Gathers Specimens of Many Florida Fish

Hon. John B. Adams, former county judge of Palm Beach county who resigned from that office October 10th, 1914, on account of failing health, has collected and mounted what is probably the largest and most complete collection of common Florida fishes and aquatic animals in the state, the exhibit including fully 250 specimens. Nearly 140 distinct species of fishes alone are represented, in addition to numerous rare and semi-rare species of aquatic animals, plants and curios. Every specimen of fish included in the collection was caught from waters in the immediate vicinity of Stuart.

There are more species of fish represented along the Florida coasts than in any other section of the United States, more than

600 varieties having been classified and recorded. While Judge Adams' collection contains no unusually large specimens, it includes many that are extremely interesting to even a novice in fishdom. The specimens range in size from a four-foot forty-pound barracuda to a tiny two-inch blenny, in shape from the curious looking flying fish to the repulsive octopus or devil fish, from the tiny porcupine to the deadly stingray, from the mythical sea horse to the funny looking rabbit fish, and from the powerful electric shocker to the elusive ink fish.

The star-gazer represents the rarest species in the collection. This specimen measures about ten inches in length, within five

(Continued on last page)

## INTERESTING FACTS DEVELOPE IN SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS

### Hall of Fame

"Who is the greatest living Floridian?" asks Powell of the Clearwater Sun. Male or female? Clearwater Sun. Male or female?

That's easy, just ask Frank Huffaker of the Tampa Times and hear him whisper "Parktram-mell" all in one word, only Frank won't spell it that way. But if you want the real answer get Judge Benjamin Harrison, the "J" editor of the Times-Union to tell you. He knows, for he has been keeping tabs on 'em for lo, these many years. His answer will be Judge P. W. White of Quincy, and that answer will not be far from the mark.—Tallahassee Record.

Only twenty-three days till Christmas.

### ANTIQUITY OF FLORIDA

**Discovered by United States Geological Survey to be Older than has Been Supposed**

For many years the origin of the peninsula of Florida has been the subject of speculation among scientists. Some sixty years ago the great naturalist Louis Agassiz advanced the hypothesis that the greater part of the peninsula had been produced during comparatively recent times by successive growth of coral reefs along its southern margin, which has thus been extended farther and farther into the waters of the Gulf. A few years later Joseph LeConte restated this view of the organic origin of Florida and suggested that the work of corals has been largely supplemented by mud and other sediments dropped by the Gulf Stream.

This hypothesis was generally accepted as correct for many years, but in 1881 Prof. Eugene A. Smith discovered that the greater part of the peninsula of Florida is underlain at no great depth by limestones which are not the work of corals and which were formed long before the Recent epoch.

For the last 34 years these fundamental rocks of Florida, often called the Ocala limestone, have been thought to be nearly equivalent in age to the Vicksburg limestone of Mississippi and Alabama and have been called the Vicksburg group. A short time ago C. Wythe Cooke, of the United States Geological Survey, discovered that the Ocala or so-called Vicksburg limestone of Florida contains many fossil remains of sea shells of the same species that occur in the marls near Jackson, Miss., and that are known to have become extinct before the rocks at Vicksburg were deposited. It therefore appears that the Ocala limestone is of about the same age as the Jackson formation and is considerably older than has heretofore been supposed. Instead of being of recent origin, as was thought by Agassiz and LeConte, the Floridian plateau was in existence during the Eocene era—probably two million years ago.

A copy of Mr. Cooke's paper on the age of the Ocala limestone (Prof. Paper 95-1, U. S. Geol. Survey) which is technical and intended mainly for the use of professional geologists, will be sent free on application to the Director, United States Geological Survey.

Booker T. Washington is dead, and it is significant of that true appreciation of honest worth in our country that men of all colors, religions and regions of a-bode paid tribute to his memory. The Southern people especially are in a position to appreciate his work in aiding the negro to become valuable in his occupation of making a livelihood rather than rousing foolish and impossible ambitions.—Sarasota Sun.

Norris City, Ind.—Queer things are sometimes found in a coal mine. Recently a miner dug out a piece of slate which looked like a shoe sole; even the sewing on the edges appearing perfectly. Not long ago another miner found a perfectly formed spinning top, made of slate.

## GOING RIGHT ALONG WITH THE MAKING OF GOOD ROADS

Secretary A. B. Tucker of the bond trustees of the Punta Gorda special road and bridge district, who also is road overseer in commissioner's district No. 3, makes an interesting report on the financial condition of the special district and the work that has been done on the Dixie Highway and the other roads provided for in the territory coming under his jurisdiction.

A large amount of work has been accomplished and of the moneys of the bonded district there is yet available, after deducting what has been derived from tax assessment for the sinking fund, \$183,252.56, from which it is apparent that the funds are being judiciously handled and made to go as far as possible in carrying out the project. It is to the credit of those having to do with the handling of these funds that they are proceeding cautiously in the endeavor to make the money hold out and build all the roads and bridges that were originally specified and at the same time get the most thorough work with every adjunct thereto that will tend to prolong the life of the roads and keep the cost of maintenance down.

Commissioner Whitten, in so far as in his official capacity and in personally rendering engineering services, has directed his efforts along these lines and he has accomplished a good work. In keeping with his ideas, the drainage problem has been worked admirably, and other tasks tending towards economy accomplished. The work of Engineer Banister in his handling of some of the details has proven very valuable.

The funds that were originally available, had the expenditure and construction work been done the same as in other bonded areas in Florida, would not have paid for anything like all the roads and bridges as were specified.

It is also to the personal credit of Commissioner Whitten and Bond Trustee Tucker that an auxiliary of the Dixie Highway, which is bound to become the main thoroughfare, has been brought through this district. Mr. Tucker, in his own language, says:

"The Dixie Highway is well under way in the third district. The road has been widened from Punta Gorda to near Nocatee to a uniform width of 40 feet, ten new culverts have been put in

and approach fills made, the Shell creek bridges have been repaired with about 20,000 feet of heart lumber and twenty-two new piling driven, and the fill across Shell creek marsh was raised about fourteen inches and has

been given a coat of shell for hard-surface 12 feet wide by 8 inches deep, and this shell work is being extended on across the sandy country near the creek.

"This road from Punta Gorda to near Ft. Ogden has been thor-

### Road and Bridge Funds

A condensed report of the condition of the Punta Gorda Special Road and Bridge District of DeSoto County, Florida, up to and including October 31st, 1915 showing all money received and paid out.

Money Received		Money Paid Out	
Bonds sold	\$200,000.00	For material, engineering and other work	\$ 10,793.91
Premium on bonds	575.00	Interest on bonds	8,813.31
Interest on deposits	3,020.44	Certificates of deposit	185,000.00
Tax assessment for sinking fund	11,261.41	Punta Gorda school warrants bought	735.66
		Cash in banks	9,513.97
Total	\$214,856.85	Total	\$214,856.85

I, A. B. Tucker, secretary of the bond trustees of the Punta Gorda Special Road and Bridge district, do hereby certify that the above statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

A. B. TUCKER, Secretary Bond Trustees.  
Sworn to and subscribed to before me this 29th day of November, 1915. (Seal) W. R. DeLOACH, Notary Public.  
My commission expires June 5th, 1917.

## Gilchrist as a Campaigner

I saw him last week in the court house yard in Crawfordville, a singular giant in his gray, shapeless clothes, handing to the citizens his large sheet of paper on each side of which is printed his appeal to the voter. His clothes are not stylish. There is no particular style to his written appeal. For example, he uses the quotation, "It is good to have a giant's strength but it is tyrannous to use it like a giant," only he substitutes the word "villainous" for tyrannous. That error makes no special difference to him. It interests him as little as the discovery of the New York papers that he did not have his trousers creased. You will recall that he won the Governorship partly by a distribution of post-cards on which appeared the three sacred monkeys of Asia and bearing the inscription that one should hear no evil, see no evil speak no evil.

There is something unemotional about him like Asia. His face has the passivity of the face of a god carved generations before Confucius on a mountain wall at the head of a valley a few days journey north of Tibet.

Once we had nominations by conventions. As he has no style

of soul he could not have captured a convention. Now we have nominations by primary when the candidate never sees the men who cast the deciding vote. The mass of invisible ghosts who vote in the primary from Escambia to Nassau and from Nassau to Dry Tortugas, are level and vast like a plain in China, and along comes this singular gray giant with tiny showers of little coins and queer diminutive recipes for cooking rice, and tags the memory of the voter with helpful mottoes taken over Florida silent as a fog and as frictionless.

There is Bryan secretly fought by all of Fletcher's intelligent partisans, and handicapped by the orthodox American hostility to one community hogging all the representatives, and opposed by all of the Cats following—I am not voting for Gilchrist, but I prophesy that he will be second man, if he is not the winner.—C. H. B. Floyd of Apalachicola, in Tampa Tribune.

Many a man who is regarded as a sagacious money-maker marries a woman whose ambition is to see that none of that money remains idle.

oughly drained and the dirt from the ditch will complete the grade for the road, in all about eight miles of drain.

"Alligator creek road and Aelie loop have been widened or opened up to widths of sixty and forty feet. The Aelie loop is practically all graded and ready for hard-surfacing, and part of the culverts are in.

"From Aelie the Dixie Highway has been grubbed through to the Lee county line via Willow Pens and Marlboro, and all trees and brush are out, excepting a long about four miles. This necessitated clearing through twenty-three miles of unbroken timber land and the making of the road for this distance forty or more feet wide. Within a very short time, this part of our road system will be ready for traffic and a through route to Fort Myers will be opened.

"In addition to this, fills, bridges and culverts have been put in on other routes, and all of our 117 miles of bond roads have been cleared and grubbed, excepting about sixteen miles where stamps are yet to be pulled.

"Over two miles of ditch has been opened on the Bermond road, and various shell and marl pits have been located and opened for work. The grader and tractor are doing splendid work, making good progress.

"Survey and plans for asphalt paving on two principal streets of Punta Gorda have been completed, and the council of the city asked to approve and provide for construction, but no action has been taken to date."

Thus, it would seem that in road matters things are moving along nicely and satisfactorily. While the work may not have progressed as rapidly as some would like for it to have done, the cautious, thorough and economical manner of its prosecution appear to justify the deliberation with which those who have had it in charge have proceeded. It may be stated that in due time the system of roads in the Punta Gorda special road and bridge district will be completed, and that for roads constructed of similar materials and at the same cost there will be none in the state to compare with them.

The man who is not afraid to face danger must also take the necessary precautions to escape or he won't face many of them.