

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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MYSTERIOUS AEROPLANE

Passed Over Punta Gorda Early Sunday Morning

WAS GOING TOWARD TAMPA

Observed by Town Marshal J. H. Lipscomb and Constable Leslie Lewis—Was Seen also by People at Tarpon Springs

About 1 o'clock, Sunday morning, Town Marshal J. H. Lipscomb and Constable Leslie Lewis were coming to town in an auto and, when within a mile of Acline, a large air-ship flying about a mile high and heading in the direction of Tampa, passed to the westward of them. It was showing two big, bright lights and their engine occasionally emitted sparks. It kept an even keel and flew in a direct course.

The noise made by their auto prevented the gentlemen from hearing the buzzing of the air-ship's propeller. This is all the account they could give of the mysterious object, which they are sure was an aeroplane of some kind. It could not possibly, they say, have been a meteor, ignis fatuus or a balloon set free with lights attached to it.

P. S.—Since the above was in type, The Herald's scientist has come to the conclusion that the supposed air-ship was merely the reflection in a lunar mirage of the gentlemen's auto. The moon was shining brightly and it could, therefore, easily reflect the lights of the auto on the mists arising from the bay. Atmospheric conditions were just right for such a phenomenon.

Wonderful mirages have been seen here in the day time, and it should not be doubted that they are sometimes created by the reflected and refracted rays of the moon.

Another P. S.—Capt. Lipscomb insists that it could not possibly have been a mirage, because the air-ship passed directly across the path of his auto, and he was able to see the great bulk of the plane as it passed. That he was not deceived, that it was really an air-ship of some kind, is now confirmed by people who saw it passing over Tarpon Springs about an hour after it left this locality.

The following is the report from Tarpon Springs, which is taken from the Tampa Times of Tuesday evening:

Tarpon Springs, Aug. 15.—J. A. Whitehurst, night marshal here, Lewis Gaines, assistant night marshal, and others, saw an aeroplane over Tarpon Springs between 2 and 3 o'clock Sunday morning. The machine was distinctly seen, flying sufficiently low so the exhaust of the engine could be heard, though it was not near enough to the men on the ground to decide what type of machine it was.

They were first attracted by the sound of an engine apparently above their heads, and then as the machine approached made out the location of the machine. Once found, it was easily visible, and then suddenly the beam of a high-powered searchlight appeared. The light, switched on, played on houses and other objects about Tarpon Springs as the machine kept on its course in the general direction to Tampa.

In addition to Whitehurst and Gaines, officers who were on duty at the time, a number whose attention was called joined the group in watching the aeroplane until it passed from sight. Among those who declared they had seen the aeroplane today were George Harshaw and Claude Barnhill, both of this city.

Losses Through Lack of Birds

Scientists have determined by careful computation, study and investigation that the farmers and fruit growers over this country are losing over \$1,000,000,000 a year by reason of the reckless and senseless destruction of birds during the past thirty years, says Colonel G. O. Shields.

The cotton growers of the south are suffering a loss of \$100,000,000 a year by reason of ravages of the boll weevil, an insect that bores into the cotton boll and kills it. Why? Because the quails, prairie chickens, meadow larks and other birds, which were formerly there in millions, have been swept away by thoughtless men and boys.

The grain growers are losing over \$1,000,000,000 a year on account of the work of the chinch bug. They are losing another \$220,000,000 on account of the work of the Hessian fly. Both of these are very small insects, almost microscopic in size. It takes 24,000 chinch bugs to weigh an ounce, and nearly 50,000 Hessian flies to weigh an ounce.

Scientific men announce that there is no way on earth by which these insects can be destroyed except for the people to stop the killing of the birds, absolutely and at all times, and let them come back and take care of the insects.—Our Dumb Animals.

Now a Money Crop

Black-eyed peas may now be considered one of the "money crops" of Florida. About a year ago the Jacksonville Wholesale Grocers Association became aroused on the subject of the large sums, \$500,000 to \$1,000,000, which annually were sent out of the state for that nutritious article of diet. That body proceeded to investigate. The attention of the Times-Union was drawn to the subject of this economic waste and on the last Sunday in August an article appeared in our local columns which gave the contents of a letter from an expert of the national agriculture department telling how the Florida black-eyed pea may be saved from the ravages of the weevil which rendered the Florida product commercially worthless.

Now we learn that the association took steps to increase the supply from this state and to put into effect this expert's advice. The result is that the crop of this state, duly kiln-dried at a degree of heat that kills the weevil and its eggs but low enough to leave the germ of the pea unharmed, is passing into interstate commerce. This was successfully done at a kiln established at Gainesville for the purpose. The process made them as fit for storage as the California product, which is standard.

To increase the supply the Jacksonville Wholesale Grocers Association has furnished with seed all Florida farmers who would agree to raise the black-eyed peas, promising to buy the entire crop at a minimum price of \$2.50; or pay the market price should it go above that figure. The price did go above that minimum by 35 cents and the members of the association kept their word by paying \$2.85 per bushel.

Thus the wholesale grocers are cooperating disinterestedly with the farmers of Florida in producing a crop which is said to be rather superior in quality to that of California. It is a crop, too, which responds generously to proper cultivation in both amount and quality. There is no other edible legume which quite equals it in the amount of both protein and carbohydrates it contains, unless it be the soy bean so popular in Asiatic countries. The popularity in the Southeast of this American product is shown by the fact that in some seven years ago the price had risen from one dollar below to one dollar above the price per bag for Lima beans or pea beans.

There is nothing of profit to the wholesale grocer in preferring to deal in the Florida rather than in the California product. It is an evidence of their interest in conserving and developing the resources of Florida.—Florida Times-Union.

"Three cheers for the motor car," says an Oklahoma paper, which also adds: "And three cheers, along with the others, for the faithful horse, upon whom so many of us find ourselves so largely depending."

It's all up with an aviator when he tumbles down.

August Meeting of the County Commissioners

The county commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 7th, with Chairman L. W. Whitehurst presiding, and the following commissioners present: W. M. Whitten, W. G. Wells, D. L. Skipper and John Hagan.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Notary bond of H. M. Alexander, with J. F. Christolm and Geo. S. Williams as sureties was approved.

Commissioner Whitten presented the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, that the Honorable Secretary of War be, and he is hereby requested to grant a permit for the following change in the plan of the Peace River bridge at Punta Gorda, a permit having been granted for the erection of same on July 12th, to-wit: the substitution of causeways or embankments confined by retaining walls, for trestle approaches, said causeways to extend from shore line out to about the contour line of three feet depth at low tide."

Moved and carried, that the Comptroller be requested to permit Minnie V Van Camp to redeem lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, block 10, Solana, at a valuation of \$200, the assessed valuation being considered excessive.

Moved and carried, that the Comptroller be, and he is hereby requested to permit Minnie V Van Camp to redeem lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, block 10, Solana, at a valuation of \$200, the assessed valuation being considered excessive.

Tax collector, treasurer and sheriff filed their reports.

Firccarms bond of R. S. Keen, with H. R. Samuels and A. J. Kinzel as sureties was approved.

The hour having arrived, bids to furnish approximately 3300 cubic yards of marl or shell for the Charlotte Harbor Special Road and Bridge District were opened.

Moved and carried, that the bid of Cornwall Construction Company for furnishing approximately 3300 cubic yards of marl for hard-surfacing road No. 2 of the Charlotte Harbor Special Road and Bridge District at \$1.15 per cubic yard, be accepted, the same being the lowest bid offered, and that the attorney for this Board be, and he is hereby directed to prepare the necessary contract and bond.

Moved and carried, that the bond and contract of the W. P. Kennedy Construction Company, for the construction of roads in Special Road and Bridge District No. 5 be approved with the proviso that the bond be made "for the use and benefit of Special Road and Bridge District No. 5."

Moved and carried, that the bid of E. Carlton, for furnishing hard-surfacing material for divisions 15 and 16 of the Punta Gorda Special Road and Bridge District at 89 cents per cubic yard for division 15, and at \$1.19 per yard for division 16, be accepted, the same being the lowest bid, and that the attorney of this Board be, and he is hereby directed to prepare the necessary contract and bond.

Tuesday, August 8th, 1916

Moved and carried that the Comptroller be, and he is hereby requested to permit J. D. Nolin to redeem the northeast quarter of southeast quarter, Section 35, Township 35, Range 23, and the northwest quarter of southwest quarter, Section 36, Township 35, Range 23, at a total valuation of \$800, the assessed valuation being considered excessive.

John Howland was placed on the pauper list at \$5 per month.

The bond of S. T. Langford, Supervisor of Registration, with W. W. Langford and W. H. Seward as sureties, was approved.

The widow's pension claim of Sarah H. Bethea was approved.

Notary bond of Sumter Leitner, with W. E. Leitner and Geo. Leitner as sureties, was approved.

The hour having arrived, bids for clearing and grubbing road No. 1, of the Charlotte Harbor Special Road and Bridge District were opened.

Moved and carried that the bid of S. McG. Carraway to clear and grub said road for \$160.50 per mile, as per specifications, be accepted, with the proviso that the work be completed by Dec. 1st, 1916, the same being the lowest bid offered.

A petition signed by Willie Williams and six others, asking that an election be called to permit the qualified voters of the territory described to vote upon the proposition to form a Special Tax Road and Bridge District of the said territory. Same was placed on file and Commissioners Welles and Whitten were appointed a committee to ascertain if the petition meets with the legal requirements.

Four petitions of the same tenor and date, and signed by J. W. Whipple and 69 others, asking that an election be called to vote upon the proposition to form a Special Road and Bridge District of a part of Commissioners District No. 2, were placed on file and Commissioners Hagan and Skipper were appointed a committee to ascertain if same meets with the legal requirements.

Notary bond of B. H. Mobley, with United States Fidelity & Guaranty Co. as surety, was approved.

The report of Otto Gotfried and J. W. Greene, marking out the following road, viz: "starting at the center of west line of Section 5, Township 41 south, Range 20 east, thence northeast to intersect the Englewood-McCall public road about 1-4 mile west of Oyster Creek bridge, distance about 1 mile," was received, placed on file, and the same declared to be a public road.

Wednesday, August 9th, 1916

Mrs. Rosa Didden was placed on the pauper list at \$5 per month.

The blazer's report of Edw. A. Stoll, D. S. Decker, and Rupert M. Graham, recommending a road as follows, to-wit, "beginning at the southeast corner of Section 16, Township 40 south, Range 26 east, thence north on section line three miles to the northeast corner of Section 4, same township and range," was accepted, placed on file, and the same declared a public road, said road to be 40 feet wide.

Moved and unanimously adopted, that "It is the opinion of the Board that it would be to the best interests of DeSoto county for all supplies used by the county officers to be bought through the Board of County Commissioners of DeSoto County; therefore,

"Resolved, That in the future, all supplies for county officers, or to be used about the county buildings be bought only by said board through its finance committee."

Mrs. Gertrude Dierdorf was placed on the pauper list at \$10 per month.

The application of Mrs. Sarah Hagan for a pension was duly approved.

James Dees was placed on the pauper list at \$5 per month.

Moved that the account of L. Grady Burton in the sum of \$100 for services rendered in validating the Arcadia drainage bonds be allowed and the clerk instructed to issue warrant therefor. Upon motion being put to a vote there appeared to be a tie and the chair ordered that the roll be called, which was done with the following results:

L. W. Whitehurst, yes;

W. G. Wells, yes;

D. L. Skipper, yes;

John Hagan, no;

W. M. Whitten, no.

The chairman thereupon announced the motion duly carried.

The hour having arrived, bids for furnishing approximately 15,000 tons of Brewster gravel or its equivalent for Special Road and Bridge District No. 1 were opened.

The bid of the Amalgamated Phosphate Company agreeing to deliver Brewster gravel to the following places at the prices named, to-wit:

Per ton of 2,000 pounds f. o. b. cars at Fort Green, 80 cents.

Per ton of 2,000 pounds f. o. b. cars at Fort Green Springs, 85 cents.

Per ton of 2,000 pounds f. o. b. cars Ona, 85 cents.

Was accepted, with the proviso that this board have the right to curtail the amount used as seems best in their judgment.

The following resolution was duly made and carried by the Board of County Commissioners of DeSoto county in regular session on the 9th day of August,

Whereas, The assessment of the property both real and personal in DeSoto County, has been reviewed and equalized; and

Whereas, The amount of money to be raised by taxation by each county fund has been ascertained;

Now, therefore, resolved, by the Board of County Commissioners of DeSoto County, that under the authority vested in them by chapter 6941, acts of 1915, of the laws of Florida, the following tax shall be levied, for the respective purposes, for 1916:

General revenue fund, 4 1-2 mills.

Road fund, 8 mills.

School fund (general) 7 mills.

Special for indebtedness, 2 1-2 mills.

Special road and bridge district No. 1, for interest and sinking fund, 17 mills.

Special road and bridge district No. 5, for interest and sinking fund, 23 mills.

Punta Gorda Special road and bridge district for interest and sinking fund, 7 mills.

Charlotte Harbor special road and bridge district, special tax, 12 mills.

County license to be 50 per cent. of the state license on the various occupations so taxed.

Whereas, The Board of County Commissioners of DeSoto County, Florida, did by resolution, adopted at its meeting held the 29th day of December, 1915, authorize the signature and delivery of Murdock Drainage District Bonds in the sum of one hundred thousand dollars each dated September 1st, 1915, bearing interest at six per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually, maturing five thousand dollars of said bonds on September 1st, 1918, and five thousand each successive year up to 1925, inclusive, and six thousand dollars each successive year thereafter, until the said total sum be paid; and,

Whereas, The said bonds have been sold and delivered to the purchaser as specified in said resolution, adopted December 29th, 1915; and,

Whereas, This Board of County Commissioners was, by chapter 7000 of the acts of 1915, authorized to provide for the payment of interest on the said bonds, and to create a sinking fund for payment of principal on said bonds, as and when the same shall mature, by levy of an annual assessment on the lands in the Murdock Drainage District;

Now, therefore, Be it resolved, By the Board of County Commissioners that an assessment of 60 cents per acre be, and is hereby assessed and levied against the lands in the Murdock Drainage District, in DeSoto County, Florida, for the taxes of 1916, and the assessor of the taxes for the county is hereby directed and authorized to make said assessment.

Upon motion of D. L. Skipper, seconded by John Hagan, the foregoing resolution was put to a vote of the County Commissioners. D. L. Skipper voted yes, and John Hagan voted yes, and W. M. Whitten voted no. The chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly adopted.

First class hay tops the market. Such hay must first of all be true to name, be of good quality, pea green, possess a good aroma and have a large percentage of leaves to stem. Hay that has more than five or ten per cent of foreign materials, such as crabgrass, cannot grade first class.

No doubt about the Austrian armies being mobile.

CONTINUE TO MAKE GAINS

In Their Campaign Against the Austrians and Germans

CLAIMED BY THE RUSSIANS

Germans Retake Trenches Which the British Captured Sunday and Report the Sinking of Fifteen of Their Enemies Ships

London, Eng.—The Austrians and Germans in Galicia are still falling back before the advance of the Russians, who, according to Petrograd, have made additional gains along the Sereth and Zlota-Lipa Rivers, and have captured the strongly fortified town of Tustobaby, northwest of the Dniester. On the upper Sereth, however, the Teutonic Allies at some points on their newly chosen line, are holding back the Russians with a vigorous artillery fire.

Berlin says that south of Brody in the Lub and Graberka sector, Russian attacks were put down with heavy losses, and that Russians who have penetrated positions on the Zboroff-Konjuacy line, northeast of Tarnopol, later were driven out and 300 of them taken prisoner. According to Vienna, a Russian attack southwest of Podkamen, near Brody, ended with the field before the Austro-German position covered with Russian dead.

No change took place Monday along either the British or French lines in France, bad weather hindering the operations, which were confined almost exclusively to artillery duels. According to Berlin the British have been expelled from trenches over a front of 700 yards southwest of the Thiepval-Pozieres sector, which they occupied Sunday.

On the Isonzo front, according to Rome, the Italians have made still further advances against the Austrians along the Carso Plateau and east of Hill 212. In the Gorizia sector, Rome says, the Austrians guns are busily employed against the Italians. Here, according to Vienna, seven charges by the Italians were repulsed.

Petrograd reports a continuation of the Turkish offensive on the Persian frontier, but asserts that a retreat of the Turks has been forced on the southwest bank of Lake Van, Turkish Armenia, through the fire of the Russian flotilla on the lake.

The Turkish War Office says the Russians in Persia continue to be driven back by the Ottoman forces and that in Armenia, north of Bitlis, the Turks have made a further advance.

Reports from Berlin

The British torpedo boat destroyer Lassoos has been sunk by a German submarine.

It was announced also between August 1 and 10 five British and French steamers and ten British and French sailing craft were sent to the bottom by a German submarine.

Palatka News.—The editor of the News has never seen the time when there was occasion to revise his first opinion of this man Catts. But that would not prevent us from giving him courteous treatment as a guest in Palatka, and mentioning him respectfully. We might have said that he was a "wonderful demagogue with great power and ability" to fool the people, for that is what he has been doing. Be the day far distant when this editor cannot see or refer to a political opponent without slamming him, especially one whom the misfortunes of democratic policies may yet compel us to support.

W. R. DeLoach spent Saturday here with his family, and resumed his travels on Monday. He has sold his five acre pinery in Solana to W. S. Chidester in order to give his undivided attention to the interests of the fertilizer company which he represents. The pinery contains one and a fourth acres in bearing pineapples.

James Whitcomb Riley is dead, but his poems go marching on.