

IMPROVEMENTS
Punta Gorda has more improvements than any other Florida town of its size. Paved streets, sidewalks, sewerage, electric lights, waterworks, etc.

The Punta Gorda Herald

POPULATION
The 1915 census gave Punta Gorda a population of 1,772. It has grown steadily since then and the present population is estimated at 2,000.

Punta Gorda, in Tropical Southwest Florida, is Advantageously Located on Charlotte Harbor, One of the Largest Land-Locked Bays on the Gulf of Mexico, and is a Town with a Bright Future, Commercially and Agriculturally

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ENGINEER TELLS WHAT ROAD DEPT. IS DOING

Department Working in Nearly Every Section Except This.

An interesting report, covering all work under the supervision of the state road department on the several state and state aid roads throughout Florida, has been submitted to the department by Maj. Charles A. Brown, state highways engineer. The report is comprehensive, covering road improvements in every section. The department will soon have the report ready for distribution in pamphlet form.

The list of roads officially designated by the department and on which work has begun in one or more counties, follows:

The State Roads.

State Road No. 1—Pensacola to Jacksonville via Milton, Crestview, De Funiak Springs, Bonifay, Chipley, Marianna, Monticello, Madison, Live Oak, Lake City, Macclenny and Baldwin.

State Road No. 2—Georgia State line, north of Jennings (Hamilton county), to Fort Myers via Jasper, Lake City, Gainesville, Ocala, Leesburg, Eustis, Orlando, Kissimmee, Haines City, Bartow and Arcadia.

State Road No. 3—Jacksonville to Orlando, via Green Cove Springs, Palatka, DeLand and Sanford.

State Road No. 4—Georgia State line (just south of Folkston, Ga.), to Royal Palm State Park via Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Daytona, Titusville, Fort Pierce, West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale and Miami.

State Road No. 5—High Springs (Intersection of State Road No. 2 and State Aid Road No. 8), to Sarasota, via Archer, Dunnellon, Inverness, Brooksville, Lutz, Tampa, Riverview and Bradenton.

State Road No. 9—Alabama State line north of Campbelltown (Jackson county) to Apalachicola, via Marianna, Blountsville and Port St. Joe.

Note—Roads No. 6, No. 7 and No. 8 are not state roads.

State Aid Roads.

No. 5—Brooksville to St. Petersburg via Arippeka, Tarpon Springs and Clearwater.

No. 7—Arcadia to Oklawaha City to be extended to St. Lucie county line, via Dorr Field and Lake Annie.

No. 8—Tallahassee to Gainesville, via Chaires, Lamont, Sirmans, Perry, Mayo and Branford. Note—The department has also recently designated as a state aid road the route from Perry to Gainesville via Old Town, Trenton and Newberry as originally outlined by the Central Florida Highway association.

No. 10—Panama City to Marianna.

Among the state roads that have been given no official number are:

From Pensacola north to the Alabama state line near Flomaton.

From Milton to the Alabama state line south of Brewton, Ala.

From Monticello to the Georgia state line south of Thomasville.

From Gainesville to Baldwin via Waldo, Starke and Lawley.

From Belleview (Marion county) to Plant City via Bushnell, Dade City and Knights.

From Leesburg to Winter Haven, via Groveland and Auburndale.

From Haines City to Lake Annie (DeSoto county) via Frost Proof, Avon Park and Sebring.

From Tampa to Clearwater via Oldemar and Safety Harbor.

From Kissimmee to Melbourne via St. Cloud, Ashton and Deer Park.

From Sanford to New Smyrna via Osteen.

From Orlando to Indian River City via Fort Christmas.

From Miami to Marco via route of Tamiami Trail.

From Bristol to Teolgia, via Horsford, Liberty county.

Work Costs Much More.

The high cost of materials seem to be the main stumbling block in counties where the work is progressing slowly. The expense of building roads and bridges has in most instances increased greatly since bonds were voted and it is necessary to vote more bonds or revise the plans, so that the more necessary projects may be completed.

South Florida is considerably ahead of the middle and western sections of the state in road building and maintenance. In St. Johns, Volusia, Osceola and DeSoto, especially, excellent progress has been made.

The summary of work in Hillsborough and Manatee counties is as follows:

Hillsborough County.

No work has been done on No. 5 road north of Tampa, but on the portion south of Tampa a survey was made in connection with federal aid project No. 17. In Manatee county, from the Manatee county line to a point opposite Wimauma, which is acceptable to Hillsborough county

and results in saving a mile and one-half of construction in Manatee county without adding to the length in Hillsborough. Plans for three bridges on this road in Hillsborough have been prepared and a project statement asking for federal aid is ready to forward for approval.

It is expected that as soon as the convict unit in Manatee county finishes its work there to move it into Hillsborough to assist in the construction of the road from the end of the present brick surface near Wimauma to the Manatee county line.

Manatee County.

Federal Aid Project No. 17, extending on road No. 5, from the Hillsborough line south through the town of Parrish to what is known as the Palmetto district, has had all surveys made and now ready to submit for project agreement. This line originally was 11 miles long but by changes in alignment both in Manatee and Hillsborough counties has been shortened by over two and one-half miles. A convict camp was located on this project in January.

All the right of way was cleared and grading commenced when it was decided to employ this force in the completion of a portion of No. 5 road in the Palmetto district and joining project No. 17, where at the request of the commissioners of Manatee county, the automobile fund of that county is being expended. The completion of the Palmetto district together with project 17 and give a 16 foot hard road from the north line of Manatee county to Bradenton.

The entire amount of the automobile fund will be expended in the Palmetto district.

MODERN HOTEL TO BE BUILT ON SEMINOLE SITE

This Decided Upon—New Bank Opened for Business Wednesday.

The Fidelity Trust Company, Punta Gorda's third bank and youngest business institution, opened its doors for business Wednesday morning in its temporary location in the rear of the Johnson building on Marian avenue.

It is understood that plans for a commercial hotel and business building to be erected on the corner where the old Seminole hotel now stands, and a part of which will be occupied by the new bank, are maturing but have not reached a point of definiteness as to the size and cost of the building. It is understood, however, that architects are working on the plans and just as soon as men and materials can be secured the old hotel will be moved to another location, where it will be conducted as a moderate priced hotel or rooming house. It is expected that work on the new hotel will be started sometime in early winter.

Probably no other Florida town of equal size is so well provided for in the matter of financial institutions as Punta Gorda, for it now has three strong banks, the Punta Gorda State Bank, the First National Bank and the Fidelity Trust Company, each being largely owned and officered by local people, each one occupying places of equal importance in serving the various requirements of the community's people.

Thrift stamps will stick when a fellow needs a friend.

HOME FOLK



When Folks want Anything Done, they go to J. Fuller Pep, for he's a Ninety Horse-Power Booster and Liberal with his Time and Money for anything to Better the Town. Ole Hezekiah Uses less allows as how J. Fuller is trying to Run Things, but if Folks were all like Hez, this would be a Hot Sketch of a Town!

AMONGST PUNTA GORDA'S MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRIES



Smooth Cayenne Pineapples Growing Under Shed at Punta Gorda. Plants in fruit—Notice the fine large specimens.

EVERGLADES DRAINAGE ACT IS CONSTITUTIONAL

Sweeping Court Decision Clears Way for Big Issue of Bonds.

Constitutionality and validity of the act of the Florida legislature establishing the Everglades Drainage District, and providing methods of administering, financing and otherwise managing the task of reclaiming hundreds of thousands of acres of land in the Everglades of South Florida, were upheld in a sweeping decision of the Supreme Court of Florida, announced a few days ago.

The decision rendered by Circuit Judge Wilson and concurred in by Circuit Judge Perkins—Justices West and Ellis being disqualified—was read July 5, but not announced until recently. It holds the act in question good in every respect and sweeps aside every objection and contention raised by the complainant, Robert L. Bannerman.

The Supreme Court's opinion clears the way for enlargement of the Everglades drainage district, the issue of \$2,500,000 in bonds for financing the work, sale of such bonds, etc., and definitely fixes the status of the board of commissioners of the Everglades drainage district and its powers and authority to act.

In the case brought originally in DeSoto county by Robert L. Bannerman, the constitutionality of the act was attacked, various provisions of the legislative enactment being declared in violation of the Constitution of the State of Florida. The case was taken to the Supreme Court of Florida on a demurrer filed by the board of commissioners of the Everglades drainage district to the bill of complaint filed by Mr. Bannerman.

The Everglades drainage district includes most of the Everglades of Florida and embraces an area larger than the combined areas of the states of Rhode Island and Connecticut. It is declared to be the largest reclamation project in the world, and is known to embrace within its boundaries one of the most fertile tracts of land on the face of the globe, once the tract is drained and the soil made available for agricultural and other uses.

Mr. Bannerman, appellant in the case, was represented by Attorneys Atkinson and Burdine of Miami. The appellees, the board of commissioners of the Everglades Drainage District, were represented by Glenn Terrell of Tallahassee.

DE SOTO GAINS 11,234

Increase in Population Nearly 80 Per Cent in 10 Years.

The population of two Florida counties—DeSoto and Osceola—both in the southern part of the state, was announced yesterday by the census bureau. Each showed a substantial gain, but that of DeSoto was nearly 80 per cent.

The announcements: DeSoto county, 25,434, increase of 11,234 over 1910, or 79.1 per cent. Osceola county, 7,195, increase 1,688 of 30.7 per cent.

Census of the following towns in Florida also was included: Clermont, 496; Eustis, 1,193; Leesburg, 1,835; Mount Dora, 725; Tavares, 359; Umatilla, 640; DeFuniak Springs, 2,069; Lakewood, 363; Paxton, 411.

Birthday Party.

Little Hazel Anna Oliver, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luville Oliver, entertained a number of her little friends on July 14th from four to six o'clock, in honor of her sixth birthday. The little folk enjoyed playing various games after which dainty refreshments were served.

Arthur Green, of Jacksonville, was here Monday on business.

BOND ADVOCATES WILL MEET JULY 29 AND 30

Will Gather at St. Augustine to Discuss Various Plans.

Thursday and Friday, July 29 and 30, are the dates announced by the president of the Florida State Automobile association for the big good roads rally and conference to be held at St. Augustine beach in the interest of the proposed amendment to the state constitution to be voted upon by the electors of the state in the general election next November.

The proposed amendment reads as follows:

"The legislature shall have power to provide for issuing state bonds only for the purpose of repelling invasion or suppressing insurrection or for the purpose of redeeming or refunding bonds already issued at a lower rate of interest or for the purpose of acquiring, building and maintaining a system of good roads and bridges throughout this state under such regulations as may be prescribed by an act of the legislature; provided, that any bond issues authorized in pursuance hereof for a system of good roads and bridges shall not exceed in amount five (5) per cent of the total tax assessment of the state at the time of issue."

At the meeting to be held at St. Augustine the several plans that have been proposed by different ones in favor of the proposed state bond issue will be submitted and discussed and it is expected that as a result of this meeting an active state-wide campaign will be carried on in all parts of the state to secure the adoption of the proposed amendment.

The meeting will be under the auspices of the legislative committee of the Florida State Automobile Association. At a meeting of this committee and a number of citizens from various parts of the state held in Jacksonville, May 19, the president of the association was authorized and requested to add to the membership of the committee "the names of five men from this meeting and the presidents of the different kindred organizations of the state." Carrying out the request the president of the association named F. O. Miller, Jacksonville; W. M. Ison, Eustis; David Edge, Groveland; James G. Yeats, Tampa, and George F. Young, Dade City, and directed the secretary of the association to communicate with the presidents of the various organizations throughout the state and inform them that they had been named as members of the legislative committee of the Florida State Automobile Association.

Now that the dates for the St. Augustine meeting have been decided upon invitations will be sent out to each of the organizations for the appointment of delegates to officially represent them at the big good roads rally. Invitations are also being sent to all state officials, all nominees for the senate and house as well as all hold-over senators; the various boards of county commissioners and to all persons interested in having the state construct a state system of permanent roads.

At the St. Augustine meeting the plan adopted by the legislative committee of the Florida State Automobile Association for taking care of the proposed state bond issue without increasing the state tax levy will be submitted and fully explained.

This committee has also gone on record in favor of the enactment of a law repealing and abolishing all personal property taxes (ad valorem taxes) on all motor driven vehicles upon which a state license tax shall be required. The committee also recommends that the two-mill tax levy, to provide funds for meeting Federal aid for roads be repeated and no further tax for such purpose be

levied, provided the proposed amendment to the state constitution is adopted.

The plan proposed for taking care of the state bond issue with revenues derived from the motor vehicle license tax is the same as has already been adopted in the state of Alabama and the state of Illinois. In these states the campaigns in favor of the state bond issue to be voted for with the motor vehicle license tax, was conducted by the state automobile associations. The motorists willingly agreed to an increase in the amount of the state license tax for this purpose. The necessary laws were enacted and the bond issues now provide the funds for the construction of the state system of roads in these states.

Working On Trail.

C. B. Jennings, of Fort Myers, who recently visited Naples and adjacent points reports that work is under way on the intersecting sections of the Tamiami trail leading from Naples toward Haldemann creek and crossing Gordon river. This trail goes near the Naples golf links and is being shelled. The 600 foot span at Gordon river and the bridge at Haldemann creek are being repaired. The approaches of both bridges are being raised in order to make it safe traveling for motor cars and other vehicles. Dr. Baird, of Fort Myers, is breaking and clearing ground near Haldemann creek, three sections in all, approximately 1,920 acres. This 1,920 acre tract will be set up in a citrus grove. Mr. Jennings said the branch trail to Marco is in a fairly good condition.

WHITTEN, ALLEGED WIFE MURDERER, WILL HANG

Condemned Man Showed Little Emotion When Told His Fate.

Burnard Whitten, the young man convicted of murdering his wife last May, will be hanged Friday, July 30th, unless the sentence is stayed by the governor.

The DeSoto County News gives the following account of the sheriff's visit to the condemned man's cell for the purpose of reading the death sentence:

At 9:40 a. m. Monday, Sheriff Dishong, accompanied by Messrs. Bailly, of Wauchula, J. E. Albritton, of the sheriff's force, and a representative of the News, went to the old brick jail north of the court house, passed through the lower corridor crowded with negro gamblers brought in Saturday night, ascended the stairs to the cell room on the upper floor, and found Whitten, condemned murderer, leaning against the bars. When summoned to attention by the sheriff, he came across the cell and hung to the steel grating while the document of such serious import was read to him.

As Sheriff Dishong slowly and impressively read the long death sentence to the man convicted of slaying his wife, he seemed more unconcerned than the sheriff or the others present. When the words were reached, "hanged by the neck until you are dead," Whitten's lips trembled and his bare chest heaved, but he displayed little signs of emotion. Sheriff Dishong, reading slowly, was much more visibly affected than the principal in the tragedy. When completed (Continued on last page)

MICKIE SAYS

I SAY, MICKIE ME LAD, WOULD YE NOW BE AFTER SUPPIN' OUT ON TH' FIRST PAGE AND REMINDIN' SOME OF OUR HIGHLY ESTEEMED READERS THAT THEIR PAPERS ARE EXPIRING WITH THIS ISSUE, AND MICKIE, TELL THEM AS WOH IF ANY OF THEM FAIL TO RENEW, THIS OFFICE SHALL BECOME A LODGE OF SORROW—AND THE OFFICE TOWEL SHALL HANG ON THE FRONT DOOR AS A SIGN OF MOURNING!



EXCHANGE SUPPLY CO. BUYS WARNELL MILLS

Biggest Deal of Kind for Sometime Consummated Recently.

News of one of the biggest business transactions in the state in recent years comes in the formal announcement by President J. H. Ross of the Florida Citrus Exchange, and its affiliated organization the Exchange Supply Company, of the purchase of the Warnell Lumber and Veneer Company with headquarters at Plant City. The transaction involves the ownership of properties valued at approximately a million dollars or more, through the purchase by the Exchange Supply Company, of all the outstanding capital stock of the Warnell Co. It includes the big veneer and crate mill at Plant City, together with various mill buildings, warehouses, lands, lots and other buildings, the company's sawmill at Fort Green, the privately owned Warnell logging road with four locomotives and full equipment, some forty mules, wagons and much miscellaneous equipment.

It is estimated by Manager W. F. Miller of the Exchange Supply Co. that the Warnell plant together with the mill of the Exchange Supply Co. already in operation at Ross in Hillsborough county and the mills of the Polk County Sub Exchange at Lake Wales and Avon Park will give this cooperative purchasing organization of the growers facilities for the manufacture of practically all the orange boxes required by something more than four thousand growers who are members of the Florida Citrus Exchange, and whom the Exchange Supply Co. serves exclusively.

It is also estimated that the timber holdings acquired through this purchase when added to the present holdings of the Exchange Supply Co. and with the addition of another tract which already under option, will provide a timber supply for the box requirements of members of the Florida Citrus Exchange for a period of approximately twenty years. Present arrangements provide for operation of the Warnell plant under the old officers and management, thus assuring the benefit of their experience in the business, but under control of the Exchange Supply Co.

In its first year the Exchange Supply Company did a business in excess of \$200,000. Its second year's business exceeded \$600,000 while that for the third year, which closed April 30, 1920, was in excess of \$1,600,000. The current year's business, it is estimated, will approximate three million dollars, even without the additional volume to be gained through the purchase of the Warnell properties.

\$20,000 for Publicity.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Governors of the Ft. Myers Board of Trade it was decided to employ L. A. Whitney as secretary of the latter body at a salary of \$5,000 a year and to raise \$20,000 to be used by him in a publicity campaign during the coming year. Eight thousand of this fund were subscribed in a few minutes, one man giving \$2,000. Mr. Whitney is the secretary of the St. Petersburg Board of Trade and is credited with having "made" that city during the seven years he has been boasting it. Mr. Whitney is president of the Old Indian Trails Association, and it is understood is heartily in favor of construction of the short route road between Punta Gorda and Fort Myers and the connecting bridge across the Caloosahatchee. He will assume his duties at Fort Myers during the early part of September, it is understood.

1,618 Dipping Vats.

Nine new dipping vats were constructed in Florida during June, making a total of 1,618 vats in the state, according to the monthly report of the state livestock sanitary board. The number of cattle dipped during the month in the 10 counties in which the work is now being carried on was 103,274. The work has progressed nicely and the cattle tick is rapidly being exterminated, through the co-operation of the state livestock sanitary board, county commissioners, farmers, cattlemen, and the U. S. bureau of animal industry.

Improving Property.

Mr. Klinefelter, who has recently purchased the Burland place in Solana, is having the dwelling moved to a position closer to the road and will considerably improve the house. Mr. Klinefelter expects to engage in limited trucking operations.

Making Improvements.

Mr. Hill, of Solana, has purchased the property adjoining the Oswald residence on the ridge toward Cleveland and is improving the residence and clearing the land. He will plant a crop of peppers for winter shipment.