

Punta Gorda

Is the county seat of Charlotte county. Population of town, 1920 census, 1,295. Increase for 10 years 28 percent.

The Punta Gorda Herald

The Herald

Is the oldest newspaper published on the lower southwest coast and the only one in Charlotte county.

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

Volume XXXIV.—Number 5

PUNTA GORDA, CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA, FEBRUARY 3rd, 1922

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GOVERNMENT TO ABANDON ARCADIA AVIATION FIELD

Government Decides to Discontinue Field as Measure of Economy, Says Dispatch

According to a Washington dispatch in the Tampa Tribune Wednesday, it has been decided in Washington that Carlstrom field aviation ground, at Arcadia, must soon be abandoned, which will probably mean that this step will be taken when the present class there has finished its work, in a few months.

There is no discrimination against Carlstrom field, but this action is simply in line with the position of the government authorities to reduce expenses in all lines wherever possible it is said.

Congressman Drane, who was largely instrumental in having the Arcadia field located at that place, which is in his district, has worked hard on the matter from the beginning. When it became evident some time ago that many such places would be closed he kept behind the matter vigorously. From information today it is said that the government is well pleased with what has been accomplished at the Florida field, and that it is only because of the necessity for reducing expenses that Carlstrom will be abandoned in the near future.

When Carlstrom field was laid out by the war department during the world war, a companion field, Dorr, also was laid out at a point on the same prairie a few miles from Carlstrom. Soon after the armistice was signed Dorr was closed, and since that time only a squad has been maintained there to guard the buildings. It is to be presumed that when Carlstrom field is abandoned a similar squad will be maintained there. Carlstrom has been, and is today, one of the most noted training grounds for flyers in the United States.

Abandonment of the field will be a severe blow to Arcadia, which has advertised itself as "the aviation city" of Florida, and the payroll, said to be about \$70,000 a month, has contributed in no small measure to the prosperity of the merchants of that city.

Former Postmaster Rhode is Put Under \$1000 Bond

Federal Grand Jury Charges Him With Embezzlement of \$7,300 of Postal Funds

Former Postmaster George D. Rhode, who was charged with embezzlement of \$7,300 of postal funds by the federal grand jury, was taken before U. S. Commissioner W. O. Sheppard at Fort Myers late last week and his bond fixed at \$1,000. W. L. Koon and H. R. Dreggors are his bondsmen. He will have to appear before the U. S. District Court at Tampa sometime after the second week in February to stand trial.

From a report that appeared in the Tampa Tribune Tuesday it might be inferred that Mr. Rhode was attempting to evade the postal authorities, the Tribune report stating that the officer "found" him about 20 miles southeast of Punta Gorda. Mr. Rhode has never made any attempt to evade arrest, but on the other hand, while protesting his innocence, he went to the postal inspector to give himself up, the inspector refusing to place him under arrest, and his family and friends have known his whereabouts during all the time he has been away from home. Mr. Rhode has stoutly maintained his innocence of the charges brought against him and has a great many friends who believe him innocent of any wrong doing and who will await the outcome of his trial with a great deal of interest.

Annual Reception to Tourists

The annual reception to tourists will be held in the club room of the Masonic building next Tuesday evening, 7th inst., from 7:30 till 10 o'clock. Not tourists alone, but citizens in general are cordially invited to attend this reception, for which a very interesting program has been prepared. There will be music, both vocal and instrumental, readings and very short addresses by eloquent ladies and gentlemen. Punch, cake and other refreshments will be served.

Real Estate Active

Colonel Wallace Chadman reports considerable activity of late in the local real estate market. He himself has negotiated several sales, amongst which were the following: Joseph L. Gouling sold to Morton Sellers of Indi. A. the house and lot on Cross Street, in which his family recently lived. A. P. Hatch sold to

the same gentleman the cottage and lot on Cross street, which was formerly owned by Mr. and Mrs. C. A. McLane. Colonel Chadman sold to E. L. Enggren of Ozona Park, New York, a group of lots of the total area of 120 by 208 feet, which are located on Mafian avenue and a cross street, opposite the new residence of N. C. Hewitt. These sales were perfected last week, and several more are pending with good prospects of being consummated before the end of this week. Mr. and Mrs. Seller, who were formerly of Lebanon, Ohio, will, during the summer completely overhaul the Gouling and McLane houses, making them modern in every particular.

Second Number of Lyceum

The second number of the Lyceum course given under the auspices of the Y. W. C. A. was presented in the high school auditorium on Monday evening and was enjoyed by a large and appreciative audience. The program, which was very entertaining, consisted of numbers arranged for the Swiss hand-bells; also, readings, solos and quartets. Mr. Johnson's presentations of Childs' "The Man in the Shadows," elicited much deservedly favorable comment. The next number in the course will be given in the near future, of which due announcement will be made.

COUNTY BOARD OF TRADE TO MEET MONDAY, FEB. 6

Large Attendance Expected at Regular Meeting to be Held at Punta Gorda.

The Charlotte County Board of Trade will meet in regular monthly session in the lower room of the Masonic Hall, in Punta Gorda, Monday, February sixth, at 7:30 p. m., and because of the general discussion of and interest in the proposed bond issue for roads, it is expected that there will be a large attendance.

The last meeting of the board was not well attended, on account of the fact, perhaps, that the meeting fell on a holiday when the thoughts of nearly everyone were centered upon individual pleasures and for the further reason, perhaps, that everyone thought that there would be no meeting and there was no use for them to go.

The County Board of Trade is a county organization of people from all sections of the county, and everyone interested in the advancement of the county is invited to attend the meetings, whether members or not. The dues are \$5 by the year or 50c by the month.

ANOTHER PETITION ASKING ELECTION IS BEING SIGNED

New Petition Asks Commissioners to Confer With State Road Dept. and Get Advice

Following the action of the Board of County Commissioners in tabling the first petition presented to them, in which they were asked to call a bonding election, another petition was prepared along the lines suggested by the commissioners, with some additions, and is now being signed by the voters and taxpayers of the county. The petition was started Friday of last week and up to Wednesday afternoon 125 people had signed it.

This petition asks the commissioners to confer with the State Road Department, secure the services of their engineers in making surveys and estimates of the cost of the contemplated road work and then call an election to determine if the people approve of the proposed issue of bonds. The petitioners also demand that the work be done under the supervision of competent engineers and urges that there be no more delay than necessary in setting the machinery in motion to secure the improvement of State Road Number Five, the Tamiami trail, from the Sarasota county line to the Lee county line.

At their last meeting the commissioners stated that they could not act upon the first petition for the reason that it was irregular, but pledged themselves to action if another petition bearing the names of 25 percent of the qualified voters of the county asking for improvement of the Tamiami trail is presented to them. It is understood that the petition being circulated now meets with the approval and ideas of the commissioners.

According to those who have the petitions for the purpose of securing signatures, up to Wednesday only three persons had declined to sign.

Entertained at Bridge

Mrs. Marina Richardson, assisted by her mother, Mrs. K. B. Harvey, entertained delightfully at bridge, last Friday evening, at their attractive home on Retta Esplanade. There were five tables, and the game elicited unusual interest. The ladies' prize, a set of beautiful lingerie clasps and an embroidered linen handkerchief, was awarded to Miss Grace Laubach, while W. E. Mobley won the gentlemen's trophy, a styptic stick and shaving pads. Refreshments served consisted of coffee, two kinds of cake and brick ice cream.

FORT MYERS PEOPLE SAY WILL BUILD SHORT ROAD

Fort Myers People Promise Co-Operation to Secure Opening of the Short Route

That Lee county intends to go right ahead with her end of the short-route road between Punta Gorda and Fort Myers just as soon as possible and that Charlotte county may depend upon co-operation of the people there in securing the designation of the road from Punta Gorda to the Caloosahatchee as a state road, was the assurance given Captain W. H. Johnson, the Commercial Club's official good roads booster, County Commissioner Whitten and Chas. Cochran another prominent and enthusiastic worker for good roads, when these three men went to Fort Myers Wednesday for the purpose of sounding the sentiment there.

They found that there is still some opposition to the short-route road on the part of some Fort Myers people, but there is also a strong sentiment among influential men and interests for the road, from whom came the assurance that Lee county would live up to her agreement to build her share.

Three members of the Board of Commissioners of Lee county are said to favor the short-route, and Commissioner Whitten, of Charlotte county, was assured by the commissioner representing the district north of the river, through which the short-route runs, that it was his firm intention to build Lee county's portion of the road just as soon as possible, and he agreed to go with a delegation from Charlotte county to ask the State Road Department to designate as State Road Number Five that portion of the road between Punta Gorda and the Caloosahatchee river.

Altogether Messrs. Johnson, Whitten and Cochran were well pleased with the information they gathered while in Fort Myers and recommend that further time be given the Lee county people before concluding arrangements to provide this county with an eastern and southern outlet.

City's Fines Considerably Less for Jan'y Than Usual

Only \$70 Collected, but Enough to Pay all Costs of Maintaining Department

City police fines were less for January than for other months, amounting to only \$70, \$30 of which was for pound fees, but the fines amounted to more than it costs the city to maintain the police department.

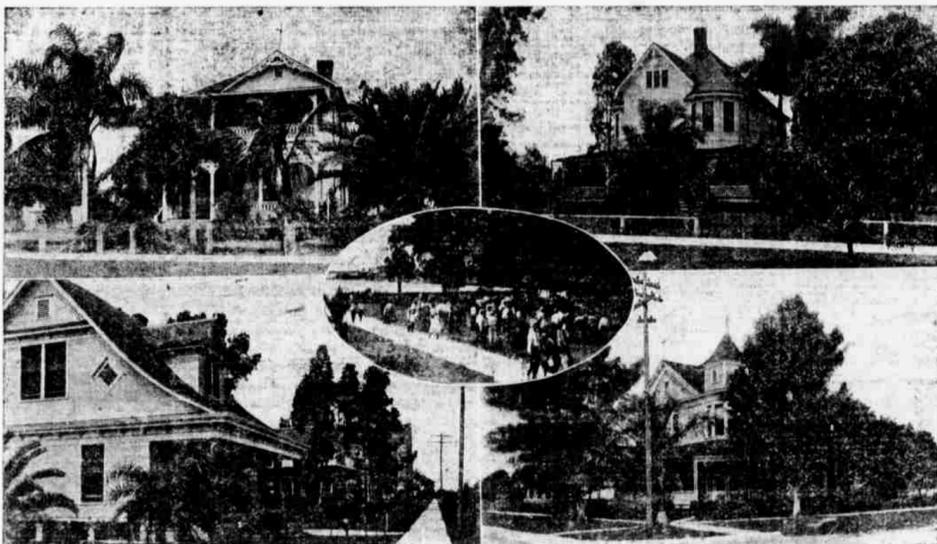
There was one case in court Tuesday morning, Mrs. Wm. Goff and Miss Salters, her daughter, having become involved in trouble with Mr. and Mrs. Grady Spivey, Mrs. Goff and Miss Salters being accused of attacking Mrs. Spivey, who alleged that she was attacked by one of the first named women with a knife. Miss Salters pleaded guilty to having engaged in a fight with Mrs. Spivey but both Miss Salters and Mrs. Goff denied that any knife was used. The trouble seems to have started over the children of the two families. Miss Salters and Mrs. Goff were fined \$10 each when they appeared before the mayor, who opined "that we can't blame people much for fighting sometimes, but we must maintain order in the town." Mr. Goff, it is understood, stated that he would have Mr. Spivey arrested on another charge.

B. N. Club Met

The B. N. Club, which is composed of youths of seventeen to twenty years, had their usual weekly meeting last Friday night, when, in addition to lively conversation, they enjoyed refreshments of cake and chocolate. Amongst the members present were: Doc Lewis, Noiman Johns, Bob Hayman, Mitch Rogers, Dick Edmunds, Fred Bell, Ed Bodiford, Lloyd Davis, Don Whiteaker, Roy Adams and John Henry Fielding. The boys say that they had a jolly time, and they adopted a resolution to have an oyster roast at the next "frazzle," by which they designate their meetings.

The Bradentown Herald tells that during the last three months the building record shows estimated cost of construction at about \$100,000. This is a splendid showing for Bradentown and the story indicates activities along several lines. Among the new structures in Bradentown now nearing completion is the new home of the First National Bank. It is also stated that the Bradentown Bank and Trust Company is contemplating the erection of a new home in the near future.

A Few of Many Pretty Homes and Scenes in Semi-Tropic Punta Gorda



GREAT CROWDS ATTEND THE FAIR AND CARNIVAL

South Florida Fair and Gasparilla Carnival Opened at Tampa Yesterday Morning

With the greatest first day attendance in fair history the South Florida Fair opened its gates Thursday morning.

More than a score of counties, representing every part of the state, have exhibits. There is a range of exhibits in the great county buildings that compasses everything that Florida soil produces, from the staples such as corn, oats, cotton, etc., to the rare tropical fruits from the lower tip of the peninsula. The citrus fruit display is wonderful. The showing of cured meats is a hunger-provoker. The livestock sheds are filled with blooded stock, and the poultry show is a riot of color, crowing and cackling.

The Canadian building is a day's entertainment in itself. The Dominion has spent \$25,000 to show its products here. The showing is a marvel and really educational.

The first natural history museum in the state is that at the fair, with several hundred mounted specimens of Florida bird, reptile and fish life. The art show is attracting much favorable comment, and the aggregate value of the paintings runs into large figures.

The horse races are classy, the free acts provide a world of entertainment and the Pike is so extensive that the most blasé can find something new

and utterly novel in the entertainment line.

It is Florida's greatest fair. In fact, it is an international exposition. There is the keenest rivalry for the big prizes.

The Gasparilla festivities on the 6th and 7th, the Rote-Press breakfast on the 8th, and the Shriners' great parade on the 9th offer a week full of interesting entertainment and spectacular shows.

The fair this year will continue through February 11. It is a great educational feature as well as amusement provider.

Fortnightly Club Met

The Fortnightly Club held a pleasant meeting January 26th with Mrs. Hancock as hostess. An interesting feature was the discussion of the Florida Metin, the official organ of the Florida Federation of Women's clubs. It is an excellent paper and is being heartily supported by the Fortnightly as it is by the other federated clubs of Florida. After further transaction of business the program of the day was carried out. First was a paper written by Mrs. Blanchet on "Scripture Prophecy Fulfilled." It was a fine discussion of the subject. Mrs. Blanchet being unavoidably absent the paper was read by Miss McNeil. Mrs. Oswald followed with a most excellent talk on "Christ in Modern Business." It was given without manuscript or notes and was heartily enjoyed by all present. She proved conclusively that modern business can be successfully conducted according to the Golden Rule, and gave a number of examples to substantiate her statements. The last feature of the pro-

gram was the discussion and recitation of the "Parables of Christ," in which all present took part. The presence of several honorary members and guests added to the pleasure of the occasion. The club adjourned to meet with Mrs. Slocum, February 9th.

Boosting Water Carnival

E. A. Bischof, secretary, and Captain E. E. Damkohler, chairman, of the water carnival committee of the Fort Myers 50,000 Club, were in Punta Gorda yesterday boosting the water carnival to be held in Fort Myers February 22nd. Over \$3,000 worth of handsome prizes will be given to the successful contestants in the boat races and other water sports and all Punta Gorda boat owners or others who wish to enter any of the events should write to Mr. Bischof for information. Further information will probably be given in next weeks Herald. Both Mr. Bischof and Mr. Damkohler stated that they believed that there is no question whatever as to the intention of Lee county to build her portion of the short-route road.

Are You Fixed?

The time limit for filing applications for 1922 auto license tags was up Tuesday and those who did not make application on or before that day are violators of the automobile law and subject to arrest. Local officials have made no statement as to what course they will pursue in regard to such persons, but in other counties those who have no tag and no good evidence that they had made application on or before Tuesday are being arrested.

"MOTHER AND THE LAW" TO BE SHOWN BY SCOUTS

One of Griffith's Best Pictures According to Judge Cooper, of Chicago

"The Mother and the Law," said to be one of the best pictures ever produced by Griffith, will be shown in the Plaza theatre afternoon and night, Tuesday, February 14th, by and for the benefit of the local troop of Boy Scouts.

According to Judge W. F. Cooper, who saw the picture in Chicago, "The Mother and the Law" is one of D. W. Griffith's best pictures, telling a story that at once points a moral and grips the heart because it is a story of real flesh-and-blood people and dealing with real life.

The picture will be shown in the afternoon at 3:45 and at night at 7:30. There will be special music at both performances and the scouts will give exhibition drills and exhibitions of first aid methods.

The Florida Dairy Association will hold its next meeting in Tampa, Feb. 7 and 8. This will be at the time of the holding of the South Florida Fair, and the management of the fair, in conjunction with the Dairy Association, is planning to have a splendid display of dairy cattle to show the fair visitors.

During the coming year the little town of Howey will witness many improvements, as plans are being formulated for the erection of a 300-room hotel and large block of residences.