

Punta Gorda
Is the county seat of Charlotte county. Population of town, 1920 census, 1,295. Increase for 10 years 23 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 46

PUNTA GORDA, CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOV. 24th, 1922

Five Cents a Copy; \$2.00 a Year

ROAD DEP'T IS WORKING ON STATE ROAD NO. FIVE

Contrary to General Opinion, Considerable Work is Being Done on This Highway

On account of the criticism to which the State Road Department has been subjected, there is a notion that the department is doing little if anything in the way of actual road building except on State Road Number One, in the northern part of the state. This, it appears, is a mistaken idea, a report of the work now under way on the various state roads, including State Road Number Five, in which this section is vitally interested, showing that work is in progress on a great many projects, including seven projects on State Road Number Five. The project closest to Charlotte county that is being worked on is in Manatee county. The following excerpt from the story sent out from Tallahassee, which partakes of the nature of an official report, gives a clear idea of the problems the road department is facing and tells just what is being done on State Road Number Five.

In the preceding installment of this series there was undertaken a survey of the various projects of the road department, including those completed, those under construction and those contemplated or proposed in the immediate future. In furtherance of the general purpose of setting forth these projects road by road, there have been presented, up to this point, a brief synopsis of all the projects on state roads numbers 1 and 2. The present installment will set forth the projects on the remaining state roads, namely, state roads Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, there being no project at present on state road No. 9 which is the road leading from Madison north to the Georgia state line south of Quitman, Georgia.

Before resuming the recital of these projects, however, it seems well at this point to offer certain remarks in connection with the department projects which may clear up any confusion which may arise as to the connection between the projects and the present state road department.

Responsibility of the present state road department for the projects: Since a number of the projects which have already been touched upon have been shown to be fully completed and to have been in practical use for several years, it is manifest that the present personnel of the state road department is not responsible for all the projects which have been and may be outlined. Not only is it true that some of the projects were completed before the advent of the present administration, but it is also to be recalled that a number had been undertaken and were in process when the change of administration was made. So that the department which came into office had, necessarily, in some instances to take hold of projects which had gone so far as to make it necessary, from the standpoint of expediency, to complete them, even though it may be doubted whether the present department would have undertaken some of them. The department was confronted with a condition and not a theory; the projects were under way and abandonment of any of them would have meant a total loss of considerable money.

As a striking instance of this possibility is the road which is now being built from Lake City towards Jacksonville, one of the longest concrete road construction contracts ever let in the south. It is not asserted that the present road department would not have considered this project originally, but it is a fact that when the present department went into office that project had proceeded so far that it was absolutely necessary to carry it to conclusion unless the state was to suffer a total loss of a huge amount of money already expended on account of the project. Perhaps the present department might have undertaken the project originally, perhaps it might not—the point is, however, that it had reached the point when the Hardee administration took hold that its abandonment would have been almost a crime. It is to be understood that this particular project is mentioned solely by way of example to show how a group of officers assuming duties as members of the department might conceivably be handicapped by an issue of expediency in departing at once from a program conceived by their predecessors.

On the other hand, since some of the projects were completed and in

Mrs. Frances Hall



This is the first posed picture of Mrs. Frances Hall, wife of the New Brunswick, N. J. rector, who was found murdered with his pretty choir singer, Eleanor Mills

use, former members of the department are not to be disregarded in giving credit for accomplishments which primarily are the work of the department as a continuous entity as distinguished from any particular personnel.

Just such considerations as that last mentioned will appeal to anyone who studies the road situation as a potent argument in favor of continuing in office men who adopt and adhere to a definitely good program. With changes of personnel there follow changes of policy, not necessarily radical in their nature, but always differing in some particular. It may well be argued, accordingly, that once a department adopts a program which is recognized as a meritorious one, the personnel of that department should remain as nearly as possible unchanged—a policy which it is submitted will make for the carrying (Continued on last page)

METHOD OF TRANSPLANTING YOUNG CITRUS TREES

Expert Gives Several Reasons Why Trees Should Be Started With Short Trunks

"In setting young citrus trees to the field, prune back the trunk to form twelve to sixteen inches in height. There are more reasons than one for this," says E. L. Lord, professor of arboriculture of the Florida College of Agriculture.

These reasons are: 1. Short trunks do not dry out like long ones; 2. trees headed low—such as grow from low pruned trunks—are less liable to cold damage; 3. Such trees are easier to spray than those with high tops; 4. harvesting is easier; 5. earlier bearing is secured.

"One of the commonest mistakes made by citrus growers is the failure to cut the trunks of their young trees back," Professor Lord says. "The longer the trunk, the more of it there is to dry out and become sun-scalded. And with a long trunk growth develops at the top, leaving several inches bare, and subjecting the tree to sun-scald. Then, too, a dried out trunk means that little sap and plant food can be lifted from the roots to the leaves through those long, dry, hardened fibro-vascular bundles. The result is that the top weakens and droops over."

In planting young trees, set them with the bud union two or three inches above the surface of the earth and cut the trunk back to twelve to sixteen inches in height. When so cut back, young shoots grow out all along to shade the trunk from the direct rays of the sun and to keep the bark alive and active. At the end of the growing season, remove all but five or six of the shoots or sprouts, leaving these properly spaced to form the main scaffold limbs of the tree.

A question often asked is, "Why do nurserymen send out young trees with long trunks, if they should be cut back?" Professor Lord answers that question by saying, "The nurseryman does not know whether the tree is to be set in the grove or in a yard where a high-headed tree is desired, where persons may move about under them. When set in the grove, the young tree should be cut back and a tree with a low top developed."

Mackenzie, the largest political division of Canada, has an area of 562,182 square miles.

Value of the country's crops this year is estimated at more than \$12,000,000,000.

PROGRAM FOR CHARLOTTE COUNTY TEACHERS' INSTITUTE, PUNTA GORDA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

MORNING SESSION

- 9 o'Clock—Invocation—Rev. Howard Duffill
- Instrumental Solo—Miss Carolyn Rogers
- 9:30 to 10:00—Necessary Legislation for Florida Schools—Principal J. W. Shelley
- 10:00 to 10:15—Mathematics in the Grammar Grades—Professor C. G. Headley
- Discussion by Mrs. A. E. Riley and Others
- 10:15 to 10:35—Recitation in Primary Work, Miss Norma Pepper
- Discussion by Mrs. Rosa Pearce Shelley and Others
- 10:40 to 11:00—Recess
- 11:00 to 11:15—History—Miss Alice Strickland
- Discussion by Mrs. T. S. Knight and Others
- 11:25 to 11:40—How to Secure Co-operation with the Patrons in the Country Schools—Professor S. D. Huffman
- Discussion by Misses Eleanor Thigpen and Ethel Goulding

NOON

- 2:00 o'Clock—Invocation—Rev. W. N. Swain
- Song—By Pupils of the Punta Gorda High School
- 2:10 to 2:25—Discipline and How to Secure It—Prin. A. E. Riley
- Discussion by Mrs. Isabel Akins
- 2:35 to 2:50—How to Interest Patrons of Country Schools in School Libraries—Mrs. E. E. Morgan
- Discussion by Miss Inez Roland and Others
- 3:00 to 3:15—Advantage Gained by Teachers Who Attend the State Summer Normal—Mrs. C. G. Headley
- Discussion by Miss Swatie I. Fish and Others
- 3:25 to 3:40—Advantages Gained by Home Demonstration Work in the County and Domestic Science in the High School—Miss Ethel Oliver
- Discussion by Mrs. Marina Richardson and Others

SEBRING CHOSEN AS THE CAPITAL OF HIGHLANDS CO.

Long and Hard Contest Between Highlands County Towns Ended by Election Tuesday

Sebring is now the permanent county seat of Highlands county, the election held in that county Tuesday to decide upon a location having resulted in victory for Sebring. The campaign preceding the election was a "warm" one, Sebring and Avon Park being the principal contestants, although there were several other towns and communities which aspired to be the capital.

DeSoto City and Lake Stearns withdrew early election day, but a scattering vote was cast for them in other precincts. Avon Park polled 697 votes for Avon Park and 15 for Sebring, while Sebring polled 534 for Sebring and five for Avon Park. Final returns from all precincts give Sebring a plurality of 52.

Highlands county was the last of the four new counties made from old DeSoto to vote on the county seat question, Glades having selected Moore Haven; Hardee, Wauchula, and Charlotte, Punta Gorda.

Beautiful Grounds

The grounds around the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Glover, on Charlotte avenue near the school, are a revelation to people who visit and inspect them for the first time. They contain fifty varieties of palms, some of which are very rare, and a lot of them are loaded with as much as a year-load of coconuts. Besides these, there are many fruit trees and many plants bearing beautiful flowers are absent, they do not object to in the most attractive condition, which is a delight to the beholder. A visit to Punta Gorda would be incomplete, if it did not include a visit to the Glover home. When the owners are absent, they do not object to visitors coming in and inspecting the place, if they do not disturb the plants and shrubbery.

Cemetery Association Met

The first meeting of the Cemetery Improvement Association was held Tuesday night. A committee was appointed to arrange for a "clean-up" day at the cemetery. Miss Hester Douglas is chairman of the committee and Mrs. F. M. Cooper and Mrs. Laura Reed the other members. A special meeting has been called by President Weeks for Tuesday, November 28th, at 7:30 p. m. at the Masonic hall. All who are interested in improving the cemetery are urged to attend. New members and donations of money and labor will be welcomed.

Florida leads all other states of the south in percentage of farms using autos, motor trucks and tractors.

NUMBER OF RESIDENCES IN COURSE OF BUILDING

Others Planned and Indications Point to Continued Activity in Building

There is but little let-up in building operations in Punta Gorda, and all the carpenters in town have plenty of work. As soon as one building is finished, another is started. Mrs. Yeager's handsome residence on Marian avenue near the Methodist church has been completed, and workmen are now busy laying the foundations and erecting the framing for E. L. Engren's elegant home on Marian avenue, east. J. S. Jackson, jr., is building a cottage home on the eastern extension of Marian avenue, and just beyond it John Hurion is finishing a unique, but very cozy cottage, which he designs for rent. All the concrete blocks for the foundation of J. H. Howard's new residence on Taylor street next to the Conolly mansion have been finished; and, as soon as the lumber, which has been ordered, arrives, construction will begin. Henry Morgan has the framing up for a small, but very cozy and attractive cottage home on the rock road just south of town. Several other buildings will be under construction before the end of the year, which is only five weeks distant. Amongst these is a residence for John L. Johnson of Raleigh, North Carolina, which will be built on a lot opposite the Presbyterian church, which he bought last week from K. P. Jones of Maryville, Tennessee, and has already cleared off preparatory to building. Mr. Johnson with his wife and two children were on their way to Fort Myers, several weeks ago, and stopped off here to look around, when they became so favorably impressed with this place that they decided to locate here. The sale of the lot which they bought was effected by Trabue & Parker, who are doing all that they can to secure desirable settlers for this locality.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Knight are having a comfortable, modern home erected facing Marian avenue east of the Smith building and will occupy it just as soon as finished, which will be about the first of the year.

Tourists Needlework Club

The Tourists Needlework Club met for the first time this season at the home of Mrs. Sellers on Goldstein street Wednesday afternoon. They are a jolly, industrious and attractive lot of young ladies, but all became shy when the reporter attempted to learn their respective ages. However, they gave their names without hesitation, and as all start "Mrs.," the reporter opines that no mere man will be welcome at club gatherings. The reporter observed many curious

Farmers' Extremity



H. W. Moorehouse, of the American Farm Bureau Federation, says a new credit arrangement must be adopted immediately if we are to prevent wholesale bankruptcy of mid-western farmers on March 1.

things that were being fashioned by their deft fingers, but lest he expose his colossal ignorance of such, refrained from comment. It was decided that no meeting will be held next week, but the club will meet with Mrs. Geo. N. Parker December sixth. Those present at the meeting Wednesday were: Mrs. E. N. McLaughlin, Topeka, Kan.; Mrs. Leon Safford, Demorest, Ga.; Mrs. R. Wiesbrock, New York; Mrs. J. P. Adair, Knoxville, Tenn.; Mrs. John Tener, Portsmouth, Ohio; Mrs. Clara B. Hatfield, Dayton, Ohio; Mrs. H. O. Bliss, Three Rivers; Mrs. Geo. N. Parker, Robinson, Ill.; Mrs. P. K. Hurton, Morrow, Ohio; Mrs. Taylor Warnock, Peebles, Ohio; Mrs. John Dyal, Topeka, Kan.; Mrs. J. H. Miller, Mrs. C. P. Wilhelm, Mrs. Morton Sellers, Mrs. H. B. Blazer, Mrs. P. Bowers, Mrs. F. J. Stallo, Mrs. P. C. Goldie and Ivy Wilhelm, of Punta Gorda.

SPRAYING FOR MELANOSE IN THE FALL IS USELESS

To Control This Disease, Prune and Burn Dead Wood and Spray With Bordeaux Oil

"Spraying for melanose in fall and winter is a waste of perfectly good time and money," O. F. Burger, plant disease specialist of the Florida Experiment Station, advises citrus growers in recent letters.

Dr. Burger says that a number of growers have recently written to him asking for instructions for the spraying of citrus for melanose with bordeaux oil. These growers seem to have been led to believe that this disease may be controlled by spraying in winter as well as any other time, which is entirely erroneous.

"Melanose is caused by a fungus which lives in the dead branches and terminal twigs of the citrus tree," Dr. Burger wrote. "During rainy seasons the spores, or seed-like bodies, of the fungus are washed down to the young leaves and fruit. If there were melanose in the groves and if the fruit was not sprayed early in the season, the spores have already reached the fruit, and it is now too late to spray."

"To spray with bordeaux oil early in spring—from ten to twenty days after the blossoms open—means that the young fruit is covered with a thin film of the spraying material which keeps the spores of the disease from entering the fruit's tissues and thus causing the disease."

"All the spraying in the world with all the material possible to apply will not remove the effects of the disease which has been allowed to develop throughout the season. When once within the tissue of the fruit, there is no remedy. The rusting caused by melanose cannot be controlled now; it is too late."

Dr. Burger advises citrus growers to prune out and burn all dead wood from their trees in fall and winter, and to spray the trees with bordeaux oil in spring just about ten or twenty days after the blossoms appear. That and that alone, he says, will control this disease. Do not allow yourself to be persuaded to believe any other argument, as this advice is from the one man in the state who is supposed to know best about this subject.

The crown princess of Roumania, who was Princess Helen of Greece, is reckoned one of the few royal beauties.

Japan has a decimal of currency like that of the United States.

LIGHT PROBLEM DISCUSSED BY THE CITY COMMISSION

Southern Utilities Company Will Sell Current for Six Cents on New Contract

Discussion of the city's electric light and water problem was resumed at a meeting of the city commission Wednesday night, but no decided action was taken looking to renewal of the contract with the utility company or the city installing its own plant.

At a previous meeting the city manager was authorized to offer the utility company a new contract based upon a graduated scale of prices for current according to the amount consumed, the price per kilowatt becoming less as the consumption increased.

Mr. Sikes, representing the Southern Utilities Co., was present and stated that he thought that a contract based upon a flat rate of six cents per kilowatt would be more advantageous to the city than a contract based upon the graduated scale suggested by the city, and that his company was prepared to enter a new contract on the basis of six cents per kilowatt, flat. At present the city is paying seven cents per kilowatt for the first 3,000 kilowatts and six and one-half cents per kilowatt for all current in excess of the first 3,000. A contract at the six cent rate would, said Mr. Sikes, save the city about \$800.00 a year.

It seems from the discussion that the city is adverse to entering into a new contract for a period of ten years on a flat rate basis of even six cents but might be willing to renew for five years at this rate. On the other hand, according to Mr. Sikes if his company enters into a new contract it means that expensive new equipment must be added to the plant to take care of the business and the company would not be justified in making these additions with a contract running but five years, or at least Mr. Sikes gave it as his opinion that this would be the attitude of the company. "The town wants and demands tip-top service," he said, "and if we enter into a contract with the city that is the kind of service I want to give and expect to give." He said that another 100-watt unit would be required to give this service.

As stated in the beginning no definite conclusion was reached as to what course the city might take, but there will be another meeting of the commission tonight, when it is expected that the light and water problem, which has been occupying the attention of the commission and manager for several months, will be definitely disposed of one way or the other, or at least a start made in that direction.

The report of the chief of police for the month showed that the office had turned over to the city a total of \$167.50 for fines, dog tax and licenses.

Good Farm

During the past week, the writer paid a visit to the farm of the Jones brothers, which is some six miles southeast of town, and he was surprised to find it one of the most desirable places that he has ever seen anywhere. It contains eighty acres of pine and hammock lands, which are admirably located on rolling ground sloping gradually to a lovely creek, which gives excellent drainage to the cultivated lands and supplies all the water that may be needed for irrigation. As a result of this superior location, the unprecipitated rains of the fall did not prevent the brothers from raising fine crops of sweet potatoes and various kinds of vegetables, which they are growing for the local markets. These crops present a beautiful sight. Amongst them is growing an orange grove of very young trees of fancy varieties, which, in a few years, will be yielding an income. Besides vegetables and fruit trees, the brothers are raising hogs, of which they have a considerable and increasing herd, which is bringing them in satisfactory returns. With limited means, they have accomplished wonders, chiefly by their personal labor; and, with their pluck and energy, in a few years, they will be independent. The names of the brothers are Ferguson, Nealy and Charley Jones. They are the kind of men who are a blessing to the country as well as to themselves.

There are suns whose rays have never reached the earth. Still some men hold their opinions to be the sum total of infinity and destiny.