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.

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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

FLORIDA, LAND OF ROMANCE HAS AN INTERESTING HISTORY

Was Battle Ground of Pioneers and Cavaliers for Centuries; Participated in the Civil War; Now is Prospering and Growing

Almost 138 years ago—on January 20, 1773—while arranging at Paris the preliminaries of the treaty of peace which acknowledged the independence of the United States of America, Great Britain, inspired, no doubt, by one of the German sovereigns, threw a parting rock at the Americans by receding Florida to Spain.

Romantic and earlier, surpassing and beyond that of any other section of this country, is the history of the Land of Florida. As far back as the second decade of the notable sixteenth century, Juan Ponce De Leon having listened to the magical story of a mythical fountain of youth in this fairyland, in which the reinforced bather would become young and vigorous again—the Fountain of Perpetual Youth—came here to find it.

Therefore, desiring a restoration of youth, he equipped an expedition, sailed westward in quest of the mythical fountain, and on Easter Sunday, 1512, the twentieth year after the discovery of the New World by Columbus, he landed on the coast of Florida, gave it the name it now bears, because of its flowers. This was 95 years before the English planted a colony at Jamestown, Virginia, and 198 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Ponce De Leon sailed down the East Coast of Florida, in search of the wonderful fountain, but, not finding it, returned to Spain, no doubt, a very much disappointed man because of the failure to find that the myth he sought was real, and yet his name and fame are firmly fixed in the early annals of America. Subsequently he sailed again. During this voyage he passed from earth, and his mortal body was laid to rest on the island of Porto Rico. It may be that in another world he found the Fountain of Perpetual youth.

The wonderful peninsula has since changed owners several times. At first it was the home of the Indian. Here were the happiest of happy hunting grounds. Wild game abounded in the forests, and in the clear water of its thousands of lakes swam millions of fish, and numerous were the birds that lived in this land of forests and lakes. Indeed, there could have been no happier hunting grounds in what is now the United States.

By right of discovery, Florida was held by Spain for about 250 years. St. Augustine, the earliest settlement by white men in the United States, where the first frame house built by Europeans is still standing, and has become a cherished memento of the past, while nearby a magnificent hotel the Ponce De Leon, perpetuates the name of Florida's discoverer, brings the old and the new close together.

In 1539 the territory was explored by Hernando DeSoto. He landed, among other places, at Tampa, some time before the discovery of the Mississippi river, and was buried in its waters as it flowed in solemn silence, unvexed by a keel of commerce, to the Gulf of Mexico. In 1665 a body of French Calvanists, who had settled in Florida three years before, were butchered by the Spaniards and driven out, and the Spaniards held undisputed possession until 1763, when the territory was ceeded to England

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FLORIDA GROWERS URGE QUARANTINE ON FRUIT

A strong plea for an effective quarantine or other restriction to prevent the introduction of the Mediterranean and other fruit flies into the United States in imported fruit and vegetables was made to the federal horticultural board by a United California delegation composed of representatives of every branch of the fruit industry there.

It was supported by Florida, represented by J. H. Montgomery of the state plant board, and by West Virginia, represented by H. W. Miller of the West Virginia horticultural society.

Representatives of a dozen foreign nations which send fruit and vegetables to the United States urged that no embargo be placed on their products. Fruit and vegetables importers from Atlantic coast cities were represented and various commercial organizations whose interests are allied with the fruit and vegetable industry were heard.

Chairman C. M. Marlett of the federal horticultural board explained the necessity for some means to prevent the introduction of the insect pests, and after hearing all sides interested, said whatever restriction was imposed it could not be arrived at offhand. Any action taken, he said, would be only after careful examination of the facts keeping in mind all interests involved.

Roman Signal for Battle

The Roman signal for battle was the unfurling of a red flag; the white flag has always been a sign of truce or peace.

Power of Vision in Birds

A bird's power of vision is about 100 times greater than man's.

Cartoon Review of 1922

A SURVEY OF UNDERGROUND WATER IN FLORIDA PLANNED

State Authorities Would Determine Which Are Fit for Drinking Purposes — Sanitary Engineer and Geologist Interested in Plan.

A survey of underground water—lakes and streams—in Florida to determine which waters are fit hygenically for drinking purposes and which are dangerous, is being planned by George W. Simmons, Jr., chief sanitary engineer of the state board of health, and Herman Gunter, state geologist, following conferences held in Jacksonville recently, according to reports appearing in the daily papers.

Drainage wells also are to be investigated. In many parts of the state these wells are to be found, most of them, it is said, were bored before the passage of a statute by the legislature of 1913 prohibiting them. As many of these as can be located, are to be investigated and designated on a map to be made as a part of the survey.

The operation will give an excellent opportunity for a study of geological formations, and it is believed the United States geological survey will be sufficiently interested to take part in the plan. Letters have been written to that department, as well as the United States public health service, which, it is said, probably will be willing to co-operate. Representatives of both governments have been asked by Mr. Simmons and Mr. Gunter.

For the information of towns and cities all over the state the investigators will determine quality and quantity of water coming from underground sources. This information will be of considerable value to municipalities planning the installation of water works and those arranging for extensions.

Many springs in Florida, it is believed, are supplied underground water, some of which probably is polluted with water from drainage wells. These may be found in almost every section of the state. Socalled "sinks" abound in Florida. These are caused by the washing out of a limestone strata and in a number of instances the ground has given way under weight. On one occasion a railroad train dropped down in a sink hole in Alachua county and on another occasion a large area of ground on a public road gave way under the weight of a horse and carriage.

Some of the largest of these sinks are to be found in Alachua county. One of these is known as the "Devil's Mill Hopper," a huge hole with almost perpendicular banks located several miles from Gainesville. Near Gainesville, also is what is known as Payne's Prairie. This entire lowland was once a great lake of considerable depth. Several years ago the water seeped through into some underground passage entirely draining the lake. Payne's prairie is partially filled with water at all times of the year and in the rainy season becomes quite deep.

All the water which pours into underground passages from lakes, streams and drainage wells is not contaminated but some of it is and the question of what waters are fit for human consumption is one of considerable importance to Florida. For this reason, Mr. Simmons said, it had been deemed advisable to investigate all underground water in the state and for this purpose the survey has been planned.

LOCAL POLICE ROUND-UP INFRACTORS OF THE LAW

The local police officers deserve credit not solely for their efficiency, but especially for their discretion in making arrests. In practically every case of an arrest made by them, the accused has been found guilty of the offence charged against him. Of four cases, for example, tried by County Judge Trabue during the past week, every one was convicted. Miles Lowe was fined $25.00 and costs or thirty days in prison for reckless driving. Ben Taylor, a colored man, was charged $100.00 and costs or ninety days for carrying concealed weapons. J. J. Brown, who passed a worthless check on A. P. Hatch for $16.00, was fined $5.00 with costs added amounting to $115.-84. Brown, after passing the check, skipped to Palatka, but Sheriff Lipscomb got on his track, went to Palatka and brought him back Monday night. If he fails to pay up, he will have to work for the county for six months. On the same day (Tuesday), J. O. Driggers was convicted of selling intoxicating liquor and fined $100.00 and costs with the alternative of serving the county four months. He was arrested by Police Chief Caldwell.

Prune Your Trees Now

Prune that dead wood out of your citrus trees now and avoid much spraying next spring and summer and at the same time insure a bunmper crop for next season. A stitch in time saves nine.

Population United States

The population of the U. S., according to the 1920 census, was 105,-710,620. Of this number 6,448,366 were classed as farmers, and the total rural population was 51,406,017.

AN INDUSTRY OF GREAT PROMISE FOR FLORIDA

Being Established in Polk County—To Utilize Grapefruit of the Lower 'Glades

"The canning of grapefruit hearts in Florida is comparatively a new industry. It was tried out last year with good success by a Miami concern which has since moved to Polk county and which will operate at Haines City. Another concern, a purely co-operative one, will operate at Eagle Lake in the same county, an old citrus packing house being used and $30,000 worth of canning machinery already installed. The new plant is owned by the associations of Polk county that now co-operate with the Florida Citrus Exchange. It will have a capacity of 500 cases (two dozen cans to the case) per day and it is expected that at least 50,000 cases will be put up this season," according to the Florida Grower.

"Only the hearts of the grapefruit will be preserved and the cans will contain nothing but the fruit, fruit juice and sugar. The process involves the removal of the rinds, the seeds and the 'rag' as the bitter membrane which binds the segments of the grapefruit is called. A coring machine has been invented by E. H. Lefeve, the manager of the Eagle Lake cannery, and it will be used in the preparation of the fruit canned in the new plant. Care is being taken that none of the juice will be lost.

"All of the machinery and other appliances in use in the plant will be the most modern procurable and every care will be taken to comply with the very rigid regulations prescribed by the state board of health where food products are handled. To that end all tables and other parts of the plant, with which the fruit to be canned might in any way come in contact after the peeling process, will be enamel and so arranged that they may be washed and kept in the best possible condition from sanitary points of view.

"The product of the Eagle Lake

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PUNTA GORDA'S CHRISTMAS

The weather was ideal, bright and cool all last week and up to Wednesday of this week, when it clouded up in the morning and rained through the afternoon. There was no noise, save that made by motor vehicles and a few firecrackers; and there was practically no disorder. A very few people indulged in "shine," but only two of them got sufficiently under its influence to require the attention of the police. Even those two did not make uproar enough to attract much attention.

Upon the whole, it was a very, very pleasant Christmas for all concerned, especially for the children, who appeared to have received more presents than ever before. The stores were well stocked with Christmas goods in wonderful variety, and the merchants had a good trade.

There were many happy family reunions, with the accompanying feasts. Every family, so far known, had one or more feasts; and many of them had special Christmas trees loaded with gifts for their own and their neighbors' children.

Formal observance of the occasion began Saturday night, when there were Christmas trees resplendent with gifts for the Sunday school children of each the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian churches. The interior of the churches was beautifully decorated in keeping with the lovely trees, their branches bending beneath their load of presents. The distribution of the gifts by Santa Claus was preceded by appropriate exercises by the children, which were well executed and immensely enjoyed by the grown spectators with whom each church was packed. These exercises consisted chiefly of songs, recitations and dialogues, all of which were short, but very entertaining. Some children took part in several different exercises, and did it so well as to show remarkable memory. It was worth much just to see how happy and capable these children were.

Special Christmas services were held in the Episcopal church on Monday, the usual services having been held Sunday before. In the Baptist and Presbyterian churches, Christmas services were held Sunday. Owing to the absence of the pastor, the Methodist church had no special service. Large congregations attended these services.

Pomp and Pageantry at South Florida Fair

Pomp and pageantry in liberal assortment will be features of the South Florida Fair and Gasparilla Carnival that opens in Tampa on Feb. 1 next and continues through to Feb. 10. Returning to plans of several years ago, abandoned during the period of the war and immediately after, parades are to be prominent among the attractions of the Fair.

First of these is to be the military parade on the opening day, Feb. 1, when Tampa's recently organized artillery battalion, the 116th Field Artillery, is to parade, preceding the military maneuvers, exhibitions of stunt riding and sham battle to be staged at the fair grounds. The parade will be the first public appearance in full equipment of the artillery organization, and the opening day of the Fair, called "Army Day," is to be in the hands of the gunners who are making preparations to present the finest military spectacle that has been seen in Florida since the days of the Spanish-American war.

Following this, the Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla is to present what is expected to be the most gorgeous and colorful pageant ever witnessed in Florida, on Monday, Feb. 5. The Krewe is arranging for a number of

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PRESENT STATUS HARBOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Set Forth in Letter from Senator Fletcher to Secretary Price of the Commercial Club

Secretary M. C. Price of the Punta Gorda commercial club, received from Senator Fletcher under date of the 21st inst., a reply to his letter of the 1th on the subject of local harbor improvements, the contents of which are of general interest and in substance are as follows:

"The Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, War Department, this city, gave notice on Nov. 6th, 1922, that it is not convinced of the advisability of the United States undertaking any improvement at this locality at the present time, and stated its reasons.

"Major Young, of the Corps of Engineers, advised us December 12th:

" 'We requested the Club for such additional information as might be readily available concerning the number, draft and capacity of the vessels in the line now running between Tampa and Fort Myers, and other pertinent information regarding the operation of this line.'

"I mailed you on December 14th copy of the letter which I received from Major Young, and you will note he stated:

" 'The Board will be pleased to comply with your wishes by delaying final consideration of this matter for a reasonable time to afford opportunity for gathering additional data.'

"You will, I am certain, understand and aprepciate the fact that I am not in position to furnish the additional data—that is a matter for you and others there directly interested to give attention to within a reasonable time.

"The Board in its notice of November 6th stated:

" 'All parties interested in the proposed improvement are invited to submit within a period of 30 days from the date of this notice statements and arguments bearing upon the necessity for the improvement in

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