

Panama City Pilot

Vol. 1.

Panama City, Washington County, Florida, May 30, 1907.

No. 1.

Beach Combings.

Capt Raymond Sheppard brought a tow of logs for the mill from East Bay on Friday last.

Capt Frank Witherill has been busy of late in putting the finishing touches on the Old Town wharf.

The Tarpon on Friday brought in a large consignment of shingles from Apalachicola for G. B. Thompson.

Panama City lays claim to having the best public school in Washington county. And we are prepared to prove our claim.

Mr. Boutelle our popular artist of the brush has been putting some finishing touches on buildings here during the past week.

Mr Sasser foreman of the telephone crew states that on Friday last the crew put in 150 poles. A days work that they can brag over.

Already the red fish or channel bass are beginning to bite around the wharf here, and at the slab dock, and many good catches are reported.

Mr. E. Ayars our pioneer architect and builder has been helping during the past few days to get the fittings of the PILOT office in running order.

Mr W. F. Gregory, of the West End, landed a three foot trout at the mill dock Friday last. Up country fishermen take notice. The harvest has begun.

Mr. M. B. Jenks is planning upon the erection of a cottage on lot 8, in block 9, facing Magnolia avenue. There is a great and constantly increasing call for houses in our growing city.

Correspondents and advertisers will please note that we go to press Thursday morning. All communications and advertisements should be in our hands by Wednesday forenoon.

Now is the season when the festive sea turtle takes a night off and deposits at one sitting, from one hundred to one hundred and fifty eggs. Turtle parties are now in order.

Panama City and the entire Bay country require an up to date laundry. There is ample business for one, and there would be good money in the business from the start. Who will start it?

A very pleasurable little dancing party was held at the Panama City Hotel on Thursday evening of last week. It was participated in by many of our own people, as well as by the guests of the hotel.

Mr. E. W. Masker has gotten out six pretty post cards with colored views of various points of interest at Panama City. McKenzie & Co., will have them on sale here, and they can be obtained in large quantities of Mr. Masker.

Mr. David Davis, formerly of Chipley, is busily engaged in clearing up his residence lot upon the point, on the bayou, and getting the house in readiness to move into. Hereafter Dave can be counted upon as one of the hustlers of Panama City.

Green & Hogeboom have been busy of late in getting out cement blocks for various foundations, fire places, chimneys and gate posts. This product offers a perfect substitute for the best of limestone, and for fire places and chimneys is superior to it.

Postmaster Taylor Poston informs us that the Department have notified him, that beginning with July 1st, this will be a money order office. Our people have been handicapped for the lack of this necessity, and will rejoice to know that their wants will soon be supplied.

Mr. A. Hogeboom has of late been engaged in putting in two fire places and a large chimney at the residence of G. M. West, at Old Town, building a fire place for A. Elliston, and placing the foundation for the house of M. B. Jenks. "A" is a hustler and is doing some fine work in the above line.

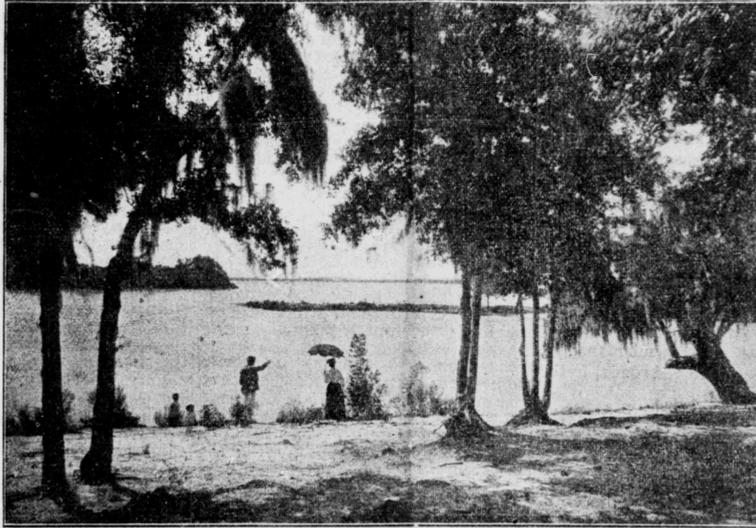
The tug Simpson last week brought to Millville the Corliss engine for the new mill for the German American Lumber Co. It is the largest engine hereabouts, being of 750 horse power, and has a 18 foot fly wheel. Mr. Boyer informs us that the erection of their new mill is moving along very satisfactorily, and there is a prospect of their having it in running order much sooner than was thought possible at the time the old mill was burned.

Improvements in Magnolia Park still continue. The old cannon which was cast in Falkirk, Scotland, long ago, and used on shipboard during the civil war, has been mounted on a stone pedestal at the entrance, and adds much to the attractiveness of that portion of the grounds. This park is one of the prettiest places on the entire bay, and being so accessible, and centrally located, it will soon become the place for all picnics and public gatherings on this section of the bay.

Mr. T. Watts, of Chipley, owner of the long distance line from Dothan to Chipley, and other telephone lines, has been here the past week with a crew of men, extending his line from Anderson to Gay, Millville, Panama City, and St. Andrew. When the work is completed Mr Watts will have a first class line in every respect, and our citizens will have the benefit of a line that can be used in conjunction with the Bell service, where Mr Watts line connects with it, reaching about every portion of the country. The office here will be in McKenzie Bros. store.

It is time that the question of where the 4th of July shall be celebrated on the Bay should be settled, and preparations began for a proper celebration of the day. Panama City is centrally located, and if the choice of the people of this section, every one here will lend a helping hand to get up such a programme as will be pleasing and interesting to all comers. Shall it be Panama City?

Mr Ernest Wood of Atlanta has been appointed engineer in charge of the work on the A. & St A. B. R. R.



View of Bayou from foot of Second Street, Panama City.

Mr. A. Hogeboom has purchased a lot in the south part of block 1, near the M. E. church corner, and will build thereon two cottages. Work on them will be started at once, and they will be offered for rent as soon as completed. This is a very nice residence district, and houses there will certainly be in great demand.

Mr. M. B. Jenks is erecting a very fine two story dwelling house on the north east corner of block 13, at the corner of 2nd st. and Luverne avenue. Cement blocks have been used for the foundation, and when completed this house will make a very choice home for some one. Mr. Dixon is the architect and builder.

Mr Frank McGill who has been the Woods and Railway Manager of the German American Lumber Co., for the past year and a half, has resigned, and will on Friday remove to Carrabelle with his family. Mr McGill has made many friends while residing in this section, all of whom wish him abundant success in his new home.

An Epworth League will be formed at St Andrew next Wednesday night Mr J. J. Ward of this place will take part in instituting the same.

The Tarpon arrived early on Friday last from the east, and reached Panama City at 12 noon yesterday on her way westward. Since coming out of the dock newly painted and repaired, the steamship makes a very neat and substantial appearance.

Several launch parties have been visiting the Gulf beach during the past week. There is hardly a day passes but what some of our citizens or visitors spend a part of the day on the outer beach, shell gathering, bathing, and picnicing. There is no finer sport to be had on a hot evening than to take a dip in the surf there.

Mr J. L. Neill, and Mr Ernest Wood, of the engineer corps of the A. & St A. B. R. R., reached here last evening on their monthly trip making estimates of the work done on this end of the line. They report good progress being made on the north end, the steam shovel being busily engaged near White pond, and the rail laid to the big cut at that point.

At the picnic on Tuesday our base ball boys, the young chaps, assisted by the St Andrew boys, cleaned out the Millville club. Now that they have demonstrated their ability to play ball our fans are preparing to equip them with uniforms, and then we shall expect a better exposition of the National game than ever. Why dot have a series of games here on the 4th.

Twenty four inches in length, twenty six, and then as long as from the water to the dock floor, are the varying reports of sizes of fish caught from off the dock here this week. Of course the big ones got away with hook and line, and one porpoise had the nerve to catch a jumping mullet three feet above the water, and before getting under, taking Mr. R. L. McKenzie's lead and a portion of his line with which he was fishing at that point. Possibly the porpoise had heard of the lead cure for poor digestion.

UNION S. S. PICNIC!

Largely Attended.

No more perfect day could have been wished for than was that selected by the Sunday School of Saint Andrews, Panama City, Millville, and Cromanton, on Tuesday, for their annual picnic. It was clear, delightfully cool, and breezy, and such a day as makes the old young again, and the young fully satisfied with their annual picnic.

Early in the day delegations began to arrive by team and boat, from various points, and by 11 a. m. all who participated were on hand. Preparations had been made in the Park in the way of tables and seats, so that all were well cared for in that way, and the young people had enjoyment in swinging, games, and the younger boys in a game of base ball.

At noon the tables were spread with the whitest of linen, and fairly covered with such an abundance of delicious eatables that when all had partaken, as only people eat at picnic dinners, there was enough left to have provided for another crowd of the same size.

The Cleopatra, Capt Otway Ware, brought the largest number from Saint Andrew, the remainder coming on launches of Capt Raymond Sheppard, Bert Ware, and DeShazo. Among those from there were Rev E. W. Roberts and family, Rev F. Wine-man, Mr J. R. Thompson, Mrs M. B. Jenks, Mrs L. E. Ware and daughters, Mrs Day, Mrs J. H. Drummond and son, Mrs Capt Alexander, Mrs Emmons, Mrs Kester, Mrs Saunders, Mr Oscar Sheppard, Mr Ed Day, the Misses Maud and Essie Gainer, Ethel and Birdie Purcell, Eba Hasselburg and many others.

From Millville we noted Mr J. M. Barrow, wife and son, Mr G. M. B. Harries and wife, Mr Wm Prows and wife, Mrs Boyis and daughters Salina, Bessie and Inez, Mrs W. B. Gray, Mr W. J. Jones, and family, Mrs Spiva, Mrs Will Spiva, Mrs W. A. Brown and children, and many others. Mr Charles Forbes brought over many of the above party in his launch, while others came with teams.

Mr Mosher and Master Johnnie Bailey were among those from Cromanton.

Mr and Mrs Willis and daughter and son were present from McKenzies still.

The PILOT is very anxious to have a correspondent in every portion of the Bay country. This weeks issue goes forth under the disadvantages usual to getting out a first number, 100 miles away from any point where supplies can be obtained, but we promise our readers that we shall try to improve with each number, and we must have your help to set before the world our unparalleled advantages, and let them know what those are doing who are here.

OUR RAILWAYS!

Good Progress Made.

From the Chipley Verdict we glean the following items regarding the progress made by the Atlanta & St Andrews Bay R. R., and the B. C. & St A. B. R. R.

Major Gordan, President, and Chief Engineer Wm. H. Edinger and assistants, of the B. C. & St. A. B. Ry., arrived here yesterday. Business is now brisk on that line which will be pushed through to the Bay. Several construction cars, coaches and another engine are en route, as is also many carloads of iron and other supplies. The early completion of the road is now a certainty.

The Verdict's Fountain correspondent states that the engineering corps of the A. & St A. B. R. R. are located there, and expect to make that their headquarters for some time. From Round Lake comes the statement that the road will reach there in another week or so, and that both there and at Compass Pond settlers are coming in rapidly, and both places are fast building up.

The result of constructing both roads will be to build up many small villages where now there are but virgin forests, and Washington county will within two years double in population.

Portland Cement.

Official reports show the production of Portland Cement in the United States for the year 1906 to have been 45,610,822 barrels. In 1906 the production was but 8,482,020 barrels. The enormous yearly increase warrants the opinion of many that we are approaching a "cement age," and that Portland Cement will soon supplant stone, and take the place of the fast disappearing timber supply. Panama City has the credit of being the first place on this bay to introduce cement as a building material for other than foundations &c. In the Fall of 1906 Mossers, Green & Hogeboom erected a plant here for the manufacture of all kinds of cement blocks, and other cement products, and have turned out some very fine work in that line. Thus far they have used only German cement, as that could be laid down here cheaper than the American product. This use of foreign cement is common along the coast, as freighters use it as ballast west bound across the Atlantic, and this importation, if added to the American output, would increase quite considerably the amount shown as used last year. The Surber Brothers of Pretty Bayou have also engaged in the manufacture of cement blocks, thus making two firms now in the business on this bay. With the scarcity of brick, and entire absence of stone in this section, this material is bound to be used extensively in buildings, fire places, abutments, side walks, cisterns, and foundations of all kinds.

BOTTLING WORKS.

Another Industry Added!

The McKenzie Brothers are erecting a building in which will be installed the largest and finest bottling works in this section of the country. They have purchased the most approved modern machines and accessories, and secured a practical operator of good experience to make the product.

These works will soon be in operation, when a representative of the company will visit all points around the bay, and along the line of the road, and solicit business. They will put out a grade of goods that cannot be excelled, and can promise prompt and sure deliveries. We bespeak for this new industry a good and growing trade.

New Banks.

The long felt want of the Bay people for banking facilities is about to be quite fully supplied if the plans of the organizers of the bank at St. Andrew, and the one at Panama City, do not go awry. It is to be hoped that both these institutions will soon be in running order, as the increase in population, and business activity hereabouts, demands that banking privileges be supplied those requiring the same, very speedily.

In connection with the banking business the following extract from Bank Notes offers some very pertinent suggestions that it might be well for the bank officials hereaway to take note of.

"After all, banking is only about one part abstruse mathematics and the other nine parts, executive ability, sound judgment and tact.

The art of winning and holding the hearts of the people for your bank is worth more than great stores of the wealth of knowledge concerning the operations in Wall Street. Good will is an account that does not appear on the ledger but wise is the banker and exceedingly large his deposit account who places the proper value on public approval of himself and his bank."

Collection of Taxes Restrained.

In the United States Court for this District, Judge Swayne, on the 15th, rendered a decision in the case of the Jackson Lumber Co. vs. Charles F. Turner, Tax collector of Walton county, restraining the latter from advertising or selling any of the lands of the Jackson Lumber Co., for the taxes assessed for the year 1905.

The following extract from the decision shows the ground upon which the decree is issued:

"the court finding that the assessment law of Florida relative to the assessment and collection of taxes upon real estate violates the Federal constitution which guarantees due process of law to its citizens, and is unconstitutional."

The contention of counsel for the lumber company, which drew forth the above decision, was that the law allowed the tax assessor to raise the assessment without giving the party assessed any opportunity to appear and defend his rights, either before the assessor, or the county board.

The brief of the counsel for the Lumber Company, Col. Wm. W. Flourney, of DeFuniak Springs, is a very able document, and touches upon various phases of the tax laws of this state which have been questioned, and which require remodeling before they are up to the standard required by the courts of the country.

This section of Washington county is just now passing through a very unpleasant and costly experience, resulting from muddled assessments and illegal tax sales, and would rejoice in any reformation in the tax laws that would render a repetition of present conditions impossible. Of course it would be possible for them to do as the Jackson Lumber Co., have done, and undoubtedly the result would be the same, but the parties who are the sufferers in this case have not the means to enter into such costly litigation, nor should they be required to, to preserve their rights and property.

Mr J. L. Neill who has been in charge of the engineer forces on the Atlanta & St Andrew Bay R. R. since its inception, has resigned, and will soon leave the employ of this company. Mr Neill is a most thorough civil engineer, with long experience in railway work, and the good alignment and low grades of the Panama City line is an evidence of what he can do in this way. His many friends here wish him the fullest measure of success wherever he may locate.