

**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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PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA, THURSDAY, MARCH 25th, 1920.

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## DIVISIONISTS LINED UP SOLIDLY TO WAGE A WINNING FIGHT

Antis Will be Clever if They Create Discord in Ranks of United Divisionists.

## ALMOST CERTAIN DIVISION CANDIDATES WILL WIN

Big Majority Will Help Them in the Legislature.

The fight to divide old DeSoto county and make of it four new counties was opened at Wauchula Wednesday of last week, when delegates from Punta Gorda, Moore Haven, Sebring, Avon Park and Wauchula met to plan the campaign that is expected to result in the creation of the new counties.

An outstanding feature of the meeting, which will carry with it no satisfaction to the anti-divisionists of "reada," was the complete harmony and determination to stick together shown by the delegates.

Various phases of the situation that confront the divisionists were carefully considered and there were but few differences of opinion. When such differences occurred a compromise was invariably reached and when the meeting adjourned the committee was more solidly united and determined to wage a winning fight than ever before.

As was related in this paper last week, Ex-Senator F. M. Cooper, of Punta Gorda, was nominated by the committee as the division candidate for senator, and it will be gratifying to all divisionists to know that in this selection they have a man who does and always has stood for division and that with the solid vote of Manatee county his election is practically certain, no matter who the anti-divisionists may bring out for the office. H. K. Still of Crewsville, was nominated as the division candidate for representative, and while little known in this end of the county, with the solid vote of Punta Gorda and all other towns outside the territory the divisionists have left to "old DeSoto" his election is practically certain even if a man is brought out against him.

C. J. Carleton and A. G. Smith represented Wauchula in the conference; H. F. R. Rock, Avon Park; Chester Blount, Punta Gorda; Messrs. McDonald, Harben and Worrell, Moore Haven; J. E. Graham, T. V. Conway and P. A. Ruhl, Sebring.

It was decided that the next meeting should be held at Moore Haven, and delegates from all parts of the county met there yesterday to further discuss plans for the campaign.

It is believed that if the people of DeSoto county tend to the legislative representatives elected on a division platform, thus giving indisputable proof that the majority of the people of the territory effected want the county divided, the legislature cannot ignore the demand for division and for this reason an effort will be made to induce every man who can legally do so to qualify and vote, thus giving the division candidates an overwhelming majority, which would give more strength to their representation than if elected by a small margin.

The territory comprising the new counties would include the following groups of towns:

Wauchula, Bowling Green, Zolfo, Buchanan, Fort Green, Fort Green Springs, Limestone, Crewsville, Lily, Torrey, Ona and Bridges.

Punta Gorda, Charlotte Harbor, Grove City, Acline and Gilchrist.

Arcadia, Brownville, Nocatee, Fort Oden, Bunker, Owens, Pine Level, Hull and Fort Winder.

Moore Haven and nearby settlements.

Sebring, Avon Park and DeSoto City.

Among the reasons for the organization's activities, as given by Mr. Carleton, president of the executive committee, are the following, which are recognized by home people but may be of interest to the outsider unfamiliar with the ins and outs of the situation:

"The wonderful development of our agricultural county, with its varied resources, warrants division.

"It is also evident that decrease in the county's area is necessary for proper enforcement of the law, and particularly in the matter of putting an end to wire-cutting, attacks in the dark, and enforcement of the prohibition laws.

"Division will give us five times as much assistance in the matter of highway building from the state and national governments—and more

good highways is one of our principal needs.

"Because it is unfair to force residents of remote sections of the county to travel long distances in order to reach the county seat.

"Because division will increase south Florida's representation in the legislature, which is sorely needed by the progressive section.

"I believe citizens generally realize the advisability of making the division, and that a large majority will support the movement heartily when all its phases are explained to them."

### Juniors Entertained Seniors.

On the evening of March 17th, St. Patrick's Day, at the home of Mrs. Pearl Baldwin, the junior class of the Punta Gorda High School entertained the senior of '20 at a delightful four-course dinner. The color scheme, pink and green, senior class colors, was carried out in the menu.

The guests began to assemble at 7:30 and were ushered into the living room by Miss Hazel Baldwin, who acted as hostess for the junior class. A short musical program was rendered by Miss Annie Knight, a talented senior, after which dinner was announced. The table was beautifully decorated with colors appropriate to the occasion, while the favors were Irish flags and green baskets filled with salted peanuts. A number of clever toasts were given. The guests departed at a late hour, thanking the junior class for the delightful evening they had arranged. Among those present were Misses Annie Knight, Theima Johnson, Irene Gatewood, Ida Mae Huckleby, Effie Goulding, Olive Stevens, Bettie Rawls, Hazel Baldwin, Maudie Burnham, Majorie Barnhill and Mrs. Baldwin; Messrs. C. H. Allen, Vasco Rawls, Edgar Roberts, Frank Walden, Raymond Reed, Albert Bell and Roosevelt Youmans.

### Garage Man Renovating Home.

Proprietor Calvin G. Page of the Dixie Highway Garage is renovating, remodeling and papering his home on Berry street. Orlando Silcox is doing the work.

## PUNTA GORDA TRUCKERS WHO HAVE STUFF WILL CLEAN UP ON HIGH PRICES

Supply Light and Good Stuff is Selling Easily at High Prices.

The New York Packer of the 19th says that in New York most lines of Florida vegetables this week were light. Lettuce showed up slightly burned, due to the effects of the recent frost and sold according to condition and quality from \$1 to \$3.50 per basket.

Tomatoes were in light offering early in the week and most of the stock was green. Prices ranged from \$2.50 to \$3 per carrier.

Cabbage was scarce and of fair condition and quality, and sold generally at \$3 to \$3.25 per basket.

Receipts of peppers were light and the quality and condition were good. Sales ranged from \$7 to \$8 per basket.

Some "hold-overs" of Telephone pens sold early in the week at \$1 to \$1.50 per basket.

Scarcely any beans were available and prices ruled firm at \$6 to \$8.50 per basket on what little stock was here. Extra fancy beans would have commanded much higher prices.

Celery was the exception to the rule, as it was in heavy receipt. Stock generally showed good quality and condition and moved out at \$3.50 to \$4 per standard crate.

Eggplants were in light supply and ranged from \$4 to \$6 per box for sound stock.

### Takes Thor Agency.

L. E. Robinson has secured the local agency for the Thor vacuum cleaner and his advertisement appears in this issue of the Herald. Mr. Robinson says that he selected the Thor as the best vacuum cleaner made, having had the choice of a half dozen of the best makes. His advertisement states that he will be glad to demonstrate the machine at any time after office hours.

### Carlstrom Field News.

"The boys" of Carlstrom field are now issuing a bright little weekly called the Carlstrom Field News, the first issue appearing last week. The News is filled with news of the camp and there seems to be but little room for the improvement promised in the first issue.

Columbia College, at Lake City, until recently operated as a denominational school, has been purchased by the United States public health service through the treasury department and will be converted into an army hospital at an early date.

## SURETY CO. TO PAY \$17,000.00 OF THE STAMM BRIDGE BOND

Stamm & Son's Bondsmen Agree to Pay That Amount in Settlement of Disputed Claim.

## COMPROMISE ACCEPTED BY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Think it Better to Accept \$17,000 Than Haggle Over Matter.

At a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners held Monday the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company, bondsmen of Frank J. Stamm & Son, who defaulted on their contract for the construction of the Charlotte Harbor bridge, were released as such bondsmen in consideration of the sum of \$17,000, their bond to the county, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the Stamm contract, being \$33,000.

The following resolution, setting forth the reasons for the commissioners' action in releasing the guaranty company, was passed:

Whereas, Frank J. Stamm and Frank J. Stamm, Jr., trading as Frank J. Stamm & Son, as principal, and United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company, as surety, executed a certain bond to the County of DeSoto, Florida, in the sum of \$33,000.00, bearing date the 11th day of November, A. D. 1916, conditioned upon the faithful performance of a certain contract between said Frank J. Stamm & Son, and said DeSoto county, with respect to the construction of certain bridge improvements in Charlotte Harbor Special Road and Bridge District of DeSoto county, which contract was made a part of said bond; and

Whereas, said contract was not completed and both parties thereto claiming a default on the part of the other; and

Whereas, said surety does not admit liability on said bond, but as a matter of business and public policy is willing to make a reasonable compromise of the claim of said county growing out of the alleged breach of said contract, and has agreed to pay said county the sum of \$17,000.00 in full settlement and compromise of any and all liability and claim on or by reason of said bond; and

Whereas, it will require a large sum of money to complete the work contracted to be performed in said contract and much in excess of the amount for which it was therein contracted to be performed; and

Whereas, in the judgment of this board it is to the best interest of the people of said county and district that said bridge be promptly completed and that by making said compromise with said surety the work can be more speedily completed;

Be it resolved, That said compromise offer be accepted, and upon the payment of said sum said United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company shall stand released and discharged from any and all liability and claims whatsoever, on or by reason of said bond; and

Be it further resolved, That upon such payment, the chairman and clerk of this board shall endorse on said bond the fact that the same has been cancelled and discharged, and thereupon they shall deliver said cancelled and discharged bond to said surety.

### "Some" Fish and Fishermen.

Charles Bodiford and L. E. Krepps take first prize as champion fishermen during the past week. Saturday they landed a jewfish weighing 125 pounds; Sunday they landed another that weighed 400 pounds, and Monday, when last heard from they had another that weighed 300 pounds. Mr. Krepps is of the opinion that they caught enough fish in three days to feed the entire populace for three weeks. All the big fellows were caught with hook and line off the city dock.

### Making Additions to Home.

F. M. Coper is making alterations and repairs to his home on southeast Taylor street that amount practically to building a new house. Another story and porch upstairs and down will be added, making this one of the handsomest and most comfortable homes on this street. J. Harvey Miller is doing the work.

### Sophis Will "Romp" on Seniors.

The public is invited to attend the chapel exercises at the High School Monday morning at eight o'clock and is promised some real fun, when, to use the words of a student, the sophomores will romp on the seniors.

## PLANS FOR COUNTRY CLUB BEGINNING TO TAKE DEFINITE FORM

Impetus Added to Movement by Special Meeting of Commercial Club Tuesday Night.

## TO BE FINANCED BY SALE OF STOCK IN \$10 SHARES

Everyone Will be Given Opportunity to Subscribe to Stock.

A special meeting of the Commercial Club was held Tuesday night to hear a report from the committee appointed to handle the preliminary steps looking to the organization of a stock company to finance the proposed golf course and country club, and the result of the meeting, while developing nothing definite, was to add impetus to the movement to secure the course and club.

Mr. Carrier, chairman of the committee, reported that there were several tracts of land that were ideally adapted to the purpose, but the committee had not had sufficient time to ascertain what price would be asked for these tracts. A map was displayed and three tracts that the committee thought were suited to the purpose were pointed out. One of these lies along the river, another in the same direction but still further removed, and the third a short distance in a southeasterly direction from town. All three locations are thought to have features to recommend them, but the general opinion seemed to be that the tract first mentioned is the ideal one if some slight objections can be overcome. This tract is well drained by two large tide creeks and it was pointed out that either of these might be dredged to a depth to allow boats to be brought up them for a considerable distance; the two hard roads and the railroad run through the tract and offer advantages for advertising the course and town, and here it might be possible to secure a waterfront location for the clubhouse. Nothing was decided as to the location and nothing will be decided until the committee has an opportunity to go into every detail and decide which location is the best from the standpoint of price, convenience, adaptability and investment, for it is planned to make stock in the financing corporation a safe investment to the subscribers.

The original committee of five was continued to work out further details and to solicit subscriptions to stock. It is likely that the shares will be of \$10 denomination, thus giving everyone who feels so disposed an opportunity to become stockholders. The corporation will be capitalized at \$25,000 and it will be necessary to secure subscriptions to at least \$12,000 of the stock before work is started on the course, as it will take at least this amount to buy the land, prepare the course and build a clubhouse. The remainder of the stock will be held in reserve and sold later if necessary. As soon as a sufficient amount of stock is sold a meeting of the subscribers will be called to organize and elect officers to proceed with the incorporation.

There seems to be not the slightest doubt in any quarter that the course and club are assured things, everyone seeming to feel that a golf course is an actual necessity and must be had without further delay. Noticing the movement for a golf course, the Florida Times-Union makes the following editorial comment:

"The move being made by Punta Gorda folks is excellent and they will find that golf links pay in more than one way. This is only one of the forward steps being taken in Punta Gorda which is promising to be heard from as a tourist town very soon."

### Clover Grows Here.

J. R. Smith, who resides outside the city limits on the bayfront, brought to the Herald office this week a handful of what appeared to be very fine clover, the stalks being about two and one-half feet in length. Mr. Smith said that this clover grew in his garden without fertilizer or any attention, which leads him to believe that it might be grown with profit on practically any of the lands nearby, thus supplying the best kind of feed in plenty for all local demands.

### Forged Testimonial, Alleged.

The Miami Metropolis says that the Rev. W. N. Norton, of that city, presiding elder of the Miami district of the Florida conference of the Methodist church, has instituted suit for damages of \$50,000 against the Cooper Medicine Co., manufacturers

of a patent medicine known as Tanlac, for publishing an alleged testimonial endorsement in his name of the medicine. According to Norton's attorney, Norton had no knowledge of the testimonial being printed in his name and had not authorized such action. The advertisement contains the testimonial, which gave Norton's initials as W. C. but referred to him as the presiding elder of the Miami district, was headed "Presiding Elder Norton Testifies." The advertisement was not printed in Miami but appeared in the Atlanta, Jacksonville and Tampa papers.

### John W. Burton Dead.

John W. Burton, a resident of DeSoto county for the past 29 years and one of this section's most prominent citizens, died at his home in Arcadia Monday night, following a short illness from influenza complicated with pneumonia. Attorney Burton was state's attorney for this district, had served as mayor of Arcadia a number of terms and as a member of the state democratic executive committee. His body will be shipped to Richmond, Va., for burial.

### Still Selling Coffee.

O. A. Riekey, the coffee man, of Tampa, was a visitor to Punta Gorda last week, being here in the interest of his firm, the Martin L. Hall Co., of Boston. Mr. Riekey has been in the coffee business in Florida for 20 years and has developed what is probably the largest business done by any single concern operating in the state, and in speaking of the amounts he had sold during the past few months mentioned astounding quantities, speaking in tons and not pounds.

### Perpetually Young.

There are no women in Punta Gorda more than forty-two years of age, at least this is to be inferred from a recent survey made of the people of Punta Gorda by the Methodist church in which the question as to age was one of a number propounded to the individual. The oldest woman so recorded was forty-two years of age.

## PALMDALE DISTRICT VOTES VOTES UNANIMOUSLY FOR \$55,000.00 ROAD BONDS

Only 10 Votes Cast But All Were in Favor of Bonds.

At a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners Monday returns from the special election held at Palmdale and Lakeport on Monday, March 15th, to determine whether a special road and bridge district should be created and bonds in the sum of \$55,000 issued to build permanent roads and bridges, were canvassed and it was found that a total of 10 votes were cast, all of which were for the formation of the special road and bridge district and the issuance of the bonds.

After canvassing the returns the commissioners adopted a resolution declaring the creation of Palmdale Special Road and Bridge District and ordered that tax be levied upon the taxable property of the district to pay the annual interest and provide for a sinking fund.

The bonds will be in denomination of \$500, will bear six percent interest payable semi-annually and the last bond will be due in 1950.

The money derived from the sale of bonds will be used for the construction of permanent hard-surfaced roads and bridges, and the amount of this issue with that authorized for another district in the northern part of the county will make available for the improvement of the county's good roads system \$115,000, which will be spent within the next few months.

### Foot Expert Coming.

At considerable expense A. J. Kinsel & Co., have secured the services of a foot expert who will be at their store Tuesday and Wednesday, April sixth and seventh for the purpose of examining ailing feet and giving advice for the correction of foot troubles. No charge will be made for his services. Kinsel & Co.'s announcement appears in this issue of the Herald.

### J. H. Howell Dead.

J. H. Howell, who has been ill at the sanitarium for several weeks died Saturday and was buried in the city cemetery Sunday afternoon, Rev. A. J. Holt conducting the services. Mr. Howell prior to his death was a resident of Punta Gorda. He was about forty-five years old. He leaves a wife and friends to mourn his loss. —Arcadia Enterprise, 19th.

Nearly fifty thousand dollars worth of stock has been sold for the erection of a big, new hotel at Lake Worth.

## CENSUS OF THE FIRST DISTRICT WILL COME TO A CLOSE SHORTLY

District Headquarters Office Here Will be Closed Next Wednesday After Many Delays.

## POPULATION OF ONE TOWN INCREASED 280 PER CENT

Supervisor Surprised at Growth of One Florida Town.

The taking of the census in this congressional district promises to be finished this week and the district headquarters office, located in Punta Gorda, will be closed next Wednesday evening, March 31st. This information was given the Herald Tuesday by District Supervisor Jordan, who also, in an interview with the editor, gave some interesting facts about the census which is now coming to an end.

While not permitted to give out any figures, the supervisor said that the returns of the enumerators working under him showed a gratifying increase in the population and farms of this district. The director of the census in Washington will soon publish the statistics of population and farms, as all returns will be in his hands by the end of next week. He will, however, require several weeks to compile and tabulate the returns.

It cannot be claimed that the census is absolutely full and complete, for, according to the supervisor, it seems to be an impossibility to find and enroll, within the limit of the time allowed, every individual in the country. But nearly, if not all of the enumerators for this district have done their best to secure a complete record; they have labored faithfully and conscientiously and often under discouraging difficulties. Some of them have been extremely painstaking, so much so that they were a long time finishing their work. A few, not over half a dozen, proved indifferent, negligent or incompetent, and their places were supplied with capable enumerators of successful experience.

Owing to various causes, only 129 enumerators were secured for the 186 enumeration districts in this congressional district and the consequence was that a number of them had to be assigned to two or more districts. Naturally this prolonged the time of taking the census, which should have been completed by February first. Indifference or incompetence of a few enumerators and sickness in the families of others were other causes contributing to the delay, with the result that it will be the end of this week before the entire enumeration is finished. Up to Tuesday, there were ten districts from which no returns had been received. One of these is in Tampa; and, in mentioning this fact, the supervisor said that he had made strenuous efforts to get in the returns from Tampa before the first of this month and send them to Washington to enable the director of the census to publish the total, but two of the enumerators of that city did not finish their work until within the past week.

The enumerators whose returns have been sent to Washington were paid promptly and practically all of them appeared to be satisfied with the compensation received.

The supervisor mentioned an interesting incident of his work arising from the fact that the returns from one town in this district showed a population increase of nearly 300 percent. He was so surprised that he made a careful inquiry as to the correctness of the returns with the result that he became convinced that no "padding" of the rolls had been done and that the returns were and are correct. He declined to name the town or the county in which it is located.

In closing his work, the supervisor speaks very highly of his office force: Mrs. Celia Woltzky, stenographer; Braxton B. Blount, Jr., chief clerk; and Mrs. Mary Gautier, assistant clerk and stenographer. He said that he is sure that no supervisor's office in the country had a more loyal, efficient and agreeable force of clerks than the First District of Florida.

### Interesting Tomato.

The Herald is indebted to Mrs. Rufus Smith, of Solana, for a basket of very fine tomatoes. Among the many fine specimens was one interesting because of its unusual form. This was large and ripe, while at the lower or bloom end were three small green tomatoes protruding from an opening.