



POSSIBILITIES OF WHITE CITY

Respondent Describes Early Settlements There.

TRUS FRUIT SECTION

Describes Enchanting Scenes on a Trip upon the St. Lucie River.—Capable of a Teeming Population.

Take in the beauties of the St. Lucie river, let us get into a "dug out" of sight of the railroad and all other man-made things, at Stuart, paddling our 25 miles or so northward up this river, so weirdly enchanting, soon becomes oblivious of the busy world left behind. It requires no stretch of imagination to picture the haunts of Seminole, and how they paddled their light canoes on the placid waters of the river. Their descendants may still be seen in the more modern skiff as they paddle for Stuart trade. But we prefer to paddle for our trip as permitting a view ahead than when bending the ear.

There are and anon there are visitors of the "forests primeval" where the state-trees seem sentinels guarding the memories of the buried past and on us modern intruders. Clipping ashore to take in the surroundings more fully one yields to the temptation to recline on a grassy knoll in nature's bower and drink in the sights of repose in balmy air by the rippling waters and waving palms, there is the suggestion, "Where you now the Indian warrior wooed his dusky girl?"

While such reflections are natural while whiling away time on the marvelous beautiful St. Lucie, be he tourist or settler, yet to the practical homesteader it also speaks in other strains: of the possibilities of sugar cane, citrus groves, pine-plantations, and other things, not the least of which are the beautiful curves at your feet yielding up fruit for luxury and health—raise every kind of vegetable that you wish. The stranger would naturally question: Why is this land not settled; and that too within 3 or 4 miles of the F. E. C. Ry parallel with this?

White City is a settlement of small farms extending nearly three miles north and south and two miles east and west of the railroad station. A little land is needed for a living, and the land is greatly indebted to richness of soil and success, yet hardly less so to the perseverance of its early settlers under discouraging conditions in the beginning. When Mr. Pio, at the head of the F. E. C. Ry. Land department, looked up and down the East Coast for the best place to locate a colony, he selected this spot after some months of search, two successive dry years had watered out of the calculations; so the settlers broke ground in the lowest rich soil free of trees and palmetto, anything grew amazingly—but soon autumn rainfalls and flood of 1894 ruined the crops. The waters subsided and was again planted for the winter. Then came the unprecedented freeze of January, 1895, which destroyed the fruit on the entire coast were destroyed the older bearing plants also. There is an orange grove on Ten Mile creek, a few miles north of White City, and the tree was hurt nor the fruit injured; same with a grove at Waveland a few miles south of Jensen—other trees on Indian River, not known to the world at that time.

A fact set some of the truckers of White City to start orange groves, but with poor success. They had experience and made mistakes, there was one great cause of failure: the country needed drainage. The Co. (Flagler's) then in charge of farming interests had two large ditches cut on the east side of the St. Lucie river, and a few smaller ones on the west side. Individual enterprise in the system has been going on since and will soon be made permanent. Now one large ditch is needed on the west side, which will soon be done by the R. R. Co. Tho, as it is, several successes have been made in the fruit culture as a result of better drainage etc. The same holds good also in the culture of pines until there can be no doubt of these industries being established on a firm basis.

Now-and-then. The route up the St. Lucie river to introduce the attention of investors to this important valley, which is beginning to be developed and is to be a garden spot for a teeming population—but for the homesteader in communication with D. E. Austin of Ft. Pierce, Fla., the R. R. company's agent for the sale of its lands in and about White City—and he is very cautious in his descriptions.

Now-and-then.

Preparing for Heavy Travel. Officials of the Florida East Coast railway are busy now getting everything in shape for the enormous tourist traffic which will set in immediately after the holidays. Extra train crews are

being drilled and made familiar with the road; nearly all of the rolling stock has been in the repair shops, overhauled and turned out again practically new; large orders for new cars are being filled—in fact, one consignment will consist of ten regular coaches, two sleepers and six express cars. This season the Florida East Coast Railway will be much better equipped than ever before to handle the enormous travel with safety and dispatch, and rates among the best of the country for equipment and efficiency.

The Show is Coming.

The Sun Brothers' Mammoth New Railroad Shows, Museum of Wonders, Trained Animal Exposition, which is billed to exhibit at Fort Pierce, Saturday, December 23, is being received this season by thousands of delighted spectators and unqualifiedly endorsed by every newspaper and patronized alike by the brains, wealthy, fashion, and masses. Don't miss the opportunity of attending the largest and best one ring show extant. Grand free street parade at 12 o'clock noon day of show. Two performances daily, rain or shine, 2 and 8 p. m. Doors open one hour earlier.

DRAINAGE CANAL TO BE IMPROVED

While the drainage canal at Fort Pierce has not accomplished all that was predicted for it, it has shown by the good it has done that much can be accomplished by further work in this direction either by deepening and widening the present canal, or by providing others.

Of the two methods above mentioned the first is believed to be the most practical and will undoubtedly be the one decided upon by the canal company should they make further expenditures in canal work.

The wisdom of these drainage schemes is amply shown now. Last winter the rainfall was scant compared with this year and the skeptical ones, always ready to take a pessimistic view of everything, could only say, "wait until the heavy rains come; then you'll see how much your old ditch will do toward carrying off the torrents."

Well, the rains have come, and the wisdom of the course has been shown. True, the canal has not carried off all that was predicted; ground that was "wet" last year is several inches under water at present—but how much water would be on the same ground today if the "ditch" and its laterals had not been dug?

It is an undeniable fact that the country directly adjacent to the canal could be thoroughly drained by deepening the "ditch," and that suitable laterals would relieve the section adjacent.

It's up to the people directly affected by these works to get the full advantage of them, and undoubtedly they will do so. H. H. Floyd, the St. Augustine representative of the canal company, was in town last week in reference to the matter, and it will soon be known what course the company has decided upon.

Old Indian River Steamboat.

The steamer, St. Lucie, Capt. Stephen Bravo, commanding, and which was recently bought by the F. E. C. Railway company along with a number of other steamboats for use in the construction of the extension of the said road in the keys, arrived in Miami from Tampa recently where she has been for the last several years. The St. Lucie is a large double stacked stern-wheeler and has a great carrying capacity as well as large passenger accommodations. Several years ago, previous to the advent of the F. E. C. Railway, the St. Lucie with the St. Augustine, St. Sebastian, Bicyane, Progress and other steamers plied as a regular line between Titusville and Jupiter and enjoyed a splendid patronage, but the railroad put the line out of business and the better steamers were sold.

Left Out the Umpire.

An exchange, wishing to show the antiquity of the game of games, baseball, submits this composition from a Young American: The devil was the first coacher; Eve stole first; Adam stole second. When Isaac met Rebekah at the well she was walking with the pitcher. Sampson struck out a good many when he met the Philistines. Moses made his first run when he slew the Egyptian. Cain made a base hit when he killed Abel. The Prodigal Son made a home run, David was a long distance thrower and Moses shut the Egyptians out at the Red sea.

New Year's Ball.

The ladies of the Improvement club will give a fancy dress ball in the new club building, New Year's evening, Monday, January 1, beginning at 8 o'clock. The orchestra is preparing new music for the occasion, and besides the usual waltzes and two-steps, the lancers will be on the program. The club is arranging to have programs printed, and will also have refreshments on sale during the evening. The admission will be 25 cents for gentlemen and ladies alike. A full program will appear next week.

Notice to Taxpayers.

The tax books of the town of Fort Pierce will be open every afternoon from 1 to 2 o'clock in the Mayor's office. D. L. ALDERMAN, Marshal.

BAND BENEFIT FINE SUCCESS

Entertainment Saturday Evening Netted \$55.10.

SPLENDID PROGRAMME

Home Talent the Equal or Superior of Professionals Who Travel Through the Small Towns of Florida.

The entertainment last Friday evening for the benefit of the Fort Pierce band was a very fair success, although on account of the threatening weather the attendance was somewhat limited, the performances were fully appreciated by the audience.

Fort Pierce is to be congratulated on its amateur talent which in many cases is equal to professional. This was demonstrated Friday evening. Every number on the program was excellent and some were really remarkable.

An overture by band opened the performance, after which was a monologue by R. L. Goodwin. Mr. Goodwin was costumed as the traditional clown, and acted the part to perfection.

"The Sylphide" a piano solo, was rendered by Mrs. W. E. Tylander and enthusiastically applauded. A recitation by Mrs. C. T. McCarty "Jim Bludso" was heartily appreciated. A character sketch by P. C. Eldred, received merited applause. Songs by Mrs. D. T. McCarty were beautifully rendered and received the closest attention.

Messrs. George T. Backus and Charles Lord were on the program for two or three of their mirth provoking specialties. After a song and a scene in which the incident of a hayseed's being separated from a goodsized wad by a gold brick man was touchingly portrayed, Mr. Backus appeared on the stage in female costume, the affectionate sweetheart of Mr. Lord. The song by the too and the scene in which the gentle maiden took her lover under one arm and carried him bodily off the stage, was killing.

The orchestra composed of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Tylander, F. A. Roylance, Casper Mims, Emerson Farnsworth and Harney Williams cannot be too warmly commended for their excellent work. A number of selections were rendered and the remark was heard on every side that no better music could be supplied by professionals. Mr. Williams, an expert snare drummer, was a notable addition to their number and his performance added much to the effect.

After the close of the entertainment the floor was cleared and dancing indulged in until a late hour, the band supplying the music.

Throughout the evening refreshments were served in the dining room and were enjoyed by many. The net proceeds of the entertainment were \$55.10 of which \$50 was turned over to the band, which settled their entire indebtedness and leaves them a balance of \$10.

PERSONAL AND LOCAL.

The Stetson house is being repainted. A big crowd will be in town tomorrow to see the circus.

County Treasurer J. H. Wynn, is holding the position of deputy county clerk.

Attorney D. E. Knight and family have rooms at the residence of Mrs. Effie Alderman.

J. F. Olmstead, of Miami is spending the holidays here with his brother, Hon. C. F. Olmstead.

S. S. Halliday, who has been suffering with a carbuncle on his arm is able to be about again.

Mr. and Mrs. Knowles left Thursday for Green Cove Springs, where they will spend the holidays.

Mrs. Clarence Ferguson sister of Mrs. L. A. Hildreth, has returned to her home in St. Augustine, after a visit in Fort Pierce.

Curd Schroeder, representing Walter Kitching, of Stuart, is in town interviewing our growers on the pineapple wrap question.

C. H. Racey, of Jensen, was in town Saturday with his fine bird dog, and left the same day for a trip in the woods looking for deer.

W. J. Tucker & Son are erecting a bowling alley on their lot near the depot. As soon as finished it will be completely fitted for the popular game.

Mrs. C. S. Schuyler, Miss Mabel Schuyler and Miss Frances Arnold, of Jensen, were in Fort Pierce last Saturday, doing Christmas shopping.

The Van Antwerp family and party, who have rented the Tyler residence adjoining the Fort Pierce hotel, for the winter, will arrive next Wednesday.

Mac Lane, a commercial traveler, was in town a couple days the latter part of last week. He is a cousin of Mrs. J. H. Wynn, and was a guest at the Wynn residence.

There will be a general move around soon. When the Milton family go to Palatka, the Klopp family will occupy the telephone exchange building; Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Hendry go to the Klopp

residence, L. L. Carlton will move to the rooms now occupied by the Hendrys and the McCullough family will have the rooms over the market.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Tubbs went to Jacksonville Thursday evening for a few days.

Mrs. W. T. Harbin has bought the Olmstead building on Orange avenue from Hugh Beville, and Mrs. Lillian Lane has converted the same into a boarding house.

Judge and Mrs. C. C. Nourse, of Des Moines, Iowa, and Miss McMekin, of the same city, arrived in Eldred Monday evening to spend the winter with Mrs. L. B. Abdill.

Miss S. N. Winters, granddaughter of County Clerk J. E. Fultz, will spend the holidays at her old home at Sprucebluff. The clerk will also go down to spend a few days.

The Improvement club has arranged with A. W. Wyndham to exhibit in the town hall with his wonderful Imperial kinoscope, next Friday evening, December 29. This is one of the best shows on the road this year. See announcement on page 8.

MASONIC BANQUET ST. JOHN'S DAY

Extensive arrangements are in progress to make the Masonic banquet, to be held in the Fort Pierce hotel next Wednesday evening the best event of its kind ever given in Fort Pierce.

The committee, Messrs. F. M. Tyler, R. L. Goodwin and H. E. Crooks, have arrangements about complete.

R. L. Goodwin will be toastmaster, and toasts will be given by the following: "The Ladies," C. T. McCarty; "The Goat," G. E. Dutton; "Masonry," James E. Andrews; Edgar Lewis, W. J. Nesbitt and others.

John St. Lawrence, the proprietor of the Fort Pierce hotel, has furnished the following menu of the banquet:

- Fruit Cocktails
- Cutlets of Bass, Cream Sauce
- Sweet Pickles
- Croquettes en Royal, Pettis Poise
- Lettuce
- Creamed Oysters on Toast
- Queen Olives
- Fillet of Beef, au Champignons
- Celery French Frys
- Small Rolls
- Assorted Cake Ice Cream
- Coffee

The banquet will cost one dollar a plate, and as the number is limited, Masons desiring to attend should secure tickets from the committee as soon as possible.

Frank Stetson Improving.

Frank Stetson, the popular young freight agent of the Florida East Coast railway, who was confined to his bed last week, was taken to the St. Augustine hospital Saturday night, and Monday morning an operation was performed for appendicitis, which was entirely successful, and he will return to Fort Pierce as soon as he is able to make the trip. Mrs. Stetson accompanied her son to St. Augustine, but returned last evening. Frank's many friends are glad to hear that the operation was so successful.

Woodmen Elect Officers.

Indian River Camp No. 53, Woodmen of the World, held their annual election of officers Tuesday evening, and the following officers will serve the lodge for the ensuing year: W. T. Harbin, council commander; F. E. Wilson, advisory lieutenant; A. C. Dittmar, clerk; Wilson Godfrey, banker; Paul Watkins, escort; Casper Mims, sentry; J. R. Pomerooy, manager (to fill a vacancy on the board of managers).

Painters' Strike Settled.

The terms under which the strike of union painters of Tampa has been settled include an increase of 28 cents per day for the men, without Saturday half-holiday feature. The agreement is also made that, in case the union painters who belong to the Master Painters' Association, they are to receive 50 cents additional, or a 78 cents per day increase over the former scale.

Florida Congressmen.

In the list of committee appointments made by Speaker Cannon, Florida's congressmen figure as follows: Hon. Frank Clark is on the claims committee and the postoffice department expense committee; Hon. W. B. Lamar is on the foreign affairs and the Pacific railway committees and Hon. S. M. Sparkman is on the rivers and harbors committee.

Change of Schedule.

Taking effect Friday December 22, a new time table has been issued by the F. E. C. railway. Train 29, southbound will arrive in Fort Pierce at 5:50 p. m. instead of 6:35, as heretofore. Train 35, southbound, will arrive at 1:50 a. m. North bound, train 78, will arrive at 10:45 a. m. and train 28 will arrive at 10:20 p. m.

Flinch Party Last Evening.

A finch party was enjoyed by several of the young folks last evening at the Riverview hotel. Those present were: Misses Emma Morgan, Annabel Brown, Genie Harris and Nellie Buell. Messrs. Will Fee, F. L. Hemmings and Fred Fee. A very pleasant evening was spent.

FOUL MURDER NEAR MIAMI

Mrs. Suggs Killed by an Unknown Assassin Last Monday.

BODY FOUND IN WOODS

Sheriff's Posse Scouring County in Search of Murderer.—Case Equals the Davis Murder Mystery.

With her head crushed and terribly mutilated; finger marks on the throat and chest, and conditions bearing evidence of criminal assault, the lifeless form of Mrs. Dora Suggs, a well known and respected lady, residing west of Coconut Grove, was found in the woods near the Obenchain place at a late hour Monday night by the sheriff's posse and others searching for the same.

Though there are no body evidences of outrage upon the person, other conditions connected with the horrible crime prove almost conclusively that the crime was committed, and that it was the intent of the assassin, when he made the assault which added another link or chapter to the criminology of Dade county.

Mrs. Suggs was alone at the time she was attacked and met her death and no one but her Maker and the cowardly fiend know what transpired, though the ground around and about where the tragedy was enacted furnishes proof that the woman fought desperately, first for her virtue and then for her life, but to no avail in either instance.

Mrs. Suggs, it appears, had been in Miami trading and shopping. She drove a mule and light wagon and started home late in the afternoon. She was accompanied as far as Coconut Grove by her nephew, W. Perry, and leaving him at his home proceeded on towards her place a few miles west of the grove. Later in the evening the mule and wagon reached the Suggs home, but Mrs. Suggs was not to be seen. Suspicion was at once aroused and the anxious husband started out to search for her. Search parties were organized and about 10:30 o'clock the party under the direction of Deputy Sheriff Gore found the lifeless body of the woman lying on the ground a short distance from the abandoned Oberchain place.

It was a growsome and heartrending sight. The body lay near a banana tree trunk, partly nude, and the remaining articles of clothing were disarranged on the corpse. Her hair was down and matted with blood, while the head only too plainly showed that life had been beaten out with some heavy instrument. The left side of the forehead was crushed in and parts of broken bone protruded through the mangled and torn flesh. The chin was also crushed and both of the lower jaws broken. The neck bore unmistakable signs that deceased had been choked.

An entire mystery so far surrounds the murder, though various rumors and opinions are heard. Some are to the effect that the murderer of Mrs. Suggs, if captured, will prove the assassin of C. E. Davis and daughter, horribly murdered early last summer. Another is that the crime was committed by one or more of the idle laborers now in the now in the city; another that it was a negro, etc.

The deceased woman was 29 years of age and besides her afflicted husband, leaves two sons, about 12 and 9 years, respectively. She was a sister of Messrs. C. J. and Fate Perry and a most estimable woman.

Eastern Star Elects Officers.

At an election of officers held yesterday afternoon, Ruth Chapter, No. 12 Order of the Eastern Star elected the following officers:

Mrs. Cora Rawlinson, worthy matron; J. H. Jeakins, worthy patron; Mrs. Mary Tyler, associate matron; Mrs. Francis Cross, secretary; Mrs. Julia Nesbitt, treasurer; Mrs. Dora Jeakins, conductress; Mrs. Emala Olmstead, associate conductress; Mrs. Henrietta Ford, Ada; Mrs. Lilly Wynn, Ruth; Mrs. Beatrice Middlebrooks, Esther; Mrs. A. M. Sample, Martha; J. H. Wynn, chaplain, W. C. Rawlinson, warder; L. S. S. Farnsworth, sentry.

The above officers were installed at a meeting held last evening.

Delightful Surprise Party.

Landlord and Mrs. H. E. Crooks were "surprised" Wednesday evening; a number of their most intimate friends descending upon them announced to pass a few hours in social intercourse. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Paxton, Mr. and Mrs. A. Y. W. Hogg, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Tyler.

Lost Valuable House.

G. A. Powers, the well known stock raiser of Fort Pierce, lost a valuable four year old sorrel mare last Monday. The mare was struck by a train about a mile north of town and killed. A number of cattle have been killed by the trains in the same vicinity.

The dredge Florida passed through Fort Pierce yesterday on her way to Gilberts bar. She is going to work on a shoal between St. Lucie river and Jupiter.