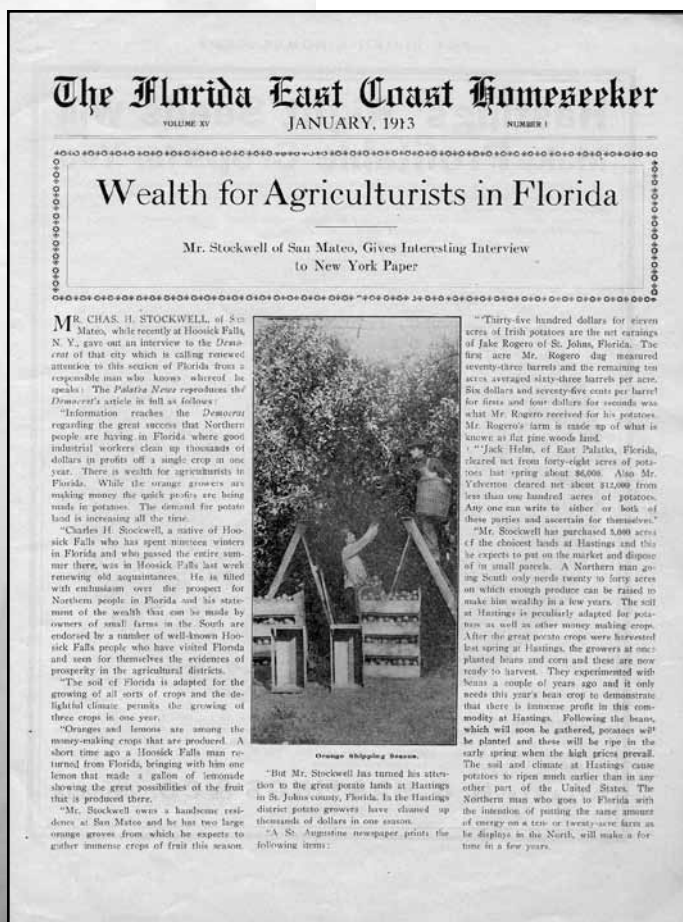


Transcriptions of The Homeseeker:

A monthly publication of the Model Land Company
Introduction by Patrick Scott



Mr. Scott is a local lawyer and avid researcher of Florida history.

The Florida East Coast Homeseeker, or The Homeseeker, was a monthly publication of the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railroad in St. Augustine from 1899 to May 1914; it continued under various other titles until at least 1929. The railroad was owned by tycoon industrialist Henry M. Flagler. For a time, around 1901-1903, the place of publication was shown as Miami. As a Florida East Coast Railroad publicity device, it was designed to promote the development of the communities along the railroad's route and to draw purchasers of land, particularly small farm plots.

From the time of his arrival in St. Augustine in 1885, Flagler built a railroad line in exchange for 3,840 acres of alternating sections of land nearby for each mile of track built. For extending the Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Indian River Line south of Daytona—to West Palm Beach in 1894, Miami in 1896, and Key West in 1912, he received greater concessions, as much as 8,000 acres per mile, but much of it lying in the so-called Swamp and Overflowed Lands administered by the state's Internal Improvement Fund (IIF). Progressive governors William Jennings and Napoleon Broward fought the award of so much land for railroad purposes rather than drainage activities. Litigation between the state and Flagler was eventually settled with Flagler agreeing to only a tenth of the IIF land originally offered, most of which was in the Cape Sable area of Monroe County. Even today this area is served by only two marinas and a small motel accessible by a 35-mile ride from Florida City through Everglades National Park. The rest of the lands awarded to Flagler were located in what is today Palm Beach, Broward, and Dade counties. Originally, Flagler had taken title to all lands in the name of the FEC, but after putting James E. Ingraham in charge of the railroad's Land Department, Flagler formed the Model Land Company in 1896 as the land development company. By 1911, the FEC completed the transfer of its non-railroad lands to the Model Land Company.

The FEC Land Department and the Model Land Company advertised in northern newspapers and in various Florida

The Florida East Coast Homeseeker, 1913 (Image courtesy of the Boca Raton Historical Society)

publications, including F. W. DeCroix's *The Illustrated Review: A Florida Magazine for Florida*.¹ Having its own magazine may have been the idea of Ingraham, who is credited with the great success of the FEC's land sales efforts at the turn of the 20th Century. *The Homeseeker*, like all magazines of the time, was printed in black-and-white, but in a modern format, 8.5 x 11 inches, which allowed for two columns of print and some photographs.

The first editor of *The Homeseeker*, from 1899 to at least 1911, was Ethan Victor Blackman, a minister who established the First Methodist Episcopal Church, for which Flagler donated the land in downtown Miami.² Blackman was also a champion fruit grower, and an accomplished promoter of Miami in articles he wrote for numerous magazines. By 1897, a year after the railroad reached Miami, Blackman organized the first Dade County Fair at Flagler's Royal Palm Hotel on the north bank of the Miami River,³ and was credited with being largely responsible for Dade County's horticultural development.⁴ It was Blackman who first suggested, in an early issue of *The Homeseeker*, that Miami was a "Magic City" in the strides that it was taking, and the name has stuck with the city for more than a century.⁵ After his retirement, he wrote the first published history of Dade County.⁶

During the late 1890s the progress of development along the FEC railroad had led to railroad stations at Boca "Ratone" [sic], Deerfield, Pompano, Colohatchee, Fort Lauderdale, Lake View, Modello, and Hallandale. The place where the first road, constructed in 1892-1893, crossed the New River, was on land owned by Mary Brickell, and Flagler plotted a route, with Mrs. Brickell's permission, that would take advantage of the coastal ridge, which was high grounds, favored by Native Americans, Seminole War-era soldiers and early settlers.⁷ The lands north and south of Brickell's land were still in the public domain, and the state granted permission to Flagler for the route. The stations were spaced far enough apart to serve farmers along the ridge, but there were only a handful of farmers prior to the arrival of the first train in 1896. No more than a hundred farmers lived in present-day Broward County

in 1900, and most had learned of the opportunity here because they had worked on the railroad construction project. No proof of long-term success in farming in this area was available, and so it would be necessary for Flagler to develop communities of farmers. Local newspapers, the *Tropical Sun* (Juno), the *Miami Metropolis*, and the short-lived *Miami News*, were filled with accounts of agricultural successes.

Confronted initially with lackluster growth, Flagler turned to immigrant community promoters to establish farms in Dania and Hallandale, and later at Boca Raton, with the intention that a record of farming success could be promoted by the FEC in order to lure other home site purchasers. In 1910, a depot was added at Lake View, west of Lake Mabel (present Port Everglades), and a saw mill set up for the community that never came. The Miami Road was built generally along the route of present U.S. 1 south of Lake View. But the inlet to the ocean at Lake Mabel was often closed by shifting sands, and the settlers abandoned Lake View in favor of Fort Lauderdale and Dania.⁸

The greatest influence in early Broward County's development and the creation of the county — resulted from the Everglades Drainage Program. By 1906 it became certain that a long-proposed plan to drain the marshy lands west of what is now Highway 441 would proceed, and that the first primary canal to be completed would connect Lake Okeechobee to the south fork of the New River. As the canal dredges worked westward in 1910, a half dozen competitors, including R.P. Davie, appeared on the scene to compete with Flagler. By this time, Flagler had turned his attention south to the Florida Keys Extension of his railroad, and he died shortly after the first train reached Key West.⁹ The competitors, Richard Bolles' Florida Fruitlands Company, the Everglades Land Sales Company, and others, published their own magazines. *The Homeseeker* continued to promote the Flagler lands, but after 1910 the principal beneficiaries of the promotion were the competing community of Zona—later renamed Davie—on the South New River Canal, and the massive developments by Florida Fruitlands and Everglades Land Sales, who were digging hundreds of miles of

ditches and lateral canals feeding into the New River and Snake Creek canals.

No complete set of *The Homeseeker* is known to exist. The University of Florida has a long run, and the Flagler Museum at Whitehall in Palm Beach has many issues. The National Agricultural Library has the largest set, but still about [one-third] of the issues from E. V. Blackman's time as editor have never been preserved in any collection.

Because there was no newspaper in this area until 1911, the surviving issues of *The Homeseeker* provide an invaluable glimpse into the earliest years of the settlement of Broward County, and establish many facts important to our local history: when the Dania-Davie Road (Stirling Road) was built, how Lake View, and the Dania Cut-Off Canal and Davie, came to be, what businesses, including a coontie mill, were established, what life was like in Dania, how the Las Olas Inn of J. McGregor Adams was first built, how Stranahan's original camp was a collection of tents made of "thick red paper," who was doing what and growing what. This is the Broward County of one hundred years ago.

Unless otherwise noted the following transcripts from *The Homeseeker* are from copies in the collections of the Flagler Museum in Palm Beach, Florida. This is an exact transcription, any errors or misspellings were in the original publication. Images featured are of the period, but not original to the articles.

Vol. 1 May 1899 • Hallandale

In writing of Hallandale, all that we have said in regard to Dania will hold good in regard to Hallandale. During this season there has been a large immigration to this place, and the evidence of rapid development is seen on every hand. The chief industry of the settlers here, up to within a short period, has extensive movement along the line of planting citrus fruits. For many miles back (to the west) there are now young orange groves, which are growing finely and give promise of coming into bearing early. Mr. J. T. Wofford, formerly of Lake County, after investigating the lands over the entire length of the East Coast, selected and purchased lands here for vegetable growing and planting citrus fruits.



Land seekers could explore real estate possibilities by boat on the newly dredged canals. (Broward County Historical Commission, Broward family collection)

Mr. Wofford has had years of experience both in the culture of vegetables and citrus fruits.

To those who are desirous of locating where they can engage in growing both fruits and vegetables we would recommend this section.

Vol. 1 July 1899 • Hallandale

There is no section of the Florida East Coast that has a larger acreage of prairie and muck lands than the section immediately surrounding Hallandale. A large portion of these prairie and muck lands east of Hallandale have been sold, and many acres will be



The rear of the L.W. Marshall packing house, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, located where Davie Boulevard crosses the South Fork of New River; January 1902. (Broward County Historical Commission, Frank Marshall collection)

cultivated this season for the first time. The crops of vegetables grown on these lands last year were of a superior quality, and the truckers all made money. During the summer the several land companies that own the prairie lying west of Hallandale have constructed about six miles of canals, which drain in the neighborhood of two thousand acres of land that is as rich as the Valley of the Nile. Some time ago, in company with Mr. Louis Larson, of the Land Department of the Florida East Coast Railway Company, Capt. R. E. Rose, of sugar fame, and Mr. Sheen, who had the contract for

building the canals, we had the pleasure of taking a canoe ride through the recently constructed canals. These lands are thoroughly drained and are ready for cultivation. In some respects they vary from soil, such as marl and sand lands, with a large mixture of humus, and the genuine muck lands that are as fertile as decayed vegetation can possibly be. There I saw acres covered with wild millet, with heads varying from six to twelve inches in length and with stalks standing from six to twelve feet in height. The drainage is sufficient to completely drain almost every acre of these valuable lands. There is no place in the State better adapted for the growing of vegetables and sugarcane than this body of land. There have been a few tracts, in this body of land recently drained, already disposed of. One advantage the land has over many other sections is that it is near to the railway station, so that a long haul is avoided. There is a good class of pine lands for growing citrus and tropical fruits on either side of the prairie lands. Here and there are dense hammocks covered with immense liveoaks. T. J. Wofford and Sons own two of these hammocks and are clearing them and planting in citrus and tropical trees. They are also planting vegetables, between the rows of trees. They now have several acres in tomatoes that are beginning to set fruit, and in a few days will begin shipping. The prairie lands extend on both the east and west sides



Mr. and Mrs. Philip Reed (outside) and Mr. and Mrs. Mahannah posed in an eggplant field. (Broward County Historical Commission, Barwick collection)



Road, Live Oak with Spanish Moss and a pine grove in Florida, 1880s.
(Broward County Historical Commission, Christopher R. Eck collection)

of the town. On the north lies Dania, another flourishing settlement, where there are hundreds of acres of the best quality of muck and marl prairie, also an almost unlimited quantity of first-class pine land suited to the culture of citrus trees and pineapples. One of the most flourishing young groves in this Southland is owned by Mr. F. J. West, of Dania. Mr. West also has several acres of pineapples as good as the best. Mr. Larson expressed himself as well pleased at the thorough manner in which the contractor has done his work. On the east side the company has built a wagon road from Hallandale to the ocean beach, which has drained a large body of adjacent lands. Those who are seeking for lands, either for growing vegetables or fruits, we would advise them to visit Hallandale and its surrounding country.

Vol. I August 1899 • Fort Lauderdale

The truckers in this favored section made large and paying crops in spite of the discouraging conditions early in the

season. The settlers in this portion of the country are not men who sit down and fold their hands because of adverse conditions, but they are men who believe in the old adage, "Where there is a will there is a way." At any rate they were determined to do their part faithfully and well, then if they failed their "skirts would be clear." From this station there were shipped over 7,000 crates of vegetables. It is said that one grower pocketed the neat sum of \$5,000 for his crop. Tomatoes was the principal crop grown, although beans, Irish potatoes, eggplant, okra, squash, cucumbers and other vegetables were grown to a limited extent. Next season there will be a larger acreage of the latter vegetables planted.

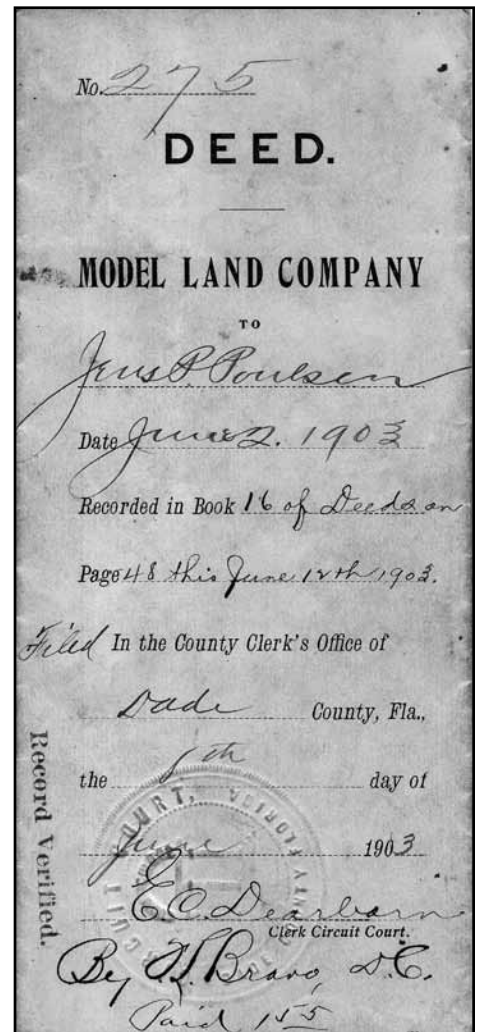
The lands around Fort Lauderdale have proven themselves to be superior lands for market gardening, as the results of this season show. Mr. L. W. Marshall is the most extensive trucker in this section. In spite of the cold he shipped about 1,800 crates of beans, tomatoes



An early truck farm in Davie, Florida. Truck farms are farms producing vegetables for market.
(Image courtesy the Old Davie School Archives)

and eggplant from his home place. Messrs. Hardgrave and Valentine added 1,000 or more crates of tomatoes from their field, while Marshall and Marsh shipped about 800 crates of tomatoes and eggplant. C. M. Cara sent forward 800 crates of tomatoes. Marshall and Phillips were among the fortunate ones, shipping something over 550 crates of tomatoes. The gentlemen named are not the only successful truckers in that section. W. B. Joice, William Marshall, E. T. King, A. J. Wallace, R. S. King, J. H. Brantly, F. R. Oliver, J. H. Fromberger, all met with good success.

There will be a large increase in acreage there next season. The town of Fort Lauderdale is rapidly developing, and sooner or later will be one of the favorite places on the East Coast. There is a prospect of a large and up-to-date hotel being built before the opening of the tourist season. Already the promoters of this scheme have spent



Deed to farmer James Paulson. He later opened a successful tavern in Dania.
(Broward County Historical Commission, Jeanette Frost-Eby collection)



A. C. Frost (far right), founder of Dania, and his grandson and a neighbor stand in front of wooden hampers of tomatoes ready for shipment. (Broward County Historical Commission, Jeanette Frost-Eby collection)

many dollars in clearing and grading the grounds and building a large dock. Recently several town lots have been sold and the owners will build homes upon them. For location, Fort Lauderdale cannot be excelled on the East Coast. The town proper is located on a high, rocky bluff, covered with majestic pines and monster live oaks, at the confluence of the New River and New River Sound, whose waters are famous as being the fisherman's paradise. During the tarpon season the "Silver King" may be caught in large quantities.

Vol. I August 1899 • Fort Lauderdale

FOR SALE

FT. LAUDERDALE, on New River, a beautiful town site, located on both sides of the river, with railroad passing through centre of it. Trains daily. Has one store, hotel, post office, etc. An excellent place to locate in. Rich fruit and trucking lands all around it, and promises to settle up rapidly the coming year. Lots \$50 to \$250.

Vol. II April 1900 • Dania

Among the pleasant callers at our office a few days since was Mr. J. W. Clarke, one of Dania's progressive

and prominent citizens. He reports the tomato crop in fine condition there, and shipments already going forward. Mr. Clarke has just commenced picking. From one acre he gathered forty-six crates of fancy fruit, and the vines are loaded with bloom and young fruit. The present indications are that the Dania truckers will get more than an average crop of fruit and of a superior quality. The following is a list of the growers there with their acreage:

The West Meadow Company, 20 acres; Jas. Paulson, 8 acres; Stanley Bros., 4 acres; C. Chambers, 2 acres; Crane & Bostwick, 3 acres; C. B. Eskilson, 1 acre; H. Jogensen, 3 acres; John Beghr, 1 acre; Geo. B. Hinkley, 1 ½ acres; W. B. Ord, 1 acre; B. J. Sarred, 1 acre; T. Heneberg, 1 acre; Beede & King, 1 acre. Mr. Clarke says: "I never saw a better prospect for a large crop." Several of the farmers planted an early crop of cabbage, which brought them good prices. The muck lands in the vicinity of Dania are especially adapted growing cabbage.

PINEAPPLES

There are several small fields of pineapples there, which give promise of an abundant yield. We asked M.

Clarke what percentage of plants will fruit this season; he replied "ninety-five per cent." Mr. W. B. Ord has a most excellent pineapple field, all of the fancy varieties.

MESSRS. ESKILSON & CO.

Messrs. Eskilson & Co. are manufacturing a superior quality of comptic (coontie) starch for food purposes, for which they are finding a ready sale at good prices. They have the most approved machinery and their product is superior to any we have ever seen. Messrs. Eskilson & Co. are energetic, up-to-date business men, and fully believe in keeping up with the procession. Their product is put up in fancy one pound packages. Messrs. C. B. Rogers & Co., of Jacksonville, are their State agents, and through this popular grocery firm a great amount is being put on the market. Messrs. Eskilson also ship large quantities to Chicago, where it is put up in attractive one pound packages and is finding a ready sale. It is unquestionably one of the best food products manufactured.

Vol. II April 1900 • Fort Lauderdale

A few days since we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. L. W. Marshall, of Fort Lauderdale, who gave us a favorable report of the crop conditions in his neighborhood, with the exception of a few crops, which he claims were damaged by the use of an inferior fertilizer. Mr. Marshall is one of the most extensive truckers in Dade County, planting a large acreage himself and renting land on shares to other truckers. The majority of the farms are west of the railroad bridge and adjacent to the New River. Mr. Marshall, like all East Coast truck farmers, is dead in love with his own section, and claims the land in that section superior for truck growing to any on the lower East Coast. The acreage planted there is much greater this year than last. There are also hundreds of acres of first-class orange and grapefruit lands there, scattered from the New River Sound west to the Everglades. It is said by those who have visited Mr. Phil. Bryant's {Philemon N. Bryan} young orange grove west from Fort Lauderdale, that it is one of the most promising young groves in Dade County. All the young groves in that vicinity give evidence



The winter residence of John McGregor Adams later became the Las Olas Inn. (Broward County Historical Commission, Easter Lilly Gates collection)

of coming to early maturity, and the quality of the fruit is equal to that grown on the Indian River.

Vol. III June 1901 • Fort Lauderdale

We have been informed by one of the prominent citizens of Fort Lauderdale that the past season has been one of the most prosperous in its history. The acreage planted in vegetables was considerably increased over previous years and, as a rule, the truckers made a great success, some of the planters making as high as 800 crates of tomatoes to the acre. While this is a phenomenal yield, many of the more progressive planters are of the opinion that they can grow 1,000 crates to the acre. There were some, however, that made little money on their crop, but this was owing to local conditions. There have been many sales of trucking land there during the past few weeks, and several new families are expected to arrive this summer.

NEW BUILDINGS

There will be several new residences built during the summer months in the village and on the farms lying adjacent to the town. Mr. Frank Stranahan, the popular merchant, will erect a large and modern store building, his present quarters being inadequate to accommodate his increasing trade. It is also reported that several prominent and well know capitalists will build winter homes on the shores of the sound during the coming summer.

MR. J. M'GREGOR ADAMS

Mr. J. McGregor Adams, of Chicago, made the initial movement in building winter homes here. Last summer he completed one of the finest winter residences on the East Coast, costing many thousand dollars. The building is located on a high plateau of land overlooking both ocean and the sound. The lower story is constructed of made stone, the second of wood with shingled sides, and broad porches. The furnishings are elegant, it having been furnished with the same care that one would bestow on a residence in a city. A Mr. Burch [Hugh Taylor Birch], a prominent Chicago attorney, is interested with Mr. Adams in the lands adjoining the estate. Last winter Mr. Adams' palatial winter home was filled with friends from the Windy City, who came to enjoy the balmy climate during the winter months.

GOOD FISHING

New River and New River Sound have long been noted as one of the choicest fishing grounds in the State. Year by year it has increased in popularity. The gathering of the lovers of piscatorial sports there during the past winter has been greater than ever before. New River Sound is not only a rare place for catching a great variety of fish, but is a most delightful place for those who enjoy sailing and yachting.

FORT LAUDERDALE'S FUTURE

No one can be blind to the fact that this section has a bright future in store. The vegetable lands are extremely

rich, while the high lands give promise of growing orange and other citrus trees to perfection. Several groves that have been planted in the last few years have made rapid and healthful growth, which is evidence that the above statement is true.

Vol. III June 1901 • Coontie Starch

One of the finest and most delicious starch foods manufactured is made from the coontie root (*Zamia integrifolia*), which grows wild in great quantities in Dade county. Messrs. C. Eskilson & Co., of Dania, Fla., have recently put in an improved plant for the manufacture of this most delicious food. During the recent Dade County Fair, Mr. Eskilson sent us a case for distribution. We gave packages to numerous Northern people, who visited the Fair, asking them to use it and then write us their opinions in regard to it as a food. Since, we have received several letters, and in each case they speak in the highest terms of it.

Mrs. Carrie N. Lewis writes: "I have tried the Florida food (coontie) and like it very much."

Mrs. S. D. Pinkerton, of West Chester, Pa., writes thus: "When at Palm Beach I visited your exhibit of fruits and vegetables at Miami. You kindly presented me with a package of 'coontie.' I have used it as I would corn starch, and am sure it is all it is represented to be, and a more delicate article than corn starch."

Another lady, who was spending the winter in Miami, said: "You can say anything you please for me in favor of coontie starch for puddings, etc. It is simply delicious. It is superior to any article I have ever used for the table."

Another said: "I am delighted with the package of coontie starch you presented me. Corn starch and other products of like character are not 'in it,' when compared with coontie."



Zamia integrifolia



Two early farmers clear land for cultivation. (Broward County Historical Commission collection)

We have no interest in the manufacture of this article, save that it is an East Coast product, and one which only has to be known to be appreciated. We feel that we are safe in saying that there is no product manufactured for the making of puddings, custards, ice cream and soups, or in any form when starch is used that equals the coontie. It has a peculiarly delightful, nutty flavor, unlike any other starch product. Florida food is destined to become very popular with up-to-date housekeepers.

Vol. III July 1901 • Dania

Mr. J. W. Clark, agent for the Land Department of the Florida East Coast Railway, has for the past few weeks been making many sales of pineapple lands at Dania. Among the New Yorkers who have purchased lands are: Walter G. Landon, fifteen acres, will clear and plant five acres; Andrew H. McFarlin, twenty-five acres, fifteen of which he will plant this summer. Ralph G. Leonard and William S. Weatherly have each purchased five acres and will plant two acres each. William S. Robinson has secured five acres and will plant one acre. William L. McDougal took fifteen acres and will plant two acres. R. S. King, Dwight King and J. H. King have each purchased five acres and will each plant one acre. K. C. Gordon comes in for a five-acre tract, and will plant one acre. S. Keeler takes a ten-acre tract and will clear and plant two acres. Mr. Clark, it is said, has the banner pineapple patch of the county.

VEGETABLE LANDS

Among the many thousand acres of vegetable lands that is in close proximity to the Florida East Coast Railway, Dania comes in for its full share. Lying between the pine land and the canal there is a body of superior land, all ditched and drained ready for planting. These lands are made up of marl, sand, prairie and muck. A little more than two miles to the eastward is the broad Atlantic, with its sand-beaten beach, affording a fine place for surf bathing and fishing. To the west are broad, fertile prairies and long stretches of pine woods, suited to growing oranges trees. Hon. Mr. Beed, of Hampton, Ia., owns a fine orange grove, with many of the trees just coming into bearing. A little to the north Mr. Ord has a fine pineapple plantation, and

Mr. Hinkley has a splendid orange grove and pineapple plantation. Mr. Eskelson, of Chicago, is also the owner of a pineapple plantation and proprietor of the starch factory, which manufactures the celebrated Florida food. Take it altogether, Dania is a good place to make a home, where one can engage in growing either vegetables, pineapples or oranges, or he can secure a block of land with the soils so varied that he can engage in growing everything that can be successfully grown there, thus avoiding "putting all his eggs in one basket."

Mr. A. W. Beed, cashier of the Franklin County Bank, at Hampton, Ia., has a grove of 1,500 citrus trees, which are doing well. Recently he spent several days there looking over his possessions. He was so encouraged over the rapid growth of his trees that he gave Mr. King orders to clear and plant three acres more. An orange grove is a bewitching thing, the more a man has the more he wants. There is money in growing oranges.

Mr. C. G. Bostrom, of Ormond, Fla., has a very promising grove of four hundred orange trees, beside a quantity of other fruit trees, including persimmons, kumquats, guavas, grapes, etc.

J. W. Clark, store keeper, postmaster and real estate agent, is further demonstrating his faith in the Dania lands by purchasing twenty acres more. He is having two acres cleared and will plant orange trees.

The following is a partial list of the Dania truckers, including acreage and number of crates shipped:



White and African-American workers in an early Dania tomato field paused to have their photograph taken. A good worker could pick 600 pounds of tomatoes a day. (Broward County Historical Commission collection)



Early Dania settlers posed in front of the first substantial vegetable packing plant. (Broward County Historical Commission, Jeanette Frost-Eby collection)

Richard King & Brother, five acres tomatoes, 1,150 crates; W. H. Torbert, two acres, seven hundred crates; T. D. Newman, two acres, three hundred crates; James Paulsen, two and o-half acres, eighty crates tomatoes, forty crates cabbage; G. M. Howard, six acres, five hundred crates tomatoes – four acres were a partial failure; George B. Hinkley, one-half acre, one hundred and fifty crates; W. B. Ord, one acre, two hundred and twenty crates; C. Willers, one acre, three hundred and seventy-five crates; J. W. Clark, ten acres, 2,700 crates – three acres were almost a failure.

If any of our readers would like to see a real pretty tropical home and grounds, visit the grounds of George B. Hinkley.

Vol. XII November 1910

FT. LAUDERDALE'S ENORMOUS GROWTH

WHAT IT WAS FIFTEEN YEARS AGO AND WHAT IT IS TODAY

Are you ambitious, energetic, intelligent? Then you should move to Dade County, Florida. Locate anywhere, either north or south of Miami and get your share of the great prosperity that this section is enjoying.

In the year 1895 the writer sailed up Biscayne Bay on a little forty-ton schooner from Key West to Lemon City, then the Metropolis of south Dade, and visited a relative who held a contract with the United States Government to carry the mail from West Palm Beach to Lemon City, a town five miles north of Miami. In the government service this is known as a "Star Route." The mail carrier in those days generally had big stage coaches to accommodate any passenger who might be traveling this way. It was on one of these coaches that the writer was carried into Fort Lauderdale.

Fort Lauderdale at that time was a camp and the houses were made of thick red paper nailed to framing. The camp was used for the lay-over between Lemon City and West Palm Beach, and aside from Frank Stranahan, the postmaster, and the drivers of the coaches, the residents and only people around were the Seminole Indians.

What a vast difference today! In place of the old ferry, two big steel drawbridges span that stream. In the place of the little post office stands a great big two-story concrete building where upwards of fifty thousand dollars in stock is stored. In the place of the little red paper shack with its eight six by eight rooms, for sleeping purposes, and called "The Hotel," now stands two concrete buildings, one with twenty or more rooms, the other with ten. Both as near fire-proof as possible to make and with all the conveniences to be found in large cities. The buildings in question are the New River Hotel and the Keystone.

It was my pleasure to visit Fort Lauderdale, which was the first time since April and the life and activity there struck me very much. Upon investigation I found that there are in course of construction fifty buildings, a very greater part being residences, ranging in cost from three hundred and fifty dollars to ten thousand dollars.

Simply marvelous for a place with less then fifteen hundred people. But such is the case. Among the buildings costing over two thousand dollars are the public school, now nearing completion, at a cost of seven thousand dollars. This is being erected out of concrete blocks. The Methodist and Baptist churches, both of concrete



View of Fort Lauderdale's Brickell Avenue looking South, taken around 1912. (Broward County Historical Commission collection, Baker Collection)



Stranahan trading post and camp, ca. 1895. (Image courtesy the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, Stranahan collection)

blocks and costing four thousand and thirty-five hundred dollars respectively. The Fort Lauderdale State Bank, concrete, twenty-five hundred dollars, without fixtures; the Masonic Temple, to be three stories and costing eight thousand. The first floor of this building will be devoted to stores and the second for offices. There are quite a number of other buildings to go up as soon as plans can be gotten out, among which will be a new store for Wheeler & Co., to be built of concrete blocks. This store will cost in the neighborhood of four thousand dollars when completed.

But the question is asked, What is the reason for all this activity?

Twenty thousand farms, aggregating two hundred thousand acres, have been sold west of Fort Lauderdale. One company alone sold twelve thousand and will begin in December to allot to each purchaser his ten-acre tract. The officers of this company estimate that of the twelve thousand contract holders at least six thousand will visit Fort Lauderdale this winter, and it is very probable that three thousand will remain.

Two of the three canals being built by the State on this side of Florida, empty into New River. Over two-thirds of the lands which have been sold during the past three years in the Eastern Everglades are tributary to these canals, and as soon as the lands are brought into cultivation the canals will be used as avenues of transportation for these lands. Fort Lauderdale being the logical shipping point, all of this traffic is bound to go there for distribution.

The Florida Fruit Lands Company have purchased two thousand acres, three quarters of a mile north of the river, and are platting and having it surveyed into town lots. One lot will be given to each purchaser of a ten-acre farm from this company. The number of lots to be given away will be twelve thousand.

At the next legislature, the residents of Fort Lauderdale will ask that body to incorporate that town.

An electric railway is projected from Miami to West Palm Beach. This line will pass through Fort Lauderdale and

as it is the intention to operate both a passenger and freight service, this will place that town in close relation to Miami.

At present Fort Lauderdale has three general stores and one department store. The department store carrying fifty thousand dollars in stock.

The bank is incorporated for \$15,000, and will do a general banking business.

Fort Lauderdale has three hotels, two boat yards and several large packing houses.

One thousand people get their mail from this post office, Fort Lauderdale proper has about seven hundred and fifty people in it.

There are a number of citrus fruit groves along the river.

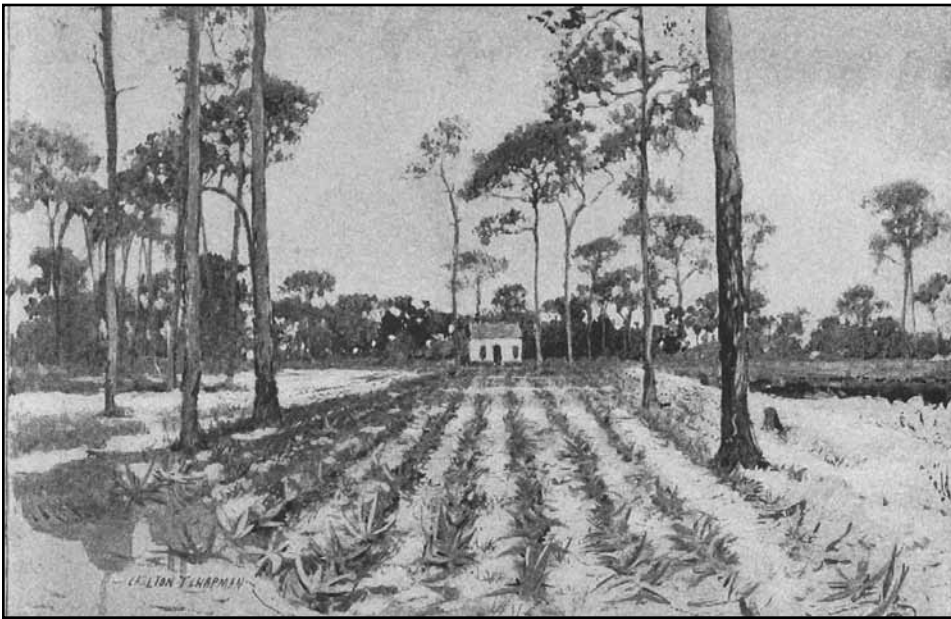
The north fork canal has been dug nineteen and one-half miles into the 'Glades and the south canal twenty-three miles.

Fort Lauderdale is twenty-five miles north of Miami, and can be reached by automobile on the county road, by boat through the East Coast canal, or by rail. These are some of the things that is causing this great activity.

And yet the development of this section has only begun.



The Keystone Hotel was located on the corner of Wall Street and Andrews Avenue in Fort Lauderdale. This view is looking northeast and was taken in 1909, when hotel founder Frank R. Oliver rented the establishment to the Tenbrook family. Standing on porch are (left to right): W. C. Kyle, Frank Oliver, Mable Tenbrook (her married name was Cherry), Francis Tenbrook (her married name was Cromartie), Mrs. Dewitt Tenbrook, Dewitt Tenbrook, unknown, and Sam Oliver. (Broward County Historical Commission collection, Egan collection)



A view of a plantation on New River from Subtropical Florida magazine. (Image courtesy Patrick Scott)

Vol. VXIII Number 8 August 1911

Transcription from original copy from the collections of the Boca Raton Historical Society

DANIA, THE BANNER TOMATO DISTRICT

FACTS ABOUT ONE OF THE MOST PROSPEROUS SECTIONS OF THE LOWER EAST COAST

Dania, the largest shipping point for tomatoes on the East Coast, is located 345 miles south of Jacksonville, on the Florida East Coast Railway; 22 miles north of Miami and one and a half miles from the Atlantic Ocean. The elevation is eighteen feet above sea level.

The town was founded about six years ago and now has a population of one thousand; has three churches, one graded school, one drug store, four general stores, post-office, ice

cream parlor, two meat markets, two hotels, several boarding houses, one bicycle shop, two blacksmith shops and novelty works, one attorney-at-law, one physician, and one land agent. The town was incorporated about four years ago, has a city council, marshal, town hall and jail, and city waterworks. The purity of the water derived from artesian wells is certified to by Mr. R. E. Ross, State chemist. Dania has fine rock roads and streets and a telephone line has been constructed through the town.

When I arrived here from Wisconsin a few years ago, I only found one married couple and three bachelors. Dania is bordering on the Everglades, now being drained by the State and private parties, and being opened up for settlement.

The draining of the Everglades is practically assured as some of the

richest land is located in the 'Glades. With the climatic condition in South Florida so favorable to raising truck the year round, I see no reason why Dade county in the near future should not be one of the richest counties in the State, if not in the United States. I expect to see the day when the 'Glades will be covered with sugar cane and rice for hundreds of miles and dotted with sugar mills.

A canal is being dug from the main canal to the coast, one and a half miles, so that small boats can run up to town.

In order to provide more room for the large influx of settlers from the North a year ago I had a new town platted out two and a half miles north from Dania and named it Lake View. Lake Mable is located a half-mile to the east from the town and has an outlet to the Atlantic Ocean. It had a street constructed to the lake from the depot. A sawmill has been placed on the side track and is sawing lumber and one or two packing houses will be erected there this fall. A store and hotel will also be built.

The town of Lake View now connects with the town of Lauderdale, recently laid out by A. J. Bendle, a member of the Lauderdale Realty Company. Mr. Bendle deserves a great deal of credit to the interest he and his company has taken in developing the Everglades and the country in and around Lake View and Dania.

A rock road will be constructed between Lake View and Lauderdale to intersect the south fork of the State canal. The county has also constructed a rock road four miles west from Dania into the 'Glades, and Mr. Bendle and his company will continue the road at their expense to intersect the south fork of the State canal. These two roads are the only means by which one can reach the Everglades by wagon.

The Florida East Coast Railroad Company recently sold to Mr. Bendle, through me, seventeen hundred and eighty acres of land located between Dania and the Everglades. It is very good land for vegetables, oranges and grapefruit. The Robt. J. Reed & Son Land Company also owns a fine tract of land abutting on Dania and the Everglades, suitable for vegetable, oranges and grapefruit.



Packing house workers pause in their labors to have their picture taken. (Broward County Historical Commission, Gertrude Boyd collection)



A man in a row boat plies the water in Dania. (Broward County Historical Commission collection)

This country is the home of the grapefruit and nowhere in Florida can they do so well as in Dade County, and I defy a contadiction. J. M. Bryan, Jr., has a twelve-acre grove in bearing, and sold the fruit on the trees this season for seven thousand dollars cash. Judge Glassor, from New York, came here three years ago and bought eighty acres near Dania and set out thirty acres in grapefruit and they look fine. He also built a seven-thousand-dollar residence and other buildings on the place. A son of the Robt. J. Reed & Son Land Company, before spoken of, bought two lots in Lake View from me and built a two-thousand-dollar residence on them.

Lake View is the highest point in Dade County. It has an elevation of about twenty-five feet above sea level. J. E. Shoal, of Alpina, South Dakota, vice-president of the bank there, and R. E. Dye, editor, Mr. W. H. McMillin who owns a large cattle ranch, of Alpina, S. D., came to Florida last fall, looking for a location. They had been all over Florida and did not find anything suitable. But when they struck Dania they purchased one hundred acres of some of the best vegetable, orange and grapefruit lands in and around here. They went back home and the banker sent his father and one brother down here to farm and experiment. They farmed seven acres of tomatoes and cleared above all expenses about one thousand dollars and went back home well satisfied.

Dania had thirteen packing houses in operation and twelve hundred acres

in tomatoes. Three hundred thousand crates were packed and mostly sold f. o. b., and netted the growers one dollar per crate. About three hundred thousand dollars were paid the growers and about seven hundred carloads were shipped.

What we need the most now in Dania is a bank and a first-class hotel. Last winter the town was overcrowded with people that could find no place to sleep, and some had to sleep in tents or any old shack they could find.

My son, George, and his partner farmed fifteen acres in tomatoes and netted twenty-seven hundred dollars; my two sons, Martin and Sherman, farmed seven acres of tomatoes and netted above all expenses eighteen hundred dollars; myself and son, Auton, had eight acres of tomatoes and sold them in the field for fifteen hundred dollars; James Griffin farmed ten acres in tomatoes and cleared three thousand dollars; and there were others who made good money, and some did not make so much. It all depends on how you manage your crop.



Roadbed construction, 1911. (Image courtesy the Old Davie School)

S. M. Alsobrook, who owns about 2,000 acres of land near Dania, has 50 acres in bearing pineapples, a fine residence on the place and fine artesian water. Five years ago he came here with \$1,500. His property now is considered to be worth about \$60,000. A good many others who came here with small amounts are now pretty well fixed.

Tomatoes should be planted at different times; then you are sure to hit a good market with some of them. Crops should be diversified. Irish potatoes yield well here and bring a good price and can be planted at any time during the season, as we are practically below the frost line. Eggplants, peppers, bean and peas pay well if planted the right time.

Tobacco was tried here last winter by Theo. Demro in the east marsh without fertilizer, except one handful of stable dirt to the plant. It was planted the 15th day of February and cut the 26th day of May.

Vol. XIV March 1912

FIRST NEW TOWN IN THE EVERGLADES

A few years ago, if one had prophesied that there would come a time when the great Everglades would be inhabited, that towns and villages would spring up, all would have joined in saying "that man was a lunatic," but strange and progressive movements are in the air in this century, the Everglades are being drained and the first village has been surveyed and platted, streets are to be laid out and surfaced with rock, cement sidewalks are to be laid, homes and business blocks are to be and are being erected.



The John M. Bryan home, located near Dania, was impressive. (Broward County Historical Commission, Bryan family collection)

The name of the new child is Zona, and has been christened as such. The United States has established a post office, several residences have been erected, an up-to-date packing house and dock have been completed.

The new town is located west from Fort Lauderdale and a portion of the town site contains the famous Everglade Experimental Farm. Just across the canal and to the north is the great Irish potato field of H. G. Ralston and John Bryan.

The experimental farm of the Everglade Land Sales Company is a wonder to all who have seen it. On this tract of drained Everglade soil almost everything grown in the tropical climate and in the latitudes further north are seen growing most luxuriantly, demonstrating the adaptability of the drained muck lands for growing an endless variety of crops.

The new village of Zona is reached by boat from Fort Lauderdale, a distance of eight miles. Several boats make the trip daily, so that parties wishing to visit this new town can do so without spending a great deal of time. Zona is also reached by the Davie Ditch rock road, so that parties from Miami who desire to investigate the new place can go via automobile, making the trip easily in a few hours.

The site of the new town, Zona, is a novel one. Standing on the dock, looking to the north, west and south, one vast expanse of land covered with saw grass and other wild growths, with here and there small hammock islands covered with a low growth, with foliage of the greenest green and varnished by nature's own process, is to be seen.

Within a few years, standing on the same dock, a wonderful change will

have taken place. Instead of the broad expanse of waving grasses and hammock isles will be homes, with beautiful surroundings, great fields cultivated in sugar cane, cereals and vegetables. Hard surface roads will penetrate far into the now wilderness and the marks of progress and prosperity will be seen everywhere. The present age is a wonderful age, an age in which no undertaking is too far-reaching or involving too great an outlay of money to be undertaken and carried to a successful finish.

Zona, the first baby born in the vast Everglades, will go down in history as one of the first and great results of the drainage of the Everglades, the opening up of the millions of acres of what for centuries was supposed to be a worthless tract of land.

Transcription from original copy from the collections of the Boca Raton Historical Society

Vol. XV Number 1 January 1913

EVERGLADES COMPANIES' GOOD WORK

E. V. Blackman Writes About a Visit to the Davie Farm and Royal Glades Tract

The question of reclaiming the Everglades is gradually being solved. It will probably be years before the entire area is drained, but the work must finally be accomplished as the muck soil that has already been tilled is proving very fertile. In this article it is not the purpose of the writer to go into the history of the drainage scheme, but to give an idea of what a party saw on the Davie Farm and adjacent drained lands while on a recent visit to that section. To make comparison it is necessary to refer back.



Workers pose in an early Packing House. (Broward County Historical Commission collection)



Plants thrived in an early pineapple field. (Broward County Historical Commission, Christopher R. Eck collection)



Vegetables from west Broward County and Lake Okeechobee area being loaded at the Florida East Coast Railway docks, Fort Lauderdale, circa 1912. (Broward County Historical Commission collection)

About a year ago we visited the Davie Farm, where the Everglades Land Sales Company maintains an experimental farm for the benefit of settlers. What we saw then was a convincing argument that the 'Glades can be drained, that they will be drained, and that the drained muck lands will become the most valuable farming lands in the United States.

It was the first year that these lands had been cultivated and a great many of the attempts were superficial, the farmers having had no experience in working lands of this character. It was expected by nearly all that these lands, which had been lying under water for centuries a greater part of the time, must be cultivated and sweetened before they would be of practical use. In this these ideas were partially true, but what we saw growing there last year convinced us that with more complete drainage the muck lands would produce immense crops of almost every kind of vegetable that is grown. During the summer months the Everglade Land Sales Company has had its dredges at work cutting canals and lateral ditches which have furthered the drainage of these lands. Although those portions of the drained muck that were cultivated last year have been under water a portion of the past summer, yet the physical condition of the land is greatly improved over its condition last season and each year it is cultivated it will continue to improve.

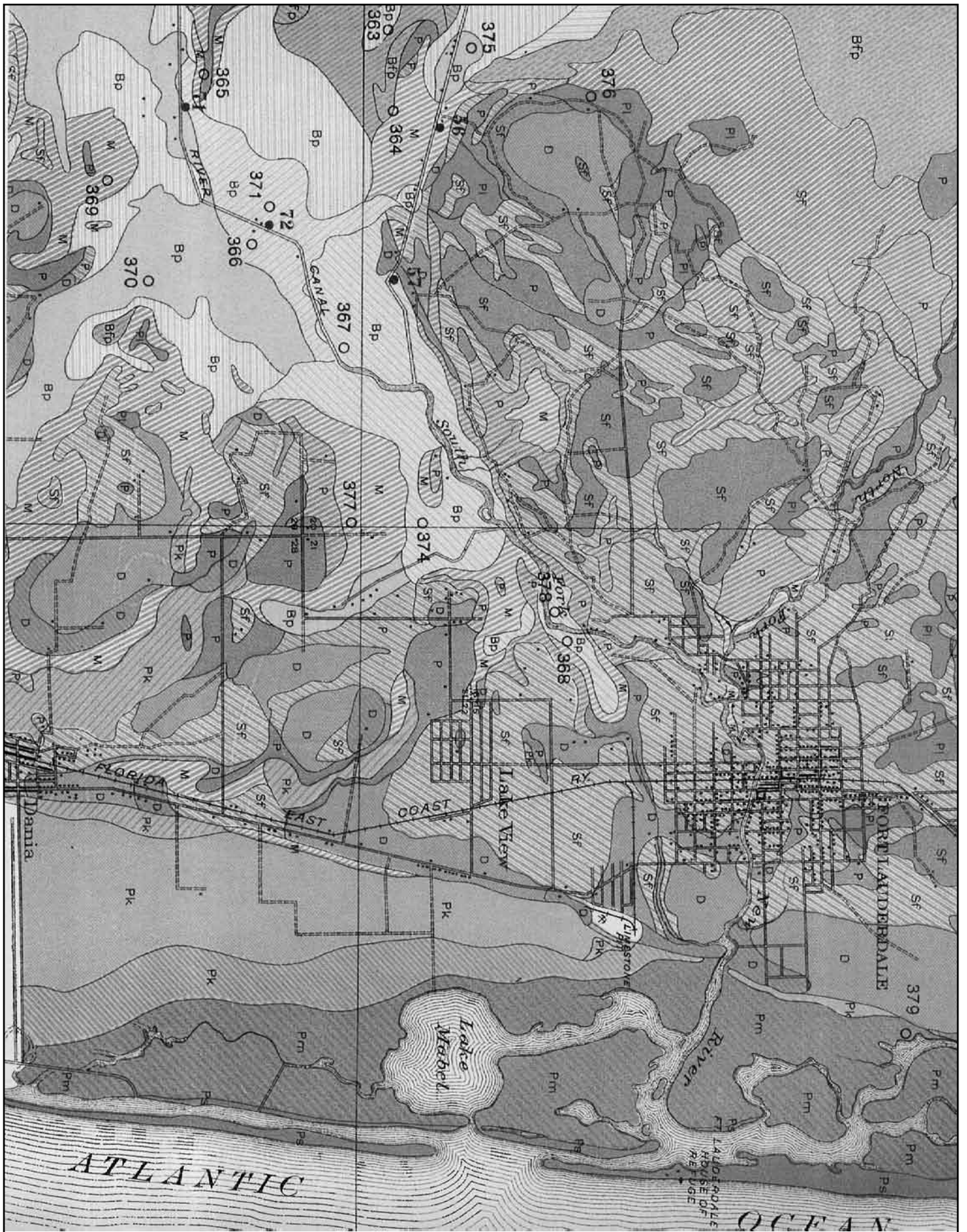
It is evident now that those who have done practical work in Everglade drainage have demonstrated beyond a question that the scheme is more than feasible, that the lands drained are extremely rich, and when the entire Everglades are drained and opened up for settlement, and it will be the most valuable and most productive body of land in the United States.



Road construction in Zona, now the town of Davie. (Image courtesy the Old Davie School Archives)

By invitation of Mr. Dale Miller, of the Everglade Land Sales Company, a party consisting of Messrs. John and Tom Townley, old-time Everglade boomers, Mr. E. G. Keene, of the Miami Metropolis, and E. V. Blackman, made the trip recently, going to Fort Lauderdale in Mr. Miller's large touring car, thence via launch to the Davie farm and other places on the Everglades. If ever a party was richly repaid for a long day's jaunt, it was this party. At Fort Lauderdale we noticed residences being built on every side, two large business blocks are nearly completed, with another to be erected soon. It was all life and bustle, and the town was filled with strangers who are looking over the country for investments. The party boarded the launch with Capt. B. Ball at the wheel.

The experimental farm was a subject of great interest. The garden is under the direction of Mr. Werner, an expert in agriculture and horticulture. The whole demonstration garden is laid out in a most attractive manner, the beds on which the seeds were planted and slightly raised above the surface. The contrast between the coal black soil and the dark green foliage of the growing plants made the garden very attractive. This tract, or a portion



1915: {A. Hoen & Co., for USDA, Bureau of Soils} Soil Map, Fort Lauderdale, Florida sheet. This map shows roads and buildings. (Map image courtesy Patrick Scott)



A boat carries these well-dressed passengers up the C-1 canal in Davie. (Broward County Historical Commission, Broward family collection)

of it, was cultivated last year. The difference in the physical condition of the soil now and last year is very marked. The difference also between the general appearance of the plants as we saw them last year and on this trip is also very pronounced, showing that continued cultivation is improving the soil and making plant life more abundant. On the demonstration farm we saw almost every kind of vegetable grown in any portion of the United States, without a sickly plant, but on the other hand all were growing most luxuriantly. There were several varieties of beans, tomatoes in almost every stage, from the seed bed to the ripened fruit; Chinese cabbage, eggplant, onion, peppers, lettuce, radish, okra, peanuts, turnips, carrots, bananas, oranges; in fact, there was a complete representation of all kinds of vegetables. In flowers there were a great variety and when in bloom will represent every shade and color known to nature.

The Everglade Land Sales Company is experimenting, and most successfully, with forage plants of different kinds. One of the great drawbacks of the southern portion of the State has been the lack of forage plants that would thrive here. The Everglade Land Sales Company in its garden has solved the problem. Among the forage plants being grown is the para grass, the Rhodes grass, Kentucky blue grass, English blue grass, alfalfa, sorghum, Kaffir corn, oats and many others. All of these grasses promise an abundant yield and some of them a tonnage to the acre that will be surprising. The great object of the Everglade Land Sales Company in establishing their experimental farm is to assist their clients who purchase lands. Their settlers' clients come from all portions of the world. They are in a strange land, among a strange people, and all the conditions are almost the opposite to those that exist at their former homes. It is to demonstrate to these people



Everglades land showing heavy growth on hammock with wild lemons. (Image courtesy the Old Davie School Archives)

just what can be grown, when to plant seed, how to plant, how to fertilize and how to tend their growing crops and further to assist them in packing and marketing their products. This is very commendable and a prominent feature of the manner of conducting the business of this company that gives their patrons confidence.

After leaving the experimental farm the party visited several farmers, whom we found busy and very hopeful. In all our calls we did not find a single disgruntled fellow. They all talked "drained Everglade lands" with great energy, pointing to their growing crops with pride and telling of their delight in owning some of this famous land. Their growing crops told the story of successful endeavor. Never have we seen more luxurious crops of all kinds growing that we saw on the drained muck lands.

One of the most enthusiastic drained land boomers that we met was Mrs. C. L. Steel, and when she placed her farm with its crops on exhibition before us we simply did not blame her for her enthusiasm. About eight weeks previous Mrs. Steel commenced making ready for planting her varied crops. She manages her farm and has demonstrated that she has wonderful ability. Her place is laid out with the preciseness of a park. Not a weed was to be seen. Mrs. Steel is very proud of her undertaking. In speaking of her work she said: "I have never enjoyed anything in all my life as I am enjoying my work here. Our place is somewhat isolated; but I never have time to get lonesome, or even to wish that I was somewhere else. The wonderful growth of my plants is a simple inspiration to me and each day urges me on to more constant endeavor. Possibly you may think that I am a land agent, but this is not the case. I have no land for sale and only wish I had money enough to purchase many acres of this land."

As an experiment her first planting was five hills of cucumbers. From these five hills she has sold 9 1/3 dozen cucumbers at \$1.80 per dozen. Mrs. Steel has proven her ability along this line and now has a large planting and has contracted the cucumbers at one dollar per dozen. Her bean crop is simply a wonder. The first planting is now in full bearing and she is now



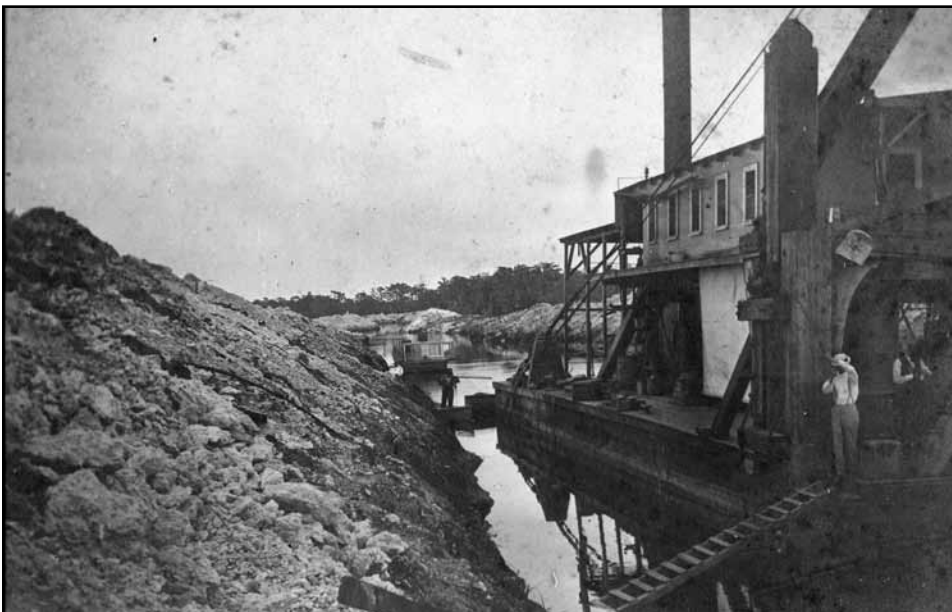
Boats like this example would be used to take people to their farms in the Everglades. (Broward County Historical Commission, Julia Snow Jones collection)

shipping. Finer beans or more thrifty plants were never grown. As soon as the beans are mature the ground will be planted in onions, making two crops off the same land and both are money crops. Mrs. Steel has two thousand cauliflowers. Never have we seen more promising plants than these. Mrs. Steel has sold this crop under contract at thirty-five cents per head and from the present appearance every plant will head.

One gentleman in the crowd looked with wonder at the magnificent sight and exclaimed, "And a woman did it?"

The canal's which the State has contracted to dig have proven to be inadequate to handle the water on this

immense tract at certain seasons of the year. The Everglade Land Sales Company and the Everglade Sugar and Land Company are arranging to spend half a million dollars in completing the drainage so that their lands will be tillable at all seasons of the year without regard to the heavy rainfalls. A dyke will be dug entirely around the "Royal Glade" and lateral ditches throughout the entire tract. Roads will be constructed and the Davie farm will be treated in the same manner. The Everglade Land Sales Co. and the Everglade Sugar and Land Co. propose to furnish their patrons with land that is absolutely drained and made fit for cultivation the year round. The work contemplated will cost a vast amount



Men and a dredge digging a canal. (Broward County Historical Commission, Broward family collection)



An early collection of Florida-grown fruit including bananas, pineapples, sugar apples, coconuts, alligator pear, mangos, lemons and limes. (Broward County Historical Commission, Christopher R. Eck collection)

of money, but the companies are willing spenders and when the work is completed the Davie Farms and the Royal Glade will be the finest and most valuable tracts of farming land in the world.

Vol. XV Number 1 January 1913

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THE HOMEMAKERS' DEPARTMENT

NO ISOLATED FARMS

It has been said "There is no more frontier." This is notably true of Florida. The waste places are disappearing. Primitive conditions have been outgrown, and the railroad, telephone, telegraph and daily mail link the farms and farming sections of the State as closely together as are the residents of cities. In other sections of the country the great farms, miles in extent, the extensive plantations of thousands of acres, produce neighborliness among owners. But here small farms are the rule – a few acres, subjected to intensive cultivation the entire year, with no fallow land during the twelve months – bring the owners close together; the telephone, the launch, the automobile, and the railroads line the neighborhoods, and there is no isolation or loneliness

among the new people coming in. In the old days – that is about forty years ago – the pioneer orange grower was much isolated. His land was probably a 140-acre homestead, his supply center from 50 to 150 miles away and his nearest neighbor sometimes in the adjoining county. Now all is different; even the schoolhouse is accessible, a big school wagon or boat transporting his children to a consolidated school in the nearest village, where there is likely also a high school.

SOME FRUIT SUGGESTIONS

The banana crop of Florida, particularly along the East Coast, is heavier this year than ever before. The local markets are full of finely-formed, excellent fruit, that make a welcome, wholesome addition to the menu. A few methods of using them are suggested as follows:

BANANA WHIP

Mash to a pulp four ripe bananas, 4 tablespoons of sugar, and mix in the well beaten yolks of two eggs. Just before serving add a glass of sherry or other liquor and the stiff whites of the eggs. Delicious and nutritious.

RICE AND BANANAS

Turn loosely flaked, well-boiled rice into a fry pan to brown in a little hot butter. Toss it until light and amber-colored and place on a flat dish. Garnish with fried bananas sprinkled with sugar.

BAKED BANANAS

Make a slit in the peeling of the bananas, lay them in a baking dish, place in the oven and thoroughly bake for half an hour. Serve in the peeling, which the heat has forced open, sprinkled with sugar and a dash of lemon juice.

Fresh bananas and pineapple cut up together, allowed to stand one hour in sugar, make a delicate salad.

People with whom bananas disagree may eat them more safely with a slight sprinkle of salt, which not only aids digestion, but improves the taste.

A good breakfast: Whole wheat bread, cheese, bananas and coffee – and a breakfast that lasts a long time.

Bananas and oranges, sugared, form a nice tea salad with cakes.

A few late pineapples may be had this month. Peel and slice, put in pint jars, fill to overflowing with clear, cold water, seal tight, and enjoy them six months hence with sugar, before the regular summer crop comes in.

Readers of THE HOMESEAKER who file the magazine have in back numbers a variety of excellent recipes for making many goodies from citrus fruits, published in the department early this year, while the citrus crop was ripening. These are true and tried, and will be of value to anyone able to obtain the fruit for preserving. The orange and grapefruit crop this season will be very heavy, hence the prudent housewife will have an excellent opportunity to test her skill in the manufacture of many dainties for the household.

SOME INSECT PESTS AND REMEDIES

Florida has the reputation of being about the most insect-ridden spot on earth, and perhaps a few uncared-for dwellings within her borders do sustain that reputation – which is undeserved by the State at large. Parasites will thrive anywhere and everywhere if care be not taken to eradicate and prevent them. This is true of Florida, but no less true of other sections.

Probably the mosquito is the most widely discussed of all the pests that infest the State. Filth is in nowise responsible for his existence, but standing water in even the smallest quantity is. We have found that no receptacles for stagnant water should be left about the premises if we may expect immunity from mosquitoes. We have found that ridding the place of every vessel or pool in which water may stagnate, and keeping the premises drained is the only best defense against them. Towns and villages are finding this out as well, and municipal authorities provide for “dry” towns by enacting ordinances forbidding the accumulation of tin cans that catch and hold rainwater; standing tubs or barrels uncovered, as well as providing means for draining marshes and nearby swamps. Where water must stand for some special purpose it should be in covered vessels. When this is not practicable a little kerosene oil poured into the water container

will kill the larvae, and will in nowise spoil the water. This precaution, with the additional one of screening the windows, will keep premises almost entirely mosquito-proof.

Of course, if one’s neighbors do not observe the same precautions a few objectionable visitors may disturb one’s serenity but a good example being set it is often happily followed.

ANTS

The next most ubiquitous pest is the ant. They come in all sorts, sizes and colors, and the biblical sluggard can find his good example among any and all. The Florida variety is just as industrious and just as prolific, just as neighborly and just as inquisitive as any other kind, but they all readily vacate in the presence of the following remedy, tired and tested by this writer:

Mix thoroughly one part each of cornmeal, sugar and powdered borax, moistening with enough water to make a batter, about like muffins. Put this about the house in the ant “runs” in small plates or baking-powder can tops.

Something that can be refilled with water when the dough gets dry. Remoistened thus this supply will last for three months, and as long as kept in the house the ants will remain away. They will not go away at once – perhaps for three or four days – but after that they most assuredly will, not to return so long as the remedy is kept moist.

CHINCHES OR BEDBUGS

Not even scrupulous cleanliness will always keep these disgusting things out of a house once they get into it, unless their eggs are absolutely destroyed.

The cleanest as well as the most efficacious remedy is gasoline. Pour in liberally over the bedstead, the springs and into every crevice where the bugs can go, and on the creases and folds of the bedding. It will instantly kill the bugs, their larvae, deodorize the room, and will not hurt anything it touches, and dries up almost immediately. Be careful to have no fire anywhere near where it is used, nor until it has thoroughly dried.

LICE AND FLEAS

Former articles in this department have discussed the value of dry sulphur as an eradicator of chicken lice, fleas and



In 1910 pioneer resident Blanche Forman had to take matters into her own hands, killing an alligator that had been eating her chickens. (Image courtesy of H. Collins Forman, Jr., P.A.)

mites, not only on the fowls and the biddies, but in their houses and nests, especially sitting hens, and all about the premises. Any one working with fowls and getting covered with mites can get rid of them in a little while by using sulphur on the person, the hands, the clothing. It has the further advantage of being clean and otherwise wholesome.

ROACHES

The same remedy, dry sulphur, sprinkled in safes, pantries and packing cases will assuredly drive cockroaches away, especially where vessels containing a dry mixture of flour, sugar and plaster of Paris, equal parts, are set about their runs. They eat this mixture greedily, and the plaster in a little time kills them.

It has the same effect on rats. The rodent dearly loves good wheat flour and will always help himself. If mixed with the plaster for his repast he will not return for a second lunch.

Chloride of lime is the best deodorizer and disinfectant, and permanganate of potash is a perfect water test. When the purple powder is dropped into pure water, the water will remain a clear purple for at least twenty-four hours. Should the water lose the color, and a sediment consequently settles in the vessel, the water is not fit to drink.

These are simple but sure remedies and tests, and should be in every home – for the sake of comfort, cleanliness and health.

- 1 F. W. DeCroix, *Historical, Industrial and Commercial Data of Miami and Fort Lauderdale, Dade County, Florida* (St. Augustine, 1912), p. 113.
- 2 James and Lana Servies, *A Bibliography of Florida*, vol. 3, p. 437, #12339.
- 3 J.K. Dorn, "Recollection of Early Miami," *Tequesta*, vol. 9, p. 49 (1949).
- 4 Isidor Cohen, *Historical Sketches and Sidelights of Miami, Florida* (Miami 1925), p. 153.
- 5 F. W. DeCroix, *Historical, Industrial and Commercial Data of Miami and Fort Lauderdale, Dade County, Florida* (St. Augustine, 1912), p. 113.
- 6 E.V. Blackman, *Miami and Dade County, Florida: Its Settlement, Progress and Achievement* (Wash., D.C., 1921).
- 7 August Burghard and Philip J. Weidling, *Checkered Sunshine*, University of Florida Press, Gainesville, Florida, 1966.
- 8 Frances Smith McCallister (1908-20__) recalled that her family first settled along the Miami Road in 1910, but moved back "into town" in 1911 because their home was so remote. Interview by Patrick Scott. Remnants of the rail spur running to the rockpit that is now called "Harbor Lake" may still be visible on the easement along the north side of Evergreen Cemetery.
- 9 Edward N. Akin, *Flagler, Rockefeller Partner and Florida Baron*, The Kent State University Press, Kent, Ohio, p. 226.