GEORGE E. JOHNSTON DIARY

1917 - 1919

Annotations by Rodney E. Dillon, Jr.

A small, black-covered diary in the Broward County Historical Commission archives contains the daily observations of George E. Johnston on three winter trips from his home in New Paltz, New York to Fort Lauderdale in 1917, 1918 and 1918-1919. Born in New York in September 1852, Johnston married Isabella Ackert—"Belle" in the diary—in 1875. They became the parents of five children, four of whom, Stephen, Elizabeth, Charles and Cora, survived to adulthood and accompanied or joined their parents in Fort Lauderdale in the late 1910s. A pharmacist by profession, George Johnston became a successful businessman in New Paltz. The 1910 census lists him as owning a garage, and his interest in automobiles is evident from the entries in his diary, although by 1920 he is again listed as a druggist.

According to his obituary, Johnston first began spending winters in Fort Lauderdale in 1912. Here he joined a small colony of families from New Paltz and adjacent areas of the Hudson River Valley, several of whom are mentioned in the diary. As the diary elaborates, the Johnstons built a home on the south bank of the New River in 1918. Here they continued to spend their winters, and here George E. Johnston died on January 14, 1926.

Johnston’s diary captures a unique view of World War I-era Fort Lauderdale and Broward County, a community in transition between the small-town, agricultural settlement of previous years and the bustling center of tourism and real estate speculation which would characterize the “boom” of the coming decade. In addition, it provides eyewitness glimpses of other Florida locations and of the adventure of long distance travel on primitive roads near the beginning of the “automobile era.” While the scenes described here provide a dramatic contrast to today’s massive population and superhighways, it is also interesting to reflect on the difference between George Johnston’s Broward County and that described by James Ingraham in the previous article, only twenty-six years earlier. Spelling and punctuation are as they appear in the original diary.

1917

Mon., Jan. 15, 1917—Left home 7:30 am. Cold, raw day. Took off chains Owo[?] Mills. Roads nice from there to Newark for lunch 12 m. continental. Left 1 PM began to snow & snowed all way to Phila. Roads good except Rahway & Metuchen got very skiddy before we reached Phil 5:30. Stopped Hotel Walton.

Tues., Jan. 16, 1917—Cloudy, 24°. Left Phila 9:30 am. Cold, raw, ran with chains on to Baltimore 5:30. Had tire down, changed tire & ran on to Washington, arrived 6:30 P.M. Stopped at Continental. Had Turkey Dinner 8 PM. Snow about ½ way from Baltimore to Washington on the roads which were very fine.

Wed., Jan. 17, 1917—Clear, 20°. Washington, Breakfast 8 am. Put in another tube, started out, went to AAA, said road to Fredericksburg impassable. Came back to Hotel & Mrs. A.E.J. went to bed & called Doctor. He said she had grip. Steve, Bess & Abe went about town & we stayed at Hotel. Cold & rain. Think we will ship cars Friday from Baltimore to Jax.

Thurs., Jan. 18, 1917—Clear, cold & Raw, 24°. In Washington all day. Mrs. J. some better. Took a ride around city & engaged passage for autos from Baltimore to Jax on Boat, retired 9 PM.


Sat., Jan. 20, 1917—Clear &
AAA map from the early 1920s, showing automobile routes from the north to Florida.

Warmer, 24°. Arose 8 am, had good night sleep. Breakfast 9 am, nice crowd on boat. Roomed with man from New Jersey, Ford agent. Water calm up to 8 PM.

Sun., Jan. 21, 1917—Got up 8 am, breakfast 9, sun shone, nice, warm. Turkey Dinner 1 PM. Lounged about boat all day until 5 PM off Charleston. Put on light flannels, clean shirt & changed suit am.

Mon., Jan. 22, 1917—60°. Arrived here 4 am. Awoke 7:30, Breakfast fast. Rough trip during the night. Started out to see the town, shivered, came back until PM. Went out 1:30 PM, had 50 mile trip out to zoo & places of interest. Ret’d 5:30 P.M., round trip 1.50. Met man with Paige from N.Y.C., fun 2 weeks on road, had miserable trip, was going to ship home in the spring.

Tues., Jan. 23, 1917—Arrived in Jax 6 am, went to Hotel Albert. Folks weren’t around yet. Out to restaurant for breakfast. 8 of us, Mr. & Mrs. Bennett in the lot got our cars & had lunch etc. Left Heavy coats & Blankets at Hotel Albert until our return in the Spring. Left Jax 2 PM, arrived in St. Augustine about 5 PM. Stopped at Hotel Bennett very good place & reasonable.

Wed., Jan. 24, 1917—Left St. Augustine 10 am, ran to Ormond, saw K. VanDerlyn (?) & Wood. Down the beach to Deltona over bad & good road to Deland over brick road to Lake Helen, saw Wm. H. Atkins & back to Deland for Dinner & stay at Putnam Inn.

Thurs., Jan. 25, 1917—Left Deland 8:30 am. Mr. & Mrs. Atkins was in to see us off. Ran back to Dal[yon] & down to titusville for lunch. Bad sand road North titusville & making shell road South. Waited on road until they spread shell to get past. Arrived Melbourn[e] 5:30 PM, Hotel Carlton.

Fri., Jan. 26, 1917—Left Melbourn 8:30, arrived Stuart Ferry 11:30, wait ¾ hr. for Ferry man, went to breakfast, had fan belt fixed & lunch at Stuart & left there 2 PM. Long detour through woods & 5 m. through sand rock roads very rough in Palm Beach Co., except 10 miles from Palm Beach. Stopped at Hotel Palms, Rooms & Dinner Fair.

Sat., Jan. 27, 1917—Left Palm Beach 9:30, road good, ran down Beach road to delray, arrived Ft. Lauderdale 12 m. Had Lunch Agee’s. Mr. & Mrs. A. E. J. & Mr. & Mrs. Bennett went on to Miami. We went to Harpers after supper, went to movies.

Sun., Jan. 28, 1917—Arose 7 a.m., had Breakfast, call on Deyos—1 tooth in gear broken. Took Mr. & Mrs. Harper to Miami. Had lunch at Boston Lunch, went to Musa Isle and Alapata. Bought 2 qts. Strawberries. Ret’d 5 pm. Did not go to the Beach.


Tues., Jan. 30, 1917—Arose 6:30
am, came down town. Bought bed table & put house aside some. Mr. & Mrs. A.E.J. came up from Miami & went with us to Harpers for dinner. Steve & Bess stayed at house & put things aside. Fire alarm & we come down & bort our things along. Steve & Bess took Harper home & bort rest things down, had supper in new House.


Thurs., Feb. 1, 1917—Arose 7 am. Breakfast 8 am. Home all day. Mr. & Mrs. A.E.J. called 4 to 5 pm, talked about coming to Lauderdale & Board at Harpers. Car was not out of garage today, had Tire vulc good job. Had fish for supper.

Fri., Feb. 2, 1917—Rain early am, grew colder & had both stoves going in dining room & could not keep warm yet—did not have car out. Grew colder every hour.

Sat., Feb. 3, 1917—24 above, froze, ice—Home all day A.E.J. & wife & Bennett's came up from Miami looking for Boarding places. A.E.J. & wife found board at Harpers & Mr. & Mrs. Bennett across river. Put up stove in kitchen, had fire all day & put kerosene heater in front rooms to make warm by bed time. Froze everything in sight.

Sun., Feb. 4, 1917—Arose 9 am, warmer, went to Harpers for dinner & remained until 4:30 P.M. Then road around city until 5 PM, home for supper & set in kitchen in evening, had little fire in stove, much warmer.

Mon., Feb. 5, 1918—Warmer than yesterday. Home until 2 PM. Went to new Bridge into Beach then to Carvonville and around city until 4 PM. A.E.J. and Mrs. Came up from Miami & went to Harpers. Mary Freer came down from Rutledge on train 10 PM & Steve & Bess went with A.E.J. to Harpers & bort car to garage.

Tues., Feb. 6, 1917—Frost & ice, 27°. Frost again last night & froze most of what was left Saturday & Sunday night. Fire in Kraft's Home across river. Little damage. Mr. & Mrs. A.E.J. down a.m.

Wed., Feb. 7, 1917—Warmer. Steve went with A.E.J. to Harpers to fix club[$] on his car. Bess & I went with Bennetts to Orange Grove & got some fruit then went to Harpers after Steve & Bell & Dinner was ready & we had to stay there for Dinner. In PM took Mr. & Mrs. H. & Mrs. A.E.J. to Deerfield, ret'd about 4 PM, went to talking Pictures in evening.

Thurs., Feb. 8, 1917—Home all day. Bess not feeling well.

Fri., Feb. 9, 1917—Put in new gear in differential & greased car all round. Ran it out & took Mr. Deyo Home 5 PM.

Sat., Feb. 10, 1917—Cool. Took Deyos to Miami, dinner Boston Lunch. Went south from Miami in PM, arrived home 5:30 PM, had nice trip and good day.

Sun., Feb. 11, 1917—Had Headache, did not get up for Breakfast. Had dinner at Dixie lunch & went to Beach in PM. Called on J.E.H., ret'd 5 PM, supper home. Mr. & Mrs. A.E.J. called in evening to 9 PM. Steve & Bess went with them to bring car back to garage.

Mon., Feb. 12, 1917—Home most of the day. J.E.H. called morning. Bess went with Jansens to Miami, they took Mary Freer down to go to Havana in PM, they ret'd 6 PM. Mrs. Harper called in PM & Steve took her home. I took Mr. Deyo home in PM, he had been working at the Beach all day. Painted door on back stoop in PM.

Threatening rain. A.E.J. down most am. Lift bridge got stuck up 15 min. about noon, about doz. Cars on each side waiting. Nice Breeze in P.M. Took ride to new Bridge with A.E.J. his Cole 8.24

Wed., Feb. 14, 1917–70°. Nice & warm, light showers. Home & around town all day, went to riverside & out to south of the river in PM looking around saw load celery coming in to town from Riverside. A.E.J. had Ladies to Smith House in PM to womens meeting.25 Took short ride with A.E.J. in Cole. Took Deyo to Bridge, could not get cross draw, he returned.

Thurs., Feb. 15, 1917–72° Fine, clear & warm. Went after fruit am, up canal pm, left 1 pm & ret'd 5 pm, had 18 on board, saw 3 gators. Fine trip, went on top store in Davie & could see all over lower glades.26

Fri., Feb. 16, 1917–Clear & warm. Home all day. Bell & I went to riverside. She went calling & I stayed at Deyos until B. came back.

Sat., Feb. 17, 1917–64°. Home in am. Went to Miami in PM, saw aireoplane at high altitude. Mr. & Mrs. Harper went with us & Steve & Bess with A.E.J. & Mrs. Went to 9:30 PM train to meet W. H. & Mrs. Atkins, they came nit.[?]27

Sun., Feb. 18, 1917–Clear, warm, arose 8:30. Bath. Put on short sleve shirt & thin grey suit. A.E.J. downtown after car. Had Lunch Dixie & went to train 1 PM to meet Atkins & he did not arrive. Went out with Mr. & Mrs. Brobeck up north west Colahatchee on new rock road.28 Bess & Steve out with Mr. & Mrs. A.E.J. to Dania Beach etc.

Mon., Feb. 19, 1917–Fine, 72°. Arose 8 am. Breakfast Home am. Went to Miami. Took Mr. & Mrs. A.E.J. along to see Birth of a Nation, had supper in Miami & took in the Band concert, ret'd home 9:30 PM. Met 10:30 train for Mr. & Mrs. Atkins.

Tues., Feb. 20, 1917–Home in am, went to Pompano Beach with Mr. & Mrs. A.E.J. and A.L.F. Deyo, walked up Beach about half way to the Hillsborough [sic.] lighthouse, ret'd 5:30.20 Mr. & Mrs. A.E.J. was down in the evening & we met late train again to see the Atkins'. Allure started out with party for the Beach, broke rudder & had to be towed in.29 Same party was up to Pompano in PM.

Wed., Feb. 21, 1917–Clear, warm. Home all day. Mr. & Mrs. A.E.J. were down in the P.M. & we had ice cream cake & orange ade on the Porch. A party brot in a large shark 10 ½ ft. long. I helped pull him on the dock. The everglades legislative party arrived 5 PM & had Dinner at Gilbert & remained here for the night.31

Thurs, Feb. 22, 1917–Clear, warm, had headache all the am & part the PM. Bess & Steve went to Miami with Mr. & Mrs. A.E.J. in the PM.


Sat., Feb. 24, 1917–Steve fixed Clark's car.32 I went after Mrs. A.E.J. She spent the day here. Abe went fishing & ret'd 3 PM & we cleaned the fish & had them for supper.

Sun., Feb. 25, 1917–Clear, warm. Arose 8:30 am, breakfast, went to harpers for Dinner. Mr & Mrs. Bennett, Mr. & Mrs. Deyo called. Left there 5 PM, drove to Beach, saw aeroplane going north 5:30 PM, supper 6:30 PM.

Mon., Feb. 26, 1917–Clear &
warm. Arose 7 am, fine morning. A.E.J. & Mrs. left for north 8:30 am.33 Waited on dock from 11 to 1 to see Henry Ford, John Burroughs & they did not arrive.34 Some of the party came & took Dick’s Boat up the canal.35 We went to Agrees for lunch. Went to Deyos in PM & took them to new Bridge & home later.

Tues., Feb. 27, 1917–Arose 7:30 am. 10 am took Deyos to Miami to see the Fair. Not as large as last year, then went to west Miami & Musa Isle & home up the north road through the woods & saw 3 Dairy Farms. Returned home 5:30. Rev. Zobriska called & smoked in the evening.36

Wed., Feb. 28, 1917–Home all day. Mr. Harper, Mr. Deyo, Mr. & Mrs. Hamlin, Miss Cushing called in the PM.37 Went to movies, The little girl next door.38 Had Telegram of Aunt Kate’s Death.

Thurs., March 1, 1917–Home in a.m. Went after Fruit to Dania Grove in PM. Paid March rent to Alusherman. Florida Blossoms gave concert on dock in the evening.39 Went walking & got caught in shower.

Fri., March 2, 1917–Clear & fine, quite warm last night. Had appointment with tax assessor & collector & paid taxes.40 Mrs. Lawrence wanted one of us to drive her car to Miami.41 Steve didn’t feel well & I had an appointment & could not go.

Sat., March 3, 1917–Clear, warm. Took Mr. & Mrs. Brobeck to Miami, Musa Isle & around the west side of city & back through Alapat. Ret’d 5:30 PM. Put car in garage & Mr. & Mrs. Deyo was downtown & Steve took them home.

Sun., March 4, 1917–Clear, warm. Arose 8 PM, took bath, Breakfast 9 am. Went to Presbyterian Church, Mr. Callahan preached.42 Took Mrs. Deyo & Lizzie home after church, went out riding to the beach in PM and picked up Mrs. Gillispie & her 4 children & gave them a ride to Colahatchee.43 After supper went to Dania, moonlight ride, ret’d 8:30 pm.

Mon., March 5, 1917–Steve cleaned tank. Mr. & Mrs. Harper spent most of the day with us. Played Dominoes in the evening.

Tues., March 6, 1917–Cloudy & cool, had fire in stove.

Wed., March 7, 1917–Indian Sun Dance, cloudy. Went to Palm Beach, Mr. & Mrs. Harper along. Took our lunch along. Indian Sun Dance & athletic sports on Beach. Shower at 2 PM spoiled the fun & we left 3 PM, arrived home 5 PM in the rain & it rained most of the night. Went to movies (The Crisis), Abe Lincoln & Judge Whipple, Frank Brice & the South at the breaking out of the Civil War.44

Thurs., March 8, 1917–Clear, 70 am. Had fine shower in the night.

Home am. Home all day, had Phone from Mrs. Lawrence but she did not answer when I went to phone. Hamlin told me she wanted me to teach her to run the car.

Fri., March 9, 1917–Clear, warm. Home in am. Went to Dania Beach in PM, took Mr. & Mrs. Zabrisky & Mrs. Bennett along. Had Mr. & Mrs. Bennett for fish supper & played Dominoes in the evening to 10 pm. Garage got 6 Maxwell cars in, came in a Double Deck car.

Sat., March 10, 1917–Clear, warm. Mrs. Lawrence called me on phone to give some man there lesson on auto. Told her to get Hamlin to show him as we were going away. Went to Miami in PM, ret’d 6 pm, went out tonight, ham & eggs for supper.

Sun., March 11, 1917–Clear, warm. Went to church in the morning. In the PM went to Riverside to take Buns out riding & could find no one.45 Went to Fulford & there went 5 miles through a Barren country.

Mon., March, 12, 1917–Clear, 82°. Home all day. Mr. & Mrs. Deyo down in the afternoon & we took them home. Bess & Steve went to movies & we waited until 8 PM for Harpers to come down, then road about town. Fire at Beach burned down Pump House.46 R.R. strike threatened & lot Tourist leaving.47

Tues., March 13, 1917 [although the notation is on a page headed with this date, Johnston has scratched out the “13” and written “14” above, indicating that this entry is probably for Wed., March 14. The page for the 14th is blank]–Went to Miss Lawrence & brott her car down to garage to have connecting rods tightened & then took Mrs. Deyo & Lizzie & Mrs. Brobeck home in the am & around town etc all PM.

Thurs., March 15, 1917–Mrs. Harper down to spend the day. Mr. Harper gone to Delray. Lot Tourist going north R.R. strike starts them north. Mr. & Mrs. Harper down & saw trick Bicycle rider on Brickell Ave. then we took ride to Dania & ret’d home. Played Dominos until 10:30 PM.

Fri., March 16, 1917–Clear, 70

View of Brickell Avenue in downtown Fort Lauderdale, ca. 1919. The Gilbert Hotel is the large building just right of center.
Jacob Frederick Bunn, attorney, first Broward County judge and a friend of the Johnstons.

The Riverside subdivision, where the Johnstons frequently visited and where they rented when they returned to Fort Lauderdale in January 1918 (courtesy of Fort Lauderdale Historical Society).

Harper here to lunch. Called on Mr. & Mrs. Bennett & took them to Daytona 9:30. Mrs. Clark & Pru & Aunt called after movies. Steve & Bess went to movies.

Sun., March 18, 1917—Clear, 70 to 80. Arose 7, had special del. Letter from Cora. Steve went to Riverside & brot down the Deyos & we went to Beach & called on the Hasbroucks, then to Harpers for dinner. Took Harpers to Beach in the PM & ret’d 5 PM. Home in the evening.

Mon., March 19, 1917—Clear, 58°. Rose 7:30. Breakfast. Quite cool is 75 at 12 M. north wind. Commenced to pack up & having car washed & spring fixed & steering gear looked over. Finished 4 P.M. Took Mr. & Mrs. Deyo & Lizzie home. Mr. & Mrs. Harper, Mr. & Mrs.
Steele, Mr. & Mrs. Bennett called & spent the evening until 10:30 PM.51

Tues., March 20, 1917—Clear, 60°. Left Lauderdale 80°.52 Arose 6 am. Breakfast, finished packing & took things back to Deyos. Harpers and Steels stored our boxes in Alexanders out house, had Ford truck to take items up. Mr. & Mrs. Harper was down to help us pack up & we all had lunch at the Dixie. Paid elec. Lt. Bill & Garage bill etc. Left Lauderdale 1 PM, came via Beach Drive, Palm Beach 3 PM, Stewart [Stuart] 5:30 P.M. 2 short Detours & some rough road north Palm Beach, rest good. 82 miles.

Wed., March 21, 1917—Steve paid bill Stuart. Left Stuart 8 am, ½ hour getting cars Ferry, drove to Cocoa for lunch 90 miles, 12:30 PM.53 Steve drove PM arrived Mims 3:30, cross state for Orlando, but roads so bad & 2 or 3 detours that we headed for Sanford & arrived there 6 PM, roads from Stuart to Mims good only a few rough places. 143 miles today, stopped Titusville for gas & oil.

Thurs., March 22, 1917—Left Sanford, Hotel Empire 8 am, had 8 m. detour, straw road & rest brick to Orlando 26 m. Got rooms St. Charles, called on Tollman & Chas. Lefever & stayed at Hotel until after lunch 1 PM. Took Mr. Tollman & Lefever out west & north for ride about 50 miles Oakland & Lake Apopka & returned 5 PM & road around city. Went to movies in evening.

Fri., March 23, 1917—Left Orlando, Hotel St. Charles, very fine place, 9 am. Ran to Sanford 24 miles, 7 m. detour, had oil can filled, ran on to Deland 44 m., part brick shell and brick, then to Dal[y]tona 36 m., 26 brick, 10 poor shell. Called on Drakes and waited 2 hours for P.O. to open. Got letter from Cora, left 4 PM, ran up Beach to Ormond, roads from Ormond full holes until Brick 13 miles below Bunnell, ran to St. Augustine, all Brick 7 PM, 73 miles.

Sat., March 24, 1917—Left St. Augustine 10:30 after viewing city & Fountain of Youth. 18 miles Brick, 5 m. rock & rest Brick, 37 miles. Got reservations for car on Clyde line Sunday 10 am, then got Tickets on Seaboard for Monday 9:10 am. Rec'd lot mail & saw 2 men from Poughkeepsie named Sweet.54 Went to movies.

Sun., March 25, 1917—Around Jax all day. Rained most all am. Went to 2 movies in the evening.

Mon., March 26, 1917—Left Jax 9:10 am. Old man had some section conductor put us in & gave him his sitting back & he went to another car.

Tues., March 27, 1917—Was in Richmond at 6 am when I woke up & arrived in N.Y.C. 3 PM. Missed the 3:30 train on N.Y.C., got the 4:03 & caught Ferry & Trolly, arrived home 8:30 PM. Left Steve & Bess in N.Y. to bring car home tomorrow. All home except Van, Bess & children, they at Pearl river.55

1918

Thurs., Jan. 10, 1918—Left home 12:30, drove to Poughkeepsie. Dan ran his car & took his mother. Cora and I took 1:39 train for N.Y., arrived 3:45, went to Penn. RR, then to Herald Square, had supper & went to Hippodrome & ret'd 11 PM.

Fri., Jan. 11, 1918—Cold. Took 8:08 train for Washington, arrived there about 2 PM, had lunch, took taxi around city for 1 hr, left 7:15. Snowing.

Sat., Jan. 12, 1918— Savannah. Rain most of the night. Arrived in Savannah 3 PM. 2 hours late, went to Hicks Hotel, then to Ocean Steamship Co. & got car. Clock had been stolen. Put car in garage for the night, tol[o] cold to see the city. Went to movies, ret'd 11 P.M. & went to bed.


A lot of churches, Banks & trust cos. In city. 36° at 4 P.M.


Tues., Jan. 15, 1918—White Oak, Ga., 40°. Left White Oak 8 am & was an hour getting across Ferry at Satello river, so we made only 5 miles the 1st hour. Roads through swamp very rutty, got in Jax 2:00. Had lunch at Childrens. Left there 3 PM & arrived in St. Augustine 5 PM. Went to Rooming House called Poughkeepsie ran by man McIntyre from Poughkeepsie. Cora & Dan went to movies. 97 miles today.

Wed., Jan. 16, 1918—St. Augustine, Rain. Left here 8 am. All brick to 7 mile below Bonnell [sic] then 8 mile sand, rest fair to Ormond. Tide to[o] high so came down road, which was Brick to below Dal[y]tona, concrete through New Smyrna, rest shell to Titusville. Rained all way from Daytona & roads full water. Arrived here 3:30 pm at Dixie, had stove in room. Dan & Cora went to movies. 112 miles.

Thurs., Jan. 17, 1918—Titusville. Left here about 9:30 in the rain, ran to Sebastian for Lunch 12 m, left 12:30, ran to Stuart, had to wait about 1 hour, 2 cars ahead & left 4 to cross behind us.56 Arrived in Palm Beach 5 PM. Put up at Palms, fine room, roads all good except 5 m. each side Vero. Rained all the way. Rain 155 miles.

Fri., Jan. 18, 1918—Palm Beach. Left here 9 am & arrived in Lauderdale 11:30 am, ran down the Beach road to Delray, then the mane [sic.] road. Rained part the way, roads good. Had Lunch at Agees & went House Hunting, finally rented
Harper’s for $30 per month. Dan & Cora went to movies.

Sat., Jan. 19, 1918–Ft. Lauderdale. Arrived here 11 am. Had lunch at Agees, went around saw the folks & House Hunting, looked at several places & finally decided to take Harper’s at [illegible] month to get possession Monday. Went to Palm & got 2 rooms, 1.50 day each. Took our meals at Agees. Had gear shift repaired on car.

Sun., Jan. 20, 1918–56°. Rose 7 am, nice & warm. Breakfast Agees. Bell had Headache & couldn’t go out either Dinner in PM. She was better so we moved up to Harpers & had to wait an hour or so for his boarders to get out. Dan & Cora took the outside room where Stephen slept. Fix bearing on Left front wheel.

Mon., Jan. 21, 1918–60°. Rose 7 am, nice & warm, got our goods from Alexanders and unpacked them. Went to town, no mail in PM. Went to Dodge’s Grove after Grape Fruit & oranges. Mrs. Phil DB & Gertrude & Mrs. Deyo called & Mr. & Mrs. P. H. DuBois from Miami also called.

Tues., Jan. 22, 1918 – 60°. Went with Jo Deyo clamming in the am, rt’d 12 m., had about a Peck, had some for supper, went to town in PM, bought some fishing tackle, caught 3 catfish off the dock in front of the House. Brot row Boat from Stevens.

Wed., Jan. 23, 1918 – 50-70°. Went down town 2 times in am, saw Colburn’s Minstrals Parade. Brot Mrs. Brobeck back with us. Went to town in P.M., brot Mr. & Mrs. Deyo up. Dotherty Deyo has the measles. Going to Colburns Minstrals in the school House this P.M.56 Ralph & Mrs. Went to Miami with Miss Lawrence.60

Thurs., Jan. 24, 1918–Went to Miami, saw S. J. Kelder, Mr. & Mrs. A. P. Lefever at Halcyon, Phil DB on the street, ret’s 5 PM.61 Went to Lodge 1st Degree.

Fri., Jan. 25, 1918–70°. Home in am. Went to lot in PM to stake out House & Garage. Ralph left on 4:05 train.

Sat., Jan. 26, 1918–60-80°. Home in am, cleaning up yard, House, etc. Went to Davie in P.M. Took Mrs. Deyo along. Mr. & Mrs. A. P. Lefever & Mr. & Mrs. P. H. DB called & left their cards. Went to Band concert in the evening. Cora & Dan went to movies.

Sun., Jan. 27, 1918–60-80°. Home all day except Down town after mail. Mrs. J. not very well, But cold is better. Cora & Dan went out for a ride in PM.


Thurs., Jan. 31, 1918–Went to Miami, Cocoa nut Grove, Musa Isle Aviation School, ret’d home 5:30 PM.

Fri., Feb. 1, 1918–To town in morning, home all PM, evening to movies. Went up river with Jo Deyo as far as bridge over North Canal.


Sun., Feb. 3, 1918–Home in am. Chicken dinner. To Miami in PM. Deering estate, Beach, etc. Heavy shower coming home, 10 gal. gas.


The Dixie Highway entering Fort Lauderdale from the north, ca. 1919.

The Palms rooming house on Andrews Avenue, where the Johnstons and several of their friends stayed at various times.
TUES., FEB. 5, 1918—50-70°. Went to Beach to take package to Mrs. DuBois in am. Got some Firewood in PM. Drew it in with car then sawed it up. Had nice fire in evening. Dan & Cora went to movies. Mrs. Steele called & spent the PM.

WED., FEB. 6, 1918—60°. Steele came in & we looked at House Plans then & went to town. Dan went fishing 2 PM & we went to town & looked at Deutmiller's House on our way back. Saw Mr. & Mrs. Jo E., & Mrs. DB & Gertrude. Paid garage bill for last mo. 10.34. 8 gal. gas.

THURS., FEB. 7, 1918—60-70°. Rain early in the morning & most of the am, went to the beach, etc., in the morning. Washed & polished car in PM. Mrs. Deyo come over & later we went to town. Movies in the evening. Planted beans.

FRI., FEB. 8, 1918—70-90°. Clear & fine. Went to town & Beach & looked at some more Houses, ret'd 11 am for lunch.

SAT., FEB. 9, 1918—70-80°. Showers. Went to Royal Palm Park, 12 miles below Florida City, roads all fine except 6 miles on lower end. 149 miles. Ret'd 6 PM. Had supper home. Mr. & Mrs. P.H. DB & Mr. & Mrs. A. P. L.F. called & left their card. 5 gal. gas, ½ gal. oil.

SUN., FEB. 10, 1918—70°. 90 in the sun 8 am. Rose 8 am, went down town, got mail & went to Presbyterian church in Rex Theater. In PM went to Davie. Took Mr. Deyo along, saw some fine corn raised there, also strawberries, etc.


TUES., FEB. 12, 1918—Clear & fine. Went to town etc. in am. Dan & Cora went rowing & to town in PM. To movies after supper. I had H.A. (?) most all day. Saw man with 100 king fish caught out by the inlet. 3 eggs.

WED., FEB. 13, 1918—Clear & fine. Went to town am. Walked to town PM. Folks come after me. Fishing party came in 300 lbs. King fish, 89 of them, caught them on reef by inlet. Called at Deyos evening. Dan & Cora went to movies.

THURS., FEB. 14, 1918—Clear & Fine. Went to town am & to Alapata & Miami in PM. Had letter from Anna & Stephen, 5 eggs.


SAT., FEB. 16, 1918—Left 9 am for Palm Beach, went up Beach Road &
back Lake Worth. Went after Mrs. Dbois to Beach & brother to movies & took her back after movies, 8 gas, 4 eggs.

_Sun., Feb. 17, 1918—_Home in am, went to Beach in PM. Had tire down, fixed tube. 5 eggs.

_Mon., Feb. 18, 1918—_Went ocean fishing, caught 18 King Fish, 4 Grooper. Largest Grooper weighed 35 lbs., largest King 6 lbs. A.L.F. Deyo, Jo Deyo, Wm. Schoonmaker & myself. 4 eggs.

_Tues., Feb. 19, 1918—_Went to town & Beach etc. Home rest of the day. Movies at night. 10 gal. gas, 6 eggs.

_Wed., Feb. 20, 1918—_Home, town & Beach, 6 eggs.

_Thurs., Feb. 21, 1918—_To Town am. Fair pm & evening. Mrs. Louis DuBois called. 5 eggs.

_Fri., Feb. 22, 1918—_Rain all am, cloudy all pm. Went to town.

_Sat., Feb. 23, 1918—_Town am after oysters. Fair pm. Band concert evening. 5 eggs.

_Sun., Feb. 24, 1918—_Church 11 am. Took Mr. & Mrs. Deyo. Dan & Cora had Deyos Ford & went to Beach. Lemon City & back & in road west, Fulford to Beach & Post Office after supper. 4 eggs.

_Mon., Feb. 25, 1918—_Went to town. Bought chick feed, no mail only papers. PM went to auction sale of lots north school house, then to Beach. Called on Mrs. DuBois, Mrs. Deyo & Mrs. Louis DuBois was there. Mrs. Cranshaw & Daughter from Ardonia called at car & told who they were, they are stopping at the Palms. Went to movies. 6 eggs.

_Tues., Feb. 26, 1918—_Went to Miami, Musa Isle Alligator Farm, etc. Lunch Boston Café. Called Halcyon, all away. Mr. & Mrs. P.H. DB, Mr. & Mrs. A. P. Lefever, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Hornbeck at Fort Lauderdale on our return had soda with them & a nice time. They had been to Palm Beach. Mr. & Mrs. Schoonmaker left on the 6:20 for home. Went to movies. 5 eggs.

_Wed., Feb. 27, 1918—_To Town, To Beach, etc. Dan & Cora went to beach after supper to see moon rise. Mr. & Mrs. Deyo called in the evening.

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Auction Sale!

This beautiful subdivision is located near the new school building and is known as the Davis Subdivision.

50 Beautiful Residence Lots 50

Will not Offer, But Will Sell Regardless of Price, on Easy Terms.

Also in addition to the above we will offer one 7 room residence, above in, and one 6 room from 250 pines from town.

Sale Day

Program of Sale

Monday

February

25, 1918

1:30 p.m.

 Penny Brothers

The World's Original Twin Auctioneers
Selling Lots at the Rate of One a Minute

To be held in front of the Gilbert Hotel at 1:30 p.m. on Monday

Address by Penny Brothers
Sale at 1:30 p.m. on the grounds
Take an afternoon off and attend the sale.

Sale Conducted By

American Land Company

AGENTS

J. M. Milliken, General Manager

For Further Information Phone No. 4, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
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Advertisement (above) from the Fort Lauderdale _Sentinel_ for the “auction sale of lots north [of] school house” on February 25, 1918. Below is the Fort Lauderdale town band, ca. 1918-20.
Thurs., Feb. 28, 1918—To Town. Lunch, 12 m., veal not very good. Miami to Boat Races in the PM. Saw 6 aeroplanes in air at one time. 10 gal. gas, 2 qts. oil.

Fri., March 1, 1918—To Town & Beach. Dan & Cora to bid Mrs. DeBois good bye, did not find them home. To movies evening.78

Sat., March 2, 1918—Dan & Cora left on 7:48 am train for Home, expected to stop in Jax over night. We were pretty lonesome the rest of the day. Took Mrs. Brobeck to town to Band concert in the evening.

Sun., March 3, 1918—Rose 8 am breakfast, got ready for church 11 am.

Mon., March 4, 1918—Bell washed & I went to town to see Mr. Thompson about lot. Went to All States Party. Took Mr. & Mrs. Brobeck & Mr. DeYo along. Indianna won over Ohio.79

Tues., March 5, 1918—Washed car & went to town am. Took Mrs. DeYo & Mrs. Lewis DuBois to beach. Called on Jo E. & Mrs. Phil Dbois. 30 or 40 Fish Boats on Ocean. 10 gal. gas.

Wed., March 6, 1918—To Beach, took Mr. DeYo along, ocean very calm. Went to town, took Mrs. Brobeck along. Mr. & Mrs. DeYo here to supper. 6 eggs.

Thurs., March 7, 1918—rose 7 am. Went to town to meet Bess & Steve’s train, 1 hour late, came home & heard whistle Blow, hurried back & Bess & kids & Steve had arrived as train was only 30 minutes behind & they got here 11:15 am.80 Went to town Beach etc. in PM.


Sat., March 9, 1918—Town after meat, milk & mail am. Went to Pompano Beach etc. in the PM. Mr. & Mrs. DeYo called in am & Mr. & Mrs. Jo E. DB in PM. Dr. Palmer died at Philmont.81

Sun., March 10, 1918—Arose 7:30. Went to town after mail & milk. In PM went to see Olson, then to Beach, began to rain, came back to town then went out west road from Progresso & back to Riverside. Mrs. Jo & A. L. F. DeYo called. 12 gal. gas.

Mon., March 11, 1918—Cool & windy. Jo DeYo started for home about 7:30 am.82 Steve went to see him off but he was gone. Cool & windy all day, had fire in fireplace, went to Beach. Quite rough.

Tues., March 12, 1918—To town & Beach, met Olsom & went to beach to see trim in Building he just put up for Mr. Henry.83 Mrs. Steele came over & we took her along. Dr. Palmer buried at Philmont.

Wed., March 13, 1918—Went to look at new apartment on Las Olas Boulevard.84 Got shaved & did not return until 11:30 am. Went to Miami, Cocomut Grove, Fair etc., ret’d 6 PM. 5 gal. gas.

Thurs., March 14, 1918—Went to town in am and to beach in pm. Picked up Mrs. Steele & went up north road nearly to Pompano, ret’d 5:30. Steve & I went to town after supper, ret’d 8 pm. 10 gal. gas.

Fri., March 15, 1918—Took Mr. Alexander’s car to town to have shock absorbers put on, went before breakfast.85 Went down town 10 am. Took Helen along & took pictures of apartment house & some Bungalows. Went to town with Steve, came up a shower, got Harman to bring me home.86

Sat., March 16, 1918—Rain most of the night, fine in the morning but cloudy & showery in the afternoon. Went to Beach, Dania etc., for ride while Steve was getting shaved.

Sun., March 17, 1918—Arose 7:30. Breakfast, went to town after mail, etc. & called on Olsom. Went to Church in Rex. Olsom came over 2:30 PM & talked House & plans until 4:30 PM. Left specifications etc. Took him up to see the lot but he would not put a price on it, so we done no business. 10 gal. gas, 2 qts. Oil.

Mon., March 18, 1918—Washed & went to town am. Nice showers all the PM.

Tues., March 19, 1918—Went to town, met Mary Freer coming up when we got back she was gone to Mr. DeYo’s. Went to Davie & back via Dania.

Wed., March 20, 1918—Shower 6 am. Breakfast 8 am. Went to town. To Miami, drove through Deering’s property & went to west side town to see Belvideers, etc.87 Ret’d 5:30 in very heavy shower, went to town in evening. 10 gal. gas.

Thurs., March 21, 1918—Went to town, looked over deed, then to Court House & found map filed & size of lot all O.K.88 Steve took Bess & kids to Beach & the kids had a nice time on the Beach. Rec’d deed for the lot & took it to clerk’s office to have recorded, cost $3.85.

Fri., March 22, 1918—Went to town & bought Fish for Dinner. Got papers, no mail.

Sat., March 23, 1918—To town after mail etc., am. To Beach & around town in PM. To Band concert in the evening, took Mrs. Brobeck along.

Sun., March 24, 1918—John Olsson was at the house & we talked over House Plan all am so Did not get to church. To Beach etc. in PM. 13 gal. gas.

Tues., March 26, 1918—To Town & Lot & Beach. 10 gas, 2 qts oil.

Wed., March 27, 1918—Riverside, New House, Beach, etc. Was going to Miami but S.L.J. did not feel very well so postponed until tomorrow. Tel. To Jax for Reservations, both ACL & SAL.

Thurs., March 28, 1918—To town am. Steve took folks to Miami in PM. Stayed at House & around town all PM, they ret’d 6 PM. 10 gal. gas.

Fri., March 29, 1918—Town am, saw Olsson & got contract etc. in am. Packing up etc. in PM & went to Beach to say Goodby to Mrs. Dbois & Jo E. & Mrs. HB.

Sat., March 30, 1918—Arose 5:30. Finished packing. Mr. & Mrs. Deyo came over. Started from Lauderdale 10:30 am. Lunch at Palm Beach, arrived at Vero 5 PM. Had 2 tires down between Ft. Pierce & Vero. Stopped at Edgwood, good meals & beds. 120 miles.

Sun., March 31, 1918—Left Vero 9 am. New Line ran up to Titusville, had our lunch along road, ran on to New Smyrna, got Ice cream, then to Daytona, called on Mrs. Drake ½ hr., then to Bunnell 6 PM at Halcyon. Cars killed 2 mules that were running on track. Road good except 10 m. north Ormond. 154 m., 6 PM. 9 am changed tires New Smyrna.

Mon., Apr. 1, 1918—Left Bunnell 8:15, ran around St. Augustine some, but some Postals then ran on into Jax 12 m. Most road good. Went to Albert, got some mail, then to Atlantic & Seaboard ticket offices, got 2 Tic at A.C.L. Wednesday, 8:10 PM through to N.Y. City. Could not get D. Room. Went to gdh (Goodrich?) & had tire adj[ usted] & left another to be repaired. Rained all night.


Wed., Apr. 3, 1918—Drove to Atlantic Beach in am. 14 miles from Jax. Took tire to Goodrich to have repaired & then to Clyde line to see about shipping car. None until Apr. 15th. Left Jax 8:30, train 20 min. late. Steve stayed in Jax with car.

Thurs., Apr. 4, 1918—Arose 8 am. Children slept well & so did I & Mrs. J. No diner on, had our breakfast at Florence [S.C.] about 10:30 am & our dinner at Rockey Mount [N.C.] 5 P. Layed 1 hour at Richmond & got in Washington 4:30 am.

Fri., Apr. 5, 1918—Washington 4:30 am. Put diner on at West Philla. 10:30 the first we had & got our dinner N.Y.C. 1:30 PM, arrived there 12:30. Took 2 PM Train. Van & Dan met us in Pok[epsie] 4 PM & got home 5 PM.

1918-1919

Thurs., Dec. 12, 1918—Started for Florida 8:15 am. Steve & Frank took baggage Elec. Lt. Car. 8:30 am. Dan to drive us down in closed Overland. Roads good, covered with snow & Hale, took 10:05 train out Pok, 1:08 out of N.Y. Arrived in Wash. 1 hr. late 7:30, took train out Washington 9 PM, #83 on Penn. R.R.

Fri., Dec. 13, 1918—Somewhere in N.C. in morning after slow & rough ride all night—rained some Part of the way, all streams full of muddy water. Arrived in Jax 10:30 PM. Went to Albert, warm.

Sat., Dec. 14, 1918—Jacksonville, clear, warm, 72°. Rose 7 am, had breakfast in the Childs, then went to Clyde line. Car was still not unloaded as boat only arrived 6 am on acct of fog. Put on thin underwear. Left Jax 4 PM. Ran to St. Augustine 6 PM. Put up at Marion. 40 miles.

Sun., Dec. 15, 1918—Left St. Augustine 9 PM. Ran to Daytona for lunch 1:30 P.M., then to Cocoa 4:30 PM, Cocoa House. 140 miles rain & Drizzling all day, could not go on Beach, tide in. Picked up man 2 m. north Ormond. Broken pinion on Ford & brot him back to Ormond.

Mon., Dec. 16, 1918—Left Cocoa 8 am, nice clear Day. Rode with our wraps on. Stuart 12:30 for lunch, went through to Lauderdale 3:30, made 175 miles in 7 hours actual running time. Road good except around Vero, about 10 miles worn out. Met Chas. & Jess & Mr. Deyo. Stopped at Palms, Dixie for supper & called on the Deyos in the evening. C & J had supper with us.

 Tues., Dec. 17, 1918—Clear, 60°. Stayed at Palms, rose 7:30. Out for Breakfast, got truck, went to Harpers after Boxes & Chas brot down load in his Ford. Went to Station after bagage. Chas & Jess helped all day, put up Beds—will sleep in new house. Mr. & Mrs. Deyo, Mr. & Mrs. Jo E., Mrs. Hamlin & Mr. Jays Oaks called. Steve got most of the lights on so we spent the evening home.


Thurs., Dec. 19, 1918—Got up 7:30. Breakfast Home. C & J came over 10 am. Chas & I went to Brobecks after eel & cleaned it, then ate our Dinner. Went to bridge, they were raising a sand barge that had sunk with sand on from Beach. Had car washed. 12 gal. gas, 2 qts oil.


Sat., Dec. 21, 1918—Windy, 60°-70°. Clear & less wind, had Breakfast inside. Went to Deyos for sythe & cut grass & weeds around home. Went to Beach, called on Joe E.'s, brot Jess back with us & Chas. Came in his car & had supper with us.
"Paltzdale," the Johnstons' "California type" bungalow on South New River Drive. The building to the right is the Christian Science Church.

Steve went to movies. We returned 10 PM.

Sun., Dec. 22, 1918—Warm, clear, 65°-75°. Rose 8 am. Breakfast, went to Church in Rex & Agees Restaurant for Dinner. C & J came & went to Dixie for theirs. To Davie in PM. C & J here for supper & went to Rex 7 PM to hear sermon on army camp life, very good. Garage locked, left car in front yard all night.

Mon., Dec. 23, 1918—Clear, 70°-78°. Rose 7 am. Breakfast. Went to P.O., got 5 letters & 4 Freemans. Made bargain with Mr. Davis to fill in yard & he drew 2 load, 2 yrs each & filled in east side of front walk. Mrs. J. washed, Mr. & Mrs. Deyo & Lizzie called. Chas & J. came in for supper. Just out walking, slippers, bare headed & shirt sleeves. 2 load overburden.

Tues., Dec. 24, 1918—Christmas Eve, 60°-70°. Cloudy & frequent showers all day. Did not have car out of garage. C & J out for supper.


Thurs., Dec. 26, 1918—Clear, 64°-70°. Went to P.O., got mail, cleaned & filled in yard. Went to Chamber of Commerce show in Rex.

Fri., Dec. 27, 1918—Cloudy, rain, 58°-64°. Rain & misty most of the day. Went after oil, wanted 5.10 can for Palarine, did not buy. Mrs. Jo. ill with soar throat. Did not have car out.

Sat., Dec. 28, 1918—Rain, 54°-60°. Cold & Rainy all night, Breakfast 9 am. Went to Beach to look at houses for Bess & Van. Called at Jo E's, then went to Gulf Co. after oil & gas in Chas. Car. Did not have car out.

Sun., Dec. 29, 1918—Clear, wind north, 48° to 52°, cold. Arose 8 am, breakfast, went for mail, brot Mr. Deyo back with us. Mrs. D. was at Sunday school & church. We did not go to church but sat by the fire all the am. Went out riding to Hallendale by the back road & home before dark. Fire all day. Went to Dania Beach, saw large swells in the Gulf Stream.

Mon., Dec. 30, 1918—Cloudy, N & W, 58°-66°. Chas cut wood & piled it in rear of house. Went to Olssons for saw to saw wood for fire place. They pumped on lighter all night & raised it & towed it away in the morning.

Tues., Dec. 31, 1918—East, clear, 70°-80°. Man cleaned riverfront. Drew in overburden & Steve & Chas filled in front yard. Callers Mr. & Mrs. J. E., Mr. & Mrs. Hamlin, Mr. & Mrs. Deyo. Mr. Butterfield came & looked through house he is going to build on north side. 5 loads overburden.


Thurs., Jan. 2, 1919—East, clear. 72°-76°. Rose 7 am. Breakfast, got mail. Started to Palm Beach 9 am, went beach road. Lunch at Restaurant not many winter visitors there. Ret'd by inland road Lake Worth etc. Supper 6 PM. Went to movies—Elec. Lights out for nearly 1 hour, home 10 PM. Ran about 90 miles.


Sat., Jan. 4, 1919—46°-52°. Cold, Raw Day, wind north & west. Home all Day. Mr. & Mrs. Deyo & Mrs. Brobeck called in PM. Played Dominionos after supper to 9:30, then C & J went to Beach.

Sun., Jan. 5, 1919—44°-52°, West, Cloudy. Home all day, cold & raw, did not go to church, to[o] cold.

March 29, 1918 article from the Sentinel reporting the construction of the Johnstons' Fort Lauderdale home.
No callers. C & J came over 10:00 am & stayed to 9 pm had fire all day. Steve and I went through new Hotel. Few on streets.

**Mon., Jan. 6, 1919—**Clear, N & W, 42°-62°. Some warmer & clear. Chas & J came over 11, they had been with a Boat from NY & brot the man over. Edethia & Puebla. Chas & I commenced to build the chicken coop & cut some wood & cleaned up Back yard. Steve drawing plans for garage. No callers.

**Tues., Jan. 7, 1919—**N.E., Clear, 60°-70°. Chas & Jess came over 10 PM & we cut wood, dug around stump & worked on chicken coop. Jess & I went out after fish eggs & Ham for supper.

**Wed., Jan. 8, 1919—**E., cloudy, 70°-66°. Threatening rain & thunder shower 4:30 PM. Steve cleaned up yard. Mr. Deyo helped cut roots off stump then Steve fired it & burned it out by 4 P.M. Steve & Chas sawed up log & I cut up all the wood. Olson brot 1 load lumber for the garage. Chas worked on Boat & had it running. I went after him & Jess 11 am & brot the gas tank to be fixed. Jess & Ma took him over & got back just before the shower.

**Thurs., Jan. 9, 1919—**62°-60°. Cloudy & rain most all day. Carpenters came but did not work. Bot another load Lumber. Chas & I planted Bermuda grass along river Bank & filled in stump hole. Chas & I went to Lodge. Mr. & Mrs. Daman & 2 Ladies arrived.

**Fri., Jan. 10, 1919—**54°-62°. Cool & Cloudy. 3 carpenters came & put up Building frame & Rafters. Went to Beach & brot Jessie along, back & Chas ran boat up. When they started to go home the boat was aground & they stayed to 12 m. & shifted it so it would not fill with water. We tied it up about 11 PM but Chas thought he better stay & see to it so he did.

**Sat., Jan. 11, 1919—**64°-70°. Cloudy part the day with clearing. Carpenters worked until 11 am. Steve & I finished putting out St. Augustine grass east of front walk & Steve washed car. Chas worked for Biggs & C & J came out 4 P.M. Chas lost his Teeth in the ocean Bathing.

**Sun., Jan. 12, 1919—**Clear, cool, 56°, north. Arose 9 am, went to look at chickens of Sam the barber, then went to beach after C & J, but missed them they came the river road. 11 PM [should read a.m.] started for Miami, viewed all the new houses along bay going down. Lunch at Agees, then to Deering, Musa Isle, back via Alapata & bought basket strawberries, 85¢. Home 5:30 PM, light showers. Saw Hindo Village near Musa Isle.

Cars on Dania Beach (above), a frequent destination for the Johnstons and their friends, ca. 1920. Below is a rare panoramic view of downtown Fort Lauderdale in 1917.

Tues., Jan. 14, 1919—N.Y. (?) clear, 60°-66°. 8 am breakfast. Chas brot mail & went to Dentist. Steve, Chas & I commenced road over church lot, put in 54 ft. Mr. & Mrs. Deyo, Lizzie & Mrs. Brobeck called. 2 carpenters at work. Steve sunburned his neck laying road to garage.

Wed., Jan. 15, 1919—N., clear, 60°-68°. Set out 2 rows grass & fuss around house rest of the day. Chas. Worked on Boat all P.M. Coil would not work so went home in car. 2 carpenters at work.

Thurs., Jan. 16, 1919—E., clear, 60°-70°. Clear, slightly warmer. Put in piece road, sawed up part of log, wrote some letters to Cora & Dan, shave & hair cut. No Callers. Chas took Boat to Beach & Jess drove car Home 9 P.M. Nice moonlight, only 1 carpenter to work.

Fri., Jan. 17, 1919—E., 64°-72°. Showers, light showers 1 P.M. Planted grass in am. Went to Miami P.M., called on Dr. Bliss, heavy shower 6 P.M. We followed it up & got in very little rain.

Sat., Jan. 18, 1919—N., Clear, 64°-66°. 8 am cleaned up back yard. Chas & J came over 11:30, had lunch, went down river & got some grass & planted out 4 rows. Went to Beach, called Jo E. & looked over Mrs. Firor's cottage for Bess Bogert, found it in very good shape. Steve went to Miami after supper. Rec'd notice I was elected Director Hug Natl Bank.

Sun., Jan. 19, 1919—60°-66°. To church, Dixie for lunch. Mr. & Mrs. Bliss came 3 PM. On Bus took them to beach, called on Mr. & Mrs. Jo E. & Steve took them back.

Mon., Jan. 20, 1919—62°-70°. 8 am, Chas brot over grass & we planted all am, went for more & finished in PM. Deyos called, Mr. & Mrs. Brobeck called & took supper with us & Chas took them home 9 PM. Sent oath of Director to E. Van, cashier.


Wed., Jan. 22, 1919—62°-70°. 7:30 Breakfast. 8:30 went for mail. Burnt stumps, called on Mrs. Brobecks & got some eggs & Grape Fruit. Called at Deyos, they were out.


Fri., Jan. 24, 1919—8 am Breakfast, went for mall, letter from Bess saying they were coming. Went to Beach after Jess. Looked at Alexander's garage. Lunch bought 3 coconut trees of Crim & set them out. Mr. & Mrs. Bliss, Mr. & Mrs. Jo E, Mr. & Mrs. Deyo called. Mr. & Mrs. B stayed for supper & Steve took them home.

Sat., Jan. 25, 1919—70°-80°. 7:30, sprinkle yard, Breakfast, mail, one carpenter in garage. 1 am went after Jessie. 7 am, Olsson came to put in cement floor in Garage, finished 8 PM. Steve fixed light to finish. No callers. Shave after supper.

Sun., Jan. 26, 1919—S.E., 72°-82°. 8 am cleaned up yard, went to church 11 am. Steve went to Beach & brot C & J to church. 1 PM Dinner, 2 PM went to Carsonville, back via Dania then to Beach & home. Supper 7 PM. Called at Hasbroucks.

Mon., Jan. 27, 1919—W., 70°-80°. 8 am Breakfast, mail. Olson & Chas. came. Went for Jessie 10 am. Called on Mrs. Jo E. Finished garage all except screens on upper windows. Paid church $5.00 Rent for right of way across lot for 2 years from Jany 1, '19 to Jan. 1, '21. Went to meet 9:02 train. Mrs. B., Van, Bess and the children. 10:45 PM Van & Mrs. B. went to Hotel & Bess & children came to the house.
Tues., Jan. 28, 1919–62°-74°. 8 am. Van & Mrs. B. came over to Breakfast & we went to Beach to see about House. Called on Hasbrooks, went to Riverside, etc. Got mattresses from Mr. Alexander & put the company in top of garage. Olson had finished the screens.

Wed., Jan. 29, 1919–58°-62°. 8 am, fire in fireplace, all slept well. Went to Beach & Brot C & J things to town, most in Ford. Steve & Van went after Baggage, got 1 trunk. Mr. & Mrs. Clark called & stayed until 10 PM. Steve & Van transplanted orange tree. C & J started to Torry Island 3:30 PM in an open scough. 11


Fri., Jan. 31, 1919–W., rain, 64°-72°. Rain most of the day. Home all day. Went to the Presp. Festival around the World. Steve drove & took Miss Craft to show the way. 120 Ret’d 10 PM. Bess & Van walked to Riverside & Mr. Deyo brot them home.

Sat., Feb. 1, 1919–62°-.70°, Cloudy. 7:30 PM [a.m.] Breakfast. Went to Beach, lunch. Steve & Van went to Beach to put things in Building and help put up platform for Tank, ret’d 5 PM & Bess & Van went for groceries & cots for kids to sleep on. Steve went to Miami after supper.

Sun., Feb. 2, 1919–70°-72°. Rain all day & night. Van & Bess moved to the Beach, took goods to[o] in Van cars & took the folks in own, did not get back in time for Church, went for lunch to the Cafeteria.

Mon., Feb. 3, 1919–Clear, East, 70°-80°. Rain all night. Steve & I put rock in road & front of walk. To Beach 10 am. Van & Mr. Alexander was building platform for water tank. Went to Beach after supper, called on Van & Bess & Jo. E. ret’d at 9:30 P.M.

Tues., Feb. 4, 1919–Cloudy, 8 am. Breakfast. Steve wheeled in load rock, I leveled it. Dinner 12 m. Van & Bess came over, all went to Miami in both cars, called on Mr. Dexter & Dr. Bliss, ret’d 6:30 PM. Slight showers both ways.

Wed., Feb. 5, 1919–72°-80°. 8 am Breakfast. Go for mail. Went to Beach to Brobeck, called at Deyos. Brot Mrs. Brobeck to New River for Dinner with her Friends stopping there by the name of Furgerson. 122 Steve took them home after church.

Thurs., Feb. 6, 1919–N., Cloudy, 66°-70°. 8:30 am, went to Beach, brot Helen back with us for Dinner. Took Helen home. Van’s trunk came. Van & Bess came after it & got water. Van put up tank & leaders on home.

Fri., Feb. 7, 1919–W., Cloudy & cool, 62°-60°. Home all am. Went to Deyos PM & Wallaces & Bought 6 hens of Mr. Fowler on South side. 123 He brot them over in the evening & stayed until 9:30 PM, so we did not get to the C.S. Lecture in the Rex. 124

Sat., Feb. 8, 1919–W., clear, 54°-60°. 7:30 Breakfast. Expected Bliss 9 am to go to Palm Beach. Waited until 11:30, he did not arrive. Van came over ready to go, so we packed our lunch & left. Went up via ocean & ret’d inland 6:30 PM. Van, Bess & children stayed for supper. 5 eggs, Scratch feed 70c.

Sun., Feb. 9, 1919–52°-62°. 8:30 Breakfast 9 mail church 11 Lunch cafateria 12:30 Home 1 PM Beach 3 to 5 PM Mr. Dexter called 5:30 Supper 6:30. 2 Eggs.

Mon., Feb. 10, 1919–N., Clear, 50°-54°. 8 am, cool, ate in living room. Went to Beach, brot Helen back to lunch with us. Callers Mrs. Jo E., the Deyos, Van, Bess & children, all here at once. 3 eggs.


Wed., Feb. 12, 1919–N., clear, 48°-64°. Light Frosts in some sections Davie & the Lake region. Home all am. Steve wired the garage, went to Mrs. Brobecks to have the curtains sewed & called on the Deyos & picked up Mrs. B on our way down. They came to Prayer Meeting & Steve took them home. I fixed 2 curtains after supper. 3 eggs.


Fri., Feb. 14, 1919–Rain in am, clear in pm. Went to Beach 11:30 after Helen. Steve took her home in PM & Brot Mrs. B & children back & I took them home 6 PM. Van & Bess out with Boat & got stuck or the boat stopped. Mr. & Mrs. Deyo called. 2 eggs.

Sat., Feb. 15, 1919–W., 60°-66°. 8 am, clear, wind hard from west. Suitcase from Chas. filled with vegetables. 111 am started for Miami Boat Races. Took our lunch. Lot Hydro & aeroplanes in the air. Ret’d 5:30. Van & Bess ret’d 6:30. All here for supper. 1 Egg.

Sun., Feb. 16, 1919–N., 50°-62°. Clear & cool, went to church & to cafeteria for lunch. Took Mr. & Mrs. Brobeck out to Davie & Griffin, the end of the road on Davie Canal.122 Van, Bess & the children were here when we ret’d & stayed to 6 PM.

Mon., Feb. 17, 1919–N., 50°-66°. Cool, partly cloudy. Went to Beach & got some wood in am. To Wallace after oranges in PM. Came home, found Mr. Cusack here, took him to Beach. 128 Bess & Van out, went to Hasbrooks. Cusack called after sup-
per. Van came to stay all night as we start for Torry Island tomorrow 7 am on Palm, the mail Boat. Bess Dupuy Died. 2 Eggs.

Tues., Feb. 18, 1918—Torry Island. Van & I arose 6 am. Breakfast. Took Palm for Torry island, arrived 11:30. Chas & Jess met us & rowed half way. John Annapau towed us the rest way in to Fishers store 12 m. Stayed with Chas & Jess. Steve got wise of Bess Dupuy’s death too late to go to Funeral. 2 Eggs.

Wed., Feb. 19, 1918—Torry Island. Around Torry Island and over to P.O. & Kittredge place PM and Olliver’s Place, Flanders Place in PM. Stayed with Chas. & Jess. Steve got wise of Bess Dupuy’s death too late to go to Funeral. 2 Eggs.


Fri., Feb. 21, 1918—Clear & warm. Arose 8 am. Steve went for mail, went to Beach. Bess & Van & Geo, came over. Bess washed, they stayed for lunch. Called to Clarks 7:30 to 10 PM. 2 eggs.


Tues., Feb. 25, 1918—8 am. House all am. Went to Beach. Steve, Van & Bess went Bathing, took Mr. Extine along. Home in evening. 6 eggs.

Wed., Feb. 26, 1918—8 am. Went to train to meet Nellie. Train 3 hours late. Van came over, train arrived 11:30 PM. Nellie came over, had a bite, then went to Beach with Van & Mrs. B & children. Mr. & Mrs. Jo E. called. Went to Clarks for supper, ret’d 9:30 PM. 2 eggs.

Thurs., Feb. 27, 1918—7:30 am. Went to Beach, Brot Mrs. B, Nellie & Geo. over, got Bottle water & Steve took them back. Called on Mrs. Steele, Deyos & Mrs. Ambrose after at the New River. 5 Eggs.


Mon., March 2, 1918—Clear & warm. Went to Beach, brot Jo. E. back, his car in garage. Steve & his mother went to church. I had headache. Jo. E. came in & Steve took him home & stayed to Dinner. Went to Beach & brot Geo. back with us. Steve took Generator apart am & went to Beach for bath in PM.
Party came in with lot fish, one weighed about 30 or 40 lbs., an amberjack. 4 Eggs.

**Tues., March 4, 1919**—Went to Light House, left 8 am, ret'd 5:30 PM. Van & Bess come over, washed, etc. 3 eggs.

**Wed., March 5, 1919**—Income Tax. Clear, warm, Fine day. Home in am. Mailed income tax. Went to Beach PM. Steve, Van & Helen went Bathing, brot Geo. & Helen Back with us. Van & Bess came over after water. Callers Mr. & Mrs. Deyo, Mr. & Mrs. Palmer called after supper, stayed until 9:30. 3 eggs.

**Thurs., March 6, 1919**—8 am clear, fine. Van, Bess & Helen, Mrs. B & Nellie went to Miami to visit Dexter. Geo. stayed with us. Steve fixed car and went to Prospect, took Mr. & Mrs. Palmer along for a ride, ret'd 5:30. Van & Bess ret'd 7:30. 4 eggs.

**Fri., March 7, 1919**—Clear, Fine Day. Home all day. Bess & Van over in Boat in am & with the car in P.M. Capt. Newman 3 large Tarpon on Dock, 1 weighed 116#, caught at Tarpon Bend. Callers Mrs. & Miss Kraft, Mr. & Mrs. Palmer. 4 eggs.

**Sat., March 8, 1919—80°.** Clear, warm, fine day, went to Beach, brot Geo. Back with us. 11 am started for Miami Beach, took lunch. Steve, Van, Bess & Helen went Bathing, ret'd 6:30, fine trip. 6 eggs.

**Sun., March 9, 1919—83°.** Went to church, Agess for Lunch, to Beach. Took children for Ride. Van & Bess came over. Callers Mr. & Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Bissell & Daughter to 10:15 PM. 2 Eggs.

**Mon., March 10, 1919—Went to Beach.** Van, Bess, Nettie & Helen went in Bathing & they came over after dinner for water, etc. Steve painted top of car & cleaned it. 4 Eggs.


**Wed., March 12, 1919—70°.** Rain most all day. Home in am, went to Beach in PM. Called at Bess & Jo. E. Mr. & Mrs. Deyo called 4 to 5:30. 5 Eggs.

**Thurs., March 13, 1919—70°.** Cloudy, Rain all PM. Went to Beach, Brot Bess, Van & Geo. back to do some shopping & get water. Steve took them home 11:30 am. Rain all PM & were at home. Palmers called. 2 Eggs.

**Fri., March 14, 1919—Cloudy & Rain most of the Day.** Went to Beach am. Van & Bess came over PM. We started for Davie, took Mr. & Mrs. Palmer, got in shower & ret'd. They stayed to supper & played Dominoes to 10 PM. 6 eggs.

**Sat., March 15, 1919—70°-72°.** Sun came out about 10 am, went to Davie, everything flooded. Back via Dania. Went to Miami, lot wood blocks floated to the gutters. Chas & Jess came in on mail boat 9 PM. 2 eggs.

**Sun., March 16, 1919—Steve went to Church, we went to Beach.** Took Chas & Jess to call on Deysos, they were not in. So they went over in PM. We took Brobecks out to Pompano Beach, Las Olas Beach, etc. in the PM. Van & Bess were over. Water still in Waverly. 4 eggs.

**Mon., March 17, 1919—Windy.** Chas & Jess went calling on Jo E. & the Deysos, went to Dania to see Cannery Factory. Stopped at Thompsons Grove for Grape Fruit, etc. He is formally [formerly] from Kingston.

**Tues., March 18, 1919—Chas & Jess took mail boat for Torry 8 am.** Had about 25 Passengers. Home the rest of the day. Van & folks went to Palm Beach. Mrs. B. stayed here, they came home 6 PM, had supper here. Palmers came in. We played Dominoes 9:30 PM. Mr. P. & Bell 2, Mrs. P & I 1, 2&1. 3 eggs.

**Wed., March 19, 1919—66°.** Quite cool, NW wind, Van & B went Miami & to go through Deering. We went down in PM, took Mr. & Mrs. Palmer along. 3 eggs.

**Thurs., March 20, 1919—Home in am.** Bell went calling at Riverside in PM. Bess & Van up in boat. Steve went back with them. We went after him. Mr. & Mrs. P. here, played 3 games. Mrs. P and I won all three. 4 eggs.

**Fri., March 21, 1919—Went to Beach.** Steve took head off, cleaned carbon & fix pump & fan. 3 eggs.

**Sat., March 22, 1919—Went to Beach.** Fixed Porch Shades outside. Mr. & Mrs. Jo E. called most PM. Mr. & Mrs. Deyo called few minutes. Played Dominoes, 1 & 1. 3 eggs.

**Sun., March 23, 1919—Took Bath, went to Beach, went Boat riding to Davie in Vigilant.** Mr. & Mrs. Palmer, Mr. & Mrs. Deyo & Lizzie, Van, Bess & children, Mr. & Mrs. Brobeck, Steve, Belle & I left 2 PM, ret'd 6:30 PM. John Olsom came for chickens, tools & cement. 3 eggs.

**Mon., March 24, 1919—Home all day, getting ready to move.** Mr. & Mrs. Deyo, Lizzie, Mrs. Hamlin, Mr. & Mrs. Boucker, Cushing called PM. Ex. Trunk to Jax, Mr. & Mrs. Clark, Mr. & Mrs. Palmer, Miss Bissell, Van & Bess, Mr. & Mrs. Oaks called in evening.

**Tues., March 25, 1919—Left Lauderdale 9:30.** Lunch at Jupiter. Roads fine to 5 miles south & 20 m, north Vero they were rough. Arrived Cocoa 5:45, stopped Cocoa House. 180 miles.

**Wed., March 26, 1919—Left Cocoa 8:45.** Ran to Daytona 11:35. Called on Drakes, went to Beach, took short ride back to Daytona, had Lunch, ran back New Smyrna to Sanford to Orlando to Kissimmee 5:45. 165 miles. Over St. Johns River by scow pulled by wire. Roads good.

**Thurs., March 27, 1919—Left Kissimmee 9 am, ran past Lakeland for lunch, then to Ubo City & Tampa.** Went in Tampa Bay Hotel & to hear Billy Sunday preach & arrived in St. Petersburg 6 PM. Roads good except 5 or 6 miles mostly brick. Put up at Dusenbury Villa. 130 miles.

**Fri., March 28, 1919—Dusenbury, St. Petersburg.** Arose 7:30. Cool, went around town & to Bay. Steve got car out—11 am, we started for the Beach across new bridge & down the Beach 4 miles to Passagrille & had Lunch at Buckeye road, around city, Gulf Port, etc., ret'd 5 P.M. 32 miles.
Sat., March 29, 1919—Left St. Petersburg 8:30, came through Lakeland, Plant City, Haines City, got Ice Cream, had lunch by Clarks Grove, Kissimme, saw car wrecked by RR crossing. Arrived in Orlando 5 P.M. Orlando House. 150 miles.

Sun., March 30, 1919—Left Orlando 10 am, ran Sanford, Port Orange, Beach Daytona. For Lunch to Ormond Beach, ran 11 miles on Beach road from Ormond to Bonnell, rough, some brick, from Bunnell to St. Augustine rough, arrived St. Augustine 7 PM. Geo. sick on road. We went out for supper. Van & Bess later. 150 mile.

Mon., March 31, 1919—St. Augustine, arose 8:30, New Tire, took Van & Bess over to the Beach & around city & left them at the old fort & we ran for Jacks[onville], arrived there 2 PM. Got our reservations for 8:30 tonight & had our trunk checked for Pok. [Poughkeepsie] & Back to Hotel 4:30 PM, washed up. 50 miles. Left Jax 8:30 PM.


Notes

1 Mrs. A.E.J. is Richel A. Jensen—Mrs. Abram E. Jensen. According to the 1910 census of New Paltz, Mrs. Jensen was born about 1866. Her husband, born about 1859, is listed as a fruit farmer.

2 Steve is Johnston's son, Stephen L. Johnston, born December 1875. He is listed in the 1910 census of New Paltz, N.Y. as manager of the New Paltz Electrical Company, and in 1920 as an electrician. His father mentions his electrical skill several times in the diary. A bachelor at the time the diary was written, he later married and settled permanently in Fort Lauderdale. According to Broward County voter registration records in the Historical Commission archives, he was living at 525 Southeast First Avenue in 1936, and died in 1938. Mrs. is Bessie T. Dupuy, a friend and neighbor from New Paltz. She was born about 1884 according to the 1910 census, where she is listed as the single daughter of J. M. Dupuy, who owned a general store. Abe was Abram E. Jensen.

3 Cole and Overland were automobiles. Subsequent notations in the diary indicate that the Jensens owned the Cole and Johnston the Overland.

4 Bell is Johnston's wife Isabelle (Ackert) Johnston. She was born in October 1855, and they married March 26, 1875 at the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in New Paltz. Mrs.
Johnston registered to vote in Broward County in 1940, at the age of eighty-four. According to Fort Lauderdale city directories, she died between 1948 and 1949.

“Here” is Charleston, South Carolina.

Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Dayo and wife Agnes are listed in the 1918 Fort Lauderdale City Directory as living on Grand Boulevard in the Riverside Addition and in Gardner, N.Y.—probably the town of Gardiner in Ulster Co., near Johnston’s hometown of New Paltz. Andrew Dayo is listed on the 1926 Broward County voter records as age 81, and was removed from the rolls as deceased on June 20, 1930.

Masa Isle was a popular fruit grove located between the forks of the Miami River near today’s Twenty-seventh Avenue. Allapatta was a community in northern Dade County, near Little River.

Ausherian is Clement C. Ausherian, a Maryland native and prominent Fort Lauderdale realtor and civic leader during the 1910s and 1920s. A brief biography of Ausherian can be found in Florida, The East Coast, Its Builders, Resources, Industries, Town and City Developments (Miami: Miami Herald, ca. 1925), 195.

Riverside refers to the Riverside Addition, where the Johnstons had been staying with the Harpers since their arrival two days earlier. Located south of New River, just west of Sailboat Bend, and platted in the 1910s, Riverside was one of Fort Lauderdale’s early residential subdivisions.

Mr. Cromartie is Bleckham A. Cromartie, Fort Lauderdale merchant. A March 23, 1917 Fort Lauderdale Sentinel article, reporting the Johnstons’ return north refers to the house as “the old Berryhill home.” William O. “Deacon” Berryhill was a businessman, and the residence as a Berryhill property.

The Broward County Automobile & Garage Company was listed on Brickell Avenue and North New River Drive in the 1918-19 Fort Lauderdale city directory.

The meaning of “vulc” here is unclear, perhaps short for vulcanized.

The February 9, 1917 issue of the Fort Lauderdale Sentinel contained an advertisement for “Mr. and Mrs. A. L. [sic.] Jensen of N.Y. guests of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Harper of Riverside.”

On February 9, the Sentinel described this freeze as the “Hardest Freeze in the History of the State,” and reported on the damage it caused.

The bridge across New River Sound at Las Olas Boulevard opened in January 1917. Carsonsbu or has not been identified.

Mary Freer was probably either Mrs. Cyrus Freer or Mrs. Calvin Freer, both listed on the 1910 census in New Paltz.

This fire at the home of Jacob and Lizzie Kraft on South River Drive was reported by the Sentinel on February 9, 1917. The newspaper commented, “The fire company arrived in time to save the building from serious damage. The cause of the fire is laid to sparks in the fireplace.”

Johnston’s reference to “Talking pictures” here is puzzling, since motion pictures with sound were in common use until the late 1920s. According to the Louis Wolfson Media Center in Miami Beach, a devise called a “Gaumont Chronophone” which synchronized a silent film with a phonograph record, was in use in the late 1910s.

“Dixie lunch” was the Dixie Cafeteria, located on the west side of Andrews Avenue opposite Las Olas Boulevard. Mrs. B. C. Rodgers and Mrs. J. W. Zeigler were listed as proprietors in the 1918-1919 Fort Lauderdale city directory.

“The lift bridge” which was stuck was the drawbridge over New River at Andrews Avenue. The “new bridge” was the bridge to the beach at Las Olas Boulevard.

The “Smith House” may refer to the Smith Apartments or the Lester and Anna Smith home, both of which were located on North New River Drive East.

The store was a large, two-story structure with a dock on the South New River Canal. It also housed the settlement’s post office, ice house and first school. A photograph of the building in the Historical Commission archives also shows a small, closed cupola on top—perhaps the vantage point from which Johnston got his panoramic view of the Everglades.

The Atkinses were Mr. and Mrs. William H. Atkins, whom the Johnstons had visited at Lake Helen on their way to Fort Lauderdale.

William P. and Amelia Brobeck. They were living in the Riverside Addition and he worked as a clerk in the Oliver Brothers Store on Brickell Avenue according to the 1918 Fort Lauderdale City Directory.

The Florida Blossom Company, the Johnstons, and others are mentioned in the Sentinel, March 9, 1917.

In 1917, W. Q. “Quince” Bryan was Broward County tax assessor, and William O. “Deacon” Berryhill tax collector.

“Mrs. Lawrence” was most likely Malinda J. Lawrence, a widow and fellow winter resident. In the 1918 Fort Lauderdale directory she is listed with residences on Riverside Circle in the Riverside Addition and Kalamazoo, Michigan. Along with D. C. Alexander, another acquaintance of the Johnstons, she platted the Las Olas by the Sea subdivision on Fort Lauderdale beach. It is also possible that this is a reference to Anna E. Lawrence of New Paltz, widowed mother of Johnston’s son-in-law, Daniel Lawrence.

Fort Lauderdale’s Presbyterian Church (now First Presbyterian Church) met at various locations until building a church on Las Olas Boulevard in 1920. According to the March 2, 1917 Sentinel, Rev. James P. Callahan was scheduled to preach at both the morning and evening services of the morning, which Johnston attended, was titled, “Heavenly Recognition, or Will We Know Our Friends in Heaven?” The March 16, 1917 Sentinel added that Callahan,
The "lift bridge" over New River at Andrews Avenue in downtown Fort Lauderdale (top) and the "new bridge" over New River Sound at Las Olas Boulevard, as they appeared in the late 1910s.

from Knoxville, Tennessee, had been called to become pastor of the Fort Lauderdale Presbyterian Church but had not yet accepted. Apparently he never did, as he is not listed among the church's pastors. See August Burghard, The Days of Our Years Are Three Score and Ten... (Fort Lauderdale: August Burghard, 1982), 12.

59 Probably Florence (Mrs. Horace G.) Gillespie, a winter resident from Bowling Green, Ohio, living on Metcalf Avenue according to the 1918 directory.

60 Sentinel editor and publisher Colonel George G. Mathews called "The Crisis" the greatest picture play that we have ever seen," in the March 16, 1917 issue of his paper, but noted that the rain which Johnston mentioned kept many away from this showing at the Rex Theater.

61 The "Buns" were Jacob Frederick and Eugenia M. Bunn, who lived on Riverside Circle. J. F. Bunn was Broward County's first County judge.

62 The March 16, 1917 Sentinel commented, "A fire destroyed an old storage building on the old Tom Watson home site. Beside being used for storage, the building contained an acetylene gas plant and pumping plant." At the time the property was owned by D. C. Alexander, who operated the former Watson home as the Las Olas Inn.

63 According to the March 16, 1917 Fort Lauderdale Sentinel, Reverend and Mrs. Zabriski were among the tourists leaving.

64 Viscays, which was completed in late 1916.

65 Cora was the Johnstons' daughter, Cora J. Lawrence, born October 3, 1888. On the 1920 census of New Paltz, she is listed as a bookkeeper, living two doors from her parents with her husband, Daniel Lawrence, an electrician. She eventually moved to Fort Lauderdale permanently, and is listed on the voter registration rolls as living at 217 Southeast Fourth Avenue in 1940. Widowed by the 1940s, she inherited her parents' home on South New River Drive after her mother's death. She resided there until her death in November 1974, renting furnished rooms in the early 1970s.

66 J.E. and Ida E. Hashbrouck, winter residents from Modena, New York, who lived on the beach.

67 Mr. and Mrs. Steele were probably Edward B. and Venina Steele, who lived on Grand Drive in the Riverside Addition.

68 The March 23, 1917 Sentinel reported, "Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Johnson, S. E. Johnson and Miss DePew of New York, who have been spending the winter here and living in the old Berryhill home, left Tuesday afternoon for their home in the north. They are fine people who add much to our town, and we hope to see them come each winter until they come to make this their home. They are subscribers to the Sentinel and have been for a long time."

69 The wait was for the ferry across the St. Lucie River. The first bridge for automobiles over the river at Stuart did not open until 1919.

70 Johnston had reserved passage for his car and purchased railroad tickets in Jacksonville. The mail he received was waiting for him there, probably at the Hotel Albert, where he had stayed on his way down and left blankets and winter clothing for pick up on his return.

71 Van and Bess are the Johnstons' daughter, Elizabeth Lou Bogert and her husband, David V. Z. Bogert. Bess was born in January 1880, and was teaching in the public schools in or near New Paltz in 1910. Van was a civil engineer working in New York City who had boarded with the Johnstons in New Paltz, before marrying Bess. The reference to their children is not clear. The Bogerts had one daughter, Helen, born about 1915 according to the 1920 New Paltz census. Their second child, George, is listed as only one year and two months old on the census. Pearl River is a city in Rockland County, New York, near the New Jersey border.

72 Again a reference to the ferry over the St. Lucie. The bridge there was the last link completed on the Dixie Highway.

73 "Mrs. Phil DB & Gertrude" were Emily DuBoise and Gertrude DuBoise, listed in the 1918 directory as residents of Las Olas Beach and New Paltz, N.Y.

74 Perhaps Charles S. Stevens, listed in the 1918 city directory as a mechanic at the Broward Garage, where Johnston kept his car.

75 The only white school in Fort Lauderdale at this time was the Fort Lauderdale High School and Central School, which was built in 1915. The January 18, 1918 Sentinel reported that Colburn's Minstrels, sponsored by the Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club, were parading at noon, and would perform at the school auditorium in the evening.

76 "Ralph & Mrs." have not been identified.

77 The Halcyon Hotel at Avenue B and Twelfth Street in downtown Miami.

78 Wallace is probably John A. Wallace, a fruit grower listed at South Second Street West and New River. The March 23, 1918 Sentinel lists A. J. Wallace selling chickens and grapefruit, perhaps the same person.

79 John Olsson, a well-known contractor in Fort Lauderdale in the 1910s and 1920s.

80 Probably a reference to Fred Dietzenmueller, who lived at N.W. Second Street according to the 1918 city directory.

81 Royal Palm State Park became the nucleus for the Everglades National Park, which opened in 1947.

82 Mr. and Mrs. P. H. DB are Mr. and Mrs. Philip H. DuBoise, and Mr. and Mrs. A. P. L. F. are Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Lefever.

83 The Rex Theater was located on Wall Street.

84 Johnston's reference here to the fine crops grown in Davie is significant. Agriculture was Broward County's leading economic activity in the 1910s, and the diary was written only a decade after the Everglades reclamation project began. Contemporary southern Florida newspapers, chief among them the Fort Lauderdale Sentinel, devoted considerable space to discussing and praising the region's rich agricultural production.

85 The egg notations which begin this date apparently refer to the number of eggs Johnston got from the four hens he had purchased on January 3.

86 Jesse was Johnston's daughter-in-law Jessie, wife of his son Charles.

87 Johnston is probably referring to a lecture on Christian Science with speaker C. I. Ohrenstein held at 8:00 this evening at the Rex Theater and announced in the Sentinel on February 8.

88 William Schoonmaker was also a visitor from New Paltz, New York.

89 The movie Johnston saw was "The Garden of Allah," described in the February 15, 1918 Sentinel as "One of the strongest pictures ever produced on film."

90 This was a concert by Fort Lauderdale's town band managed by Ed Mitchell and directed by G. F. Bates. An advertisement appeared in the
February 22, 1918 issue of the Fort Lauderdale Sentinel.

The Sentinel carried a large advertisement for this auction of lots in the C. C. Ausherman and H. M. Davis Subdivision on February 22. According to the paper, the auction was conducted for the American Land Company by "the Famous Penny Brothers, The World’s Original Twin Auctioneers," and featured a "Live Wire Band." On March 1, the Sentinel reported that the auction sold over thirty lots.

Ardonia, N.Y. is a small town just south of New Paltz. The Palms was a rooming house on South Andrews Avenue operated by Elizabeth Kratz and popular with tourists.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hornbeck have not been positively identified. They may be Louis Adelbert and Frances Hornbeck of Ellenville in Ulster County, New York. The Hornbecks were a large old Dutch family from Ulster County, New York, and surrounding areas of the Hudson Valley. Several other members of the family settled in Fort Lauderdale.

The movie advertised in the Sentinel for this evening was "Red, White and Blue Blood." The All States Party was organized by the "Happy Hustlers" class of the Presbyterian Sunday school, advertised in the Sentinel on March 22, 1918, and held in Oliver’s Hall on Brickell Avenue in downtown Fort Lauderdale. Indiana’s victory over Ohio refers to a contest based on how many natives of each state attended. Ohio was the defending champion from 1917.

Steve and Bess’s children’s arrival was noted in the Sentinel on March 15, 1918: "Mrs. D. V. Z. Bogert, her two children and her brother S. L. Johnston of New Plaza (sic), N.Y. arrived last week and will spend the balance of the season with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. E. Johnston at Riverside.”

Philmont is another New York town, northeast of New Paltz.

The March 15, 1918 Sentinel reported Deyo’s departure: "J. Deyo and family of Gardiner, N.Y., who spent the winter here, left last Monday for their northern home. Before leaving Mr. Deyo said that he greatly regretted leaving this climate and hoped to return next fall.”

Mr. Henry is George E. Henry from Winchester, Massachusetts, who, later in the year, began construction of the Broward Hotel, Fort Lauderdale’s first large “tourist hotel” at Andrews Avenue and Las Olas Boulevard. The 1918 city directory shows Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Henry living at Las Olas Beach. The building of Olas had erected for him was a two-story, twenty by thirty-six foot garage with two apartments upstairs described in the March 22, 1918 Sentinel.

This “new apartment” was the Wallace Apartment. The Sentinel reported its completion in the March 22, 1918 edition.

Mr. Alexander is David Clifford “D.C.” Alexander, prominent Fort Lauderdale realtor. Although Alexander is usually associated with the Las Olas Beach area, which he developed in the 1910s, and where he later lived, his home is listed in the Riverside Addition in the 1918 city directory.

Probably James M. Harman, manager of the Broward County Automobile & Garage Company.

This is probably a reference to Belvedere-style homes. Other entries show Johnston’s interest in buildings and construction as he prepared to build his own house in Fort Lauderdale.

In 1918, the courthouse was located in the former school building on South Andrews Avenue.

"S.L.J." is apparently Johnston’s son Stephen L. Johnston.

Atlantic Coast Line and Seaboard Air Line—railroads which later merged to form the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad.

A detailed account of Johnston’s new house appears on the front page of the March 29, 1918 Fort Lauderdale Sentinel. Titled “Building Boom Here Continues Into Summer,” it recounts: “Three new residences were begun last week. One of these is a residence for Geo. E. Johnston of New Plaza (sic), N.Y., one of our regular winter residents. This building which is being constructed by contractor John Olsson is located on South River street just east of the Christian Science church. The building is to be a bungalow of the California type. On the west front is a living room 14 x 19. Back of the living room is a kitchen 8 x 12 feet and back of the kitchen is a screened-in dining porch 8 x 12 feet. On the east are two bed rooms each 11 x 12 feet, and between the bed rooms is a bath 6 x 8, two closets and a hallway. The building is to be heated during the cold winter days with a large fire place on the east of the living room. Across the front is a large screened-in porch 8 x 28 feet. The house is modern in every particular, even the kitchen having complete built-in furniture.”

"Jo E. & Mrs. HB" are Mrs. and Mrs. J. E. Bogert.

Camp Joseph E. Johnston at Black Point in Jacksonville served as a training base for quart- termaster troops during World War I. In 1940 it was incorporated into the Jacksonville Naval Air Station. Interestingly, this notation is the only allusion to wartime activities in Johnston’s diary.

Charles and Jess are the Johnston’s son, Charles Ackert Johnston, born April 1882, and his wife, Jessie A. Johnston. Charles is listed on the 1910 census as a farmer in New Paltz Township.

On December 20, the Fort Lauderdale Sentinel noted, “Mr. & Mrs. Geo. E. Johnston of New Paltz, N.Y. arrived in our city last Monday to spend the winter. Mr. and Mrs. Johnston are regular winter residents of Ft. Lauderdale and have a beautiful home here located on South River street.”

Mr. Oaks was most likely Charles W. Oakes, who lived at “River View Court” on South New River Drive in Fort Lauderdale and in Indianapolis, and who appears in the 1918 city directory.

The Jane VI was a private yacht owned by E. P. Ordeay of New York. The December 20, 1918 issue of the Sentinel noted its arrival in Fort Lauderdale.

The sand barge belonged to Wright Shackelford and “sank at her docks just east of the Andrews Ave. bridge,” according to the January 3, 1919 Sentinel. Although, as Johnston noted, salvage efforts had begun as early as December 19, the barge was not floated until December 30.

C. J. are Charles and Jessie Johnston.

Perhaps a reference to Benjamin and Alice Freeman, also New Yorkers who wintered in Fort Lauderdale. According to the 1918 Fort Lauderdale City Directory, they lived in Saratoga, N.Y. and on Dixie Highway South in Fort Lauderdale.

The "overburden" was fill dirt Johnston was having put on his house lot on South New River Drive.

The Sentinel reported the Christmas services and celebration at the Baptist church in its December 27 edition. The church was located on the northwest corner of Las Olas and present-day Southeast Third Avenue. According to the Sentinel, in addition to the sermon and prayers noted by Johnston, the event consisted of music, recitations, and the unveiling of a Christmas tree "loaded with fruits and candies, which were given to the children of the Sunday School.”

The zeppelin was also reported in the December 27, 1918 Sentinel, which described it as "a large dirigible balloon, varying in length from 50 to 500 feet, depending on the imagination of the one describing it."

“Mrs. Jo” may refer to Mrs. Johnston or Mrs. Joe Hasbrook. Palamine was probably a brand of oil.

The "lighter" was the sand barge mentioned in the January 19 entry.

According to the January 3, 1919 Fort Lauderdale Sentinel, N. A. Butterfield, “one of our winter residents," began erection of a “new, modern bungalow” on Las Olas Boulevard and Pratt Street. Plans called for a one-story, frame house with five rooms, two screened-in porches, and a large garage.

The Broward Hotel, which opened in the fall of 1919, was completed earlier in the year and was advertising in the Sentinel as early as January 17.

The meaning of these two words is not clear.

Frank L. and Mary Damon, who lived on South New River Drive East and Kenton, Ohio, according to the 1920-21 Fort Lauderdale City Directory. According to a notice in the January 17, 1919 Sentinel, the Damons were related to the C. W. Oakes family mentioned in note 96.

Biggs is probably John Biggs, listed on Atlantic Boulevard at Las Olas Beach in the 1920-21 Fort Lauderdale directory.

“Gum the barber” is Samuel D. Clifton, who with Henry J. Driggers operated the Snow White Barber Shop on the corner of Brickell Avenue and North River Drive.

The “Hindo Village” is probably a reference to the Musa Isle Trading Post and Seminole Village, which had opened by 1919. For further information on this popular tourist attraction, see “A Visit West,” The Florida Seminoles, From Alligator Wrestling to Ecotoursms (Gailesville: University Press of Florida, 1998).

The church lot is a reference to the First Christian Science Church, located next door to Johnston’s home. Johnston’s driveway crossed part of the church property.

Mrs. D. T. Firor, who lived on Atlantic Boulevard at Las Olas Beach and a Lemon City, is listed in the 1920-21 Fort Lauderdale directory. The Firors were pioneers of the Lemon City area.

The Huguenot National Bank was located in New Paltz, New York. Many of the early settlers of New Paltz were of French Huguenot and Dutch ancestry. The late seventeenth and early eighteenth century gained fame for its prosperous Huguenot families, including the Hasbrooks and Deyos whose descendants came to Fort Lauderdale, have been preserved.

Crim is probably Henry C. Crim, an Illinois-born merchant who operated a general merchandise store on Wall Street in the late 1910s. Crim constructed Crim’s Variety Store on the corner of Andrews Avenue and Wall Street in 1921.

“Mrs. B.” apparently refers to Mrs. Bobert, Johnston’s son-in-law Van Bogert’s mother.

Torry Island is located at the southeast corner
of Lake Okeechobee, adjacent to Belle Glade.

According to the January 24, 1919 Sentinel, the movies playing on January 30 were “Under Four Flags,” “75-Mile Gun” and “Mutt and Jeff.”

Miss Elizabeth Kraft, who, like the Johnstons, lived on South River Drive East according to the 1920-21 Fort Lauderdale directory.

These individuals have not been positively identified. An Alonzo O. Bliss is listed at 1432 Fort Dallas Park in the 1918 Miami city directory. Another possibility is John C. Bliss, principal of the normal school in New Faita.

This may be a reference to the New River Inn on the river just west of the F.E.C. railway tracks.

Mr. Fowler was William M. Fowler, a plasterer who resided on East South Street.

The “C.S. Lecture” was a free program titled “Christian Science the Liberator of Mankind?” presented by John Randall Dunn a member of the board of the Mother Church in Boston. This lecture was reported in the January 31, February 7 and February 14 issues of the Sentinel. The February 14 paper printed Dunn’s full text.

George was the Johnstons’ grandson, George Bogert, Van and Bess’s year-old son.

On this date and again on February 28 Charles sent his parents a suitcase loaded with vegetables grown on the rich mucklands at Torry Island.

The small settlement of Griffin, named after the Griffin family, was located on present-day Griffin Road and the South New River Canal west of Davie. It is now part of the Town of Davie.

Mr. Cusack has not been identified.

The Palm, owned and operated by Captain Norman Fitzhugh and his son Arthur, carried the mail, as well as passengers and freight, from Fort Lauderdale to the settlements on the south shore of Lake Okeechobee from 1916 until about 1920, when the mail for the lake settlements was routed through West Palm Beach. An interesting and humorous account of the Palm’s career can be found in Lawrence E. Will, Okeechobee Boats & Skippers (St. Petersburg: Great Outdoors Publishing Company, 1966), 97-104.

This was Bess Dupuy who had accompanied the Johnstons to Florida in 1917.

John Aunapu, Estonian-born pioneer Everglades farmer and boat captain, resided at Davie until 1916, when he moved to Lake Okeechobee. A sketch of Aunapu’s career also appears in Will, Okeechobee Boats & Skippers, 122-128. The location of Fisher’s Store is more confusing. According to Will, Howard Stowe operated the store and post office on Torry Island, while Samuel J. Fisher and other local farmers started a cooperative store at nearby South Bay.

Kittredge and Olliver are W. H. Kittredge, partner in the Fort Lauderdale Mercantile Company, and Frank Oliver, partner in the Oliver Bros. (later Pioneer) Department Store in Fort Lauderdale. Flanders is W. W. Flanders of Sunapee, New Hampshire and Fort Lauderdale, a Fort Lauderdale building contractor and large stockholder in the Fort Lauderdale Mercantile Company. A number of Fort Lauderdale businessmen had homes on Torry Island in the late 1910s and 1920s. Kittredge managed the Mercantile Company’s store on the island according to the December 20, 1918 Sentinel. On January 10, 1919, the paper reported that Oliver had rented his Fort Lauderdale house for the winter and was farming 100 acres of tomatoes at Torry Island.

Maybe a reference to H. H. Hart of Miami, who was selling land in the upper Glades according to the February 14, 1919 Sentinel. Okeelanta was a settlement at the intersection of the New River and Bolles canals about two miles south of Lake Okeechobee.

An article in the Sentinel on this day concerned the fate of naming homes, and mentioned that the Johnstons had named their new home “Pultzdale.”

The “Saro” was probably the Sanibel, a seventy-five foot yacht owned by George R. Hill of Tewando, Pennsylvania, which burned in the bay at the mouth of the Miami River on this date according to the February 23 Miami Herald.

Mr. Dexter and McClen have not been identified.

Mr. Extine is also unidentified, although the 1918 Miami city directory shows three Ekeekites—Nelson, Milton, O., and Ernest M.

Nellie or Nettie, as she is referred to in the March 10 listing, was apparently connected to the Bogert family.

Mrs. Ambrose may be the wife of Fred Ambrose, an electrician living at 240 Eighth Street in Miami, according to that city’s 1918 directory.

Construction on the Tamiami Trail began in 1916, and a sixty mile stretch westward from Miami as well as a small section in Lee County were completed before World War I. Work did not resume until the 1920s, and the highway was eventually completed across the Everglades in 1928. See Marjory Stoneman Douglas, The Everglades, River of Grass (Coconut Grove: Hurricane House Publishers, Inc., 1947), 342-43.

“Howels” may refer to the home of either H. F., John H. or Warren H. Howell, all listed as farmers in the 1920-21 Fort Lauderdale directory.

In 1919, federal income tax was due on March 5. See the Sentinel, February 21, 1919 for additional information.

The Palmers are Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Palmer, winter visitors from Chicago. They are mentioned in the January 10 and 17 issues of the Sentinel.

Prospect was an unincorporated community located on Prospect Road at today’s Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport.

115 This was Captain T. H. Newman of the yacht Renah. The March 7 Sentinel reported that the other two tarpon weighed ninety-two and eighty-seven pounds, and called Newman the “champion tarpon fisherman of the season.”

116 Mrs. Bissell may be Mrs. Frank C. Bissell of Miami, who lived at 135 Tenth Street, according to the 1918 directory.

117 The March 21, 1919 Sentinel ran a substantial article, “Rain Causes Heavy Losses,” which described extensive damage to the vegetable crops at Colohatchee, Pempano and the prairies west of Dania and Hallandale. “Around Davie,” the paper commented, “the loss was nearly total.”

118 The canning factory was operated by the V. Tsororina Company of New Orleans and manufactured tomato paste.

119 Probably Samuel Thompson, who lived on Dixie Highway between Fort Lauderdale and Dania. According to the 1918-19 and 1920-21 Fort Lauderdale directories, he was a “caretaker,” probably at the grove Johnston mentions. Broward County voter registration lists him as a sixty-two-year-old farmer in 1920.

120 Mrs. Boucher is probably Mrs. A. H. Bowker of New York, mentioned in the February 8, 1918 Sentinel. Her husband was a vegetable commission merchant.

121 The March 28, 1919 Sentinel reports, “George Johnson [sic] and family left last Tuesday by auto to make a tour of the state before starting for their home in New York. They will return early next fall.”

122 “Ubo” City is Ybor City.

123 The presence of noted evangelist Billy Sunday in Tampa was the subject of some editorial barbs between Colonel Mathews’ Fort Lauderdale Sentinel and the Tampa Tribune. The Tribune commented, “We hereby invite George G. Mathews of the Fort Lauderdale Sentinel to Tampa to stay during the entire Billy Sunday revival. We think George needs some attention.” Mathews responded, in his March 14, 1919 edition, “We are truly pleased that Billy Sunday selected Tampa, as we do not know of a city more in need of spiritual guidance than Tampa . . . We are glad to report that Fort Lauderdale, thanks to the Sentinel, is not in need of the great Evangelist.”

George E. Johnston’s diary.