

*G.B. HINCKLEY'S LOVELY PLACE.  
A VERITABLE TROPICAL HOME WITH EVERY COMFORTABLE  
APPOINTMENT.  
A FINE HAMMOCK ORANGE GROVE.*

A Visit to One of the Prettiest Places in this Section. — What Has Been Accomplished in a Few Years by the Expenditure of Money, Taste and Energy — The Prosperous Conditions of the Orange Trees.

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Some six years ago when all this county was a "waste howling wilderness" and few people were living south of Palm Beach and the only method of traveling was either by boat or hack, G.B. Hinckley made an over land trip from the present site of Miami to Lauderdale. On the road the driver called his attention to a beautiful little hammock through which the narrow driveway passed and as they passed along, Mr. Hinckley pictured to himself the beautiful home that could be made there with the transformation that money and brain could bring about. Going on to Lauderdale, Mr. Hinckley met the Hon. Frederick S. Morse who had also been out to look at the same hammock and from him Mr. Hinckley learned where and at what price the land could be obtained, and went immediately to Jacksonville and purchased it, paying \$25 an acre — which was an exceedingly high price for lands so far from transportation. Still the picture of a lovely tropical home was before the purchaser's eye and he went to work, and today the fancied picture is a living reality, and yet the half has not been done.

The place is known as Hinckley's, and is located 17 miles north of Miami, the F.E.C. Railway now lying right in front of the gate, occupying the track over which Mr. Hinckley drove six years ago.

A large part of the undergrowth and brush have been cleared away, leaving a large number of giant oaks, cabbage palms, banyan or rubber trees, gumbo-limbo and many other native trees which form a natural park, the beauties of which have been still further enhanced by the addition of hundreds of ornamental trees, flowers and shrubbery. Among the trees in addition to the great oaks, palmetto, etc., were the genuine rubber of commerce and the cork tree, also fine specimens of silk cotton, bamboo, royal poinciana, hibiscus and a variety of tropical shrubs, plants and variegated flowers, too numerous for me to attempt to mention. The rustic seats, swinging

hammocks, easy stools and chairs scattered in profusion here and there over the grassy lawn and in shady nooks and corners remind one of a veritable picnic ground and naturally causes one to sink down and rest peacefully while his eyes feast on the beauties of the dream-like surroundings as he is fanned and cooled by the delightful ocean breezes.

Mr. Hinckley has a quaint little cottage built of hewn logs in imitation of the old fashioned log cabin with the broad Southern fireplace and rock chimney. The house is nicely furnished and on every hand are articles of interest in the way of fancy china, bric-a-brac, paintings, sea shells, sea weed and rare specimens of many kinds.

Mr. Hinckley is well equipped with fine guns, fishing tackle, etc., and when so inclined can amuse himself as a sportsman. He does little hunting or fishing, however, preferring to amuse himself with his flowers and trees. Separate and apart from the cabin is a cozy kitchen, dining room, pantry, etc., all furnished elegantly and the dinner which was prepared by Mr. Hinckley himself was one which would have done credit to his

"Two Million Dollar Banyan Tree," 1984, on the east side of U.S. 1 in Dania. The Hinckley estate was purchased by Commodore A.H. Brook in 1920. Courtesy, Jim Whitaker.



S.F. & W. restaurants at Savannah or Waycross, which are known to be among the best railroad eating houses in the country.

Mr. Hinckley is a lover of birds and animals as well as of nature and has his fine horse, dogs, pet squirrels, canary birds, etc., and even the wild quail visit him regularly to get their feed, and he neither molests or allows others to molest them.

We might spend hours and columns of space writing in detail of the many interesting things about this home; of the fancy stone wall, ornamented with fine sea shells and bric-a-brac, of the arched gateway with natural growing trees as posts and arches; of the cute little summer house which has just been completed and the same care and artistic finish which is apparent on the main buildings; of the hanging baskets and hundreds of blooming air plants all around; of the many fancy flower stands and the playing water fountains, etc., but we wish to speak more particularly of the orange grove which is Mr. Hinckley's pride and to see which was the real object of our visit.

We found that each year since opening up the place a few trees have been set until now there are in all 1,500, of which number some 300 have been set this spring. Of the older trees some are now in bearing, and all have a deep, rich color, and are apparently growing and thriving as well as could be desired. There are grapefruit, limes, lemons and quite a variety of oranges, among which are Hart's tardiff, Jaffa, Ruby, tangerines, etc. A splendid irrigating plant stands in the middle of the grove, an Aeromotor lifting a full and constant supply of clear, pure water for the grove, lawn and houses. Piping has been laid all over the place and hydrants are located at convenient points everywhere, so water, the greatest of all fertilizers, may be applied when needed. The trees seem entirely free from any insect, have smooth and solid trunks, symmetrical branches, and are apparently vigorous and in prime condition in every respect.

These trees let it be remembered are on hammock lands and do not require as much fertilizer as they would on poorer soil, but it is quite

certain that they lack for nothing that Mr. Hinckley imagines they need. He is determined to make a grove, if attention and money will make one, and although he has expended a large amount on his place, he says he would not think of selling for what it cost him — in fact he is building a home for himself and is charmed with the climate, saying that it is so much cooler here in the summer than in Savannah, that he expects to remain here all the time.

Mr. Hinckley owns, including his 12 acres of hammock, 170 acres of lands, including prairie, pine and marsh. He does some general farming, having raised very fine tomatoes, eggplant, pines, etc., but his heart is in the orange grove business and he cares for little else.

Later Mr. Hinckley will build a fine two-story residence, from which the ships at ocean may be seen, and which will be finished and furnished in every conceivable way for the pleasure and comfort of himself and his wife, where they hope to spend many happy days, and where their friends will always find a warm and cheery welcome.

## DADE COUNTY'S JAPANESE COLONY

### *Some of the Traits of These Interesting Little People*

*Now so prominent in the eyes of the world — hard workers, generous and appreciative of kindness — are doing well and the colony is a fixture*

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There is possibly no more staunch admirer and believer in the worth of the little Japanese in every respect, who for the past several months have been giving Russia an awful drubbing in war in the Far East, than Capt. T. M. Rickards of Boca Raton where there is now located eighteen sons of the Mikado's Kingdom, and who composed the advance guard or beginning, of what is proposed to make a thriving Japanese colony.

In speaking of these wonderful little men and their operations at Boca Raton, their characteristics, etc., with a *Metropolis* reporter Wednesday Capt. Rickards gave some interesting information heretofore untold.

There are now eighteen men in the present colony, the original number — seventeen — having been augmented yesterday by the arrival of a "new man" to take up the pursuit of farming. The original seventeen who arrived at Boca Raton but a few months ago, now

have in the ground thirty acres of vegetables, mainly tomatoes, thriving and doing well. They are planting in one crop apparently, though the field and men are divided into three parts and squads, one each under the directions of Oki, Sakai and Sujii.

"I have never seen more energetic and enthusiastic workers than these little men," said Captain Rickards. "They toil early and late, and their capacity and determination to accomplish any task they undertake is stupendous and an example worthy to be followed by those of our own race. Practically midgets in size, they are giants in strength and agility and once they undertake a task the word 'fail' must have no connection with it; it must be done. Clean of body and

clear of mind, they are the best living examples of temperate and energetic manhood I have ever seen.

"Their appreciation or kindness and aptitude for learning are above comprehension. It is an impossibility to do them a favor or kindness without it being returned many times manifold.

"They receive many daily papers and though a number of them have not mastered the English language sufficiently to converse intelligently, there are some who can, and these keep the others informed on the current events of the world, especially the war news, and any Japanese success whatever brings forth a demonstration and show of enthusiasm.

"An instance of this is shown on the receipt of the first news of the fall of Port Arthur. That night, after I had retired, I was awakened by a demonstration outside and investigating, I found the whole colony there with huge torches, musical instruments and cheering. They had

gotten into a bunch of my laths and with them and other articles had made their torches and come to serenade me. From my house, they went to other American homes with the same purpose, myself and others accompanying them to see that the woods were not set on fire, and enjoying with them their enthusiasm which knew no bounds.

"Of their sense of appreciation of a kindness I can recite: Last Saturday I brought the colony down to visit the Fair. Those who saw them there know how they enjoyed it and the interest they manifested. At Boca Raton I am building a new packing house, the roof of which is still to be put on. Monday morning I was informed by Mr. Sakai that the whole colony would be over the next day (Tuesday) to give me a day's work, but later in the day they learned of the coming to the colony today of Mr. Uchida, the Japanese Consul General at New York, and I was politely asked to excuse them for the present, when they set about preparing for his reception. But I will get that day's work. Their word is their honor, and there is no use protesting when they want to return a favor. They would feel hurt if you did.

"I have on a number of occasions assisted them in some trivial way, and every time I have received more than I gave. Another instance of this occurred in connection with their visit to the Fair. I brought down with us two Japanese flower plants which I sold for \$1 each. Monday I turned the money over to Mr. Sakai, and that night here came a basket of the most choice vegetables that could be picked from their patch with their compliments. I am actually almost afraid to offer or to assist them in any way for the favor will not remain unrecognized, even if they have to put themselves out to do it.

"The coming of Mr. Uchida today was heralded by a burst of enthusiasm and he will be entertained



Omeke Kobayashi: (born 1898) passport photograph, 1921.



Heido Kobayashi: (born 1898) passport photograph, 1921.

to the best of their ability, but just how remains to be seen, as they are very reticent in their private affairs, though I can tell you of this much: Monday afternoon several members of the colony went down into the woods with axes, almost as big as themselves, and a short time afterwards here they came lugging on their shoulders two immense palm trees. These they erected at a convenient place a number of feet apart and between which was built an arch of cocoonut leaves and evergreen, making it both unique and inviting, for Mr. Uchida and party to pass under. The mode of erecting the trees was new to me, but it could not have been more perfectly done. They started by squaring the butt and then halving it up several inches. Into this they spiked a crosstie, and into the hole, dug to hold it,



ABOVE: Heido and Omeke Kobayaski with children, circa 1930. ABOVE RIGHT: Yamato Railroad Station, circa 1915. RIGHT: Heido Kobayaski, Yamato, Florida, early 1930s.



were placed the tree and the tie, with other ties around it as supports. Over this they spread and carefully leveled the ground, making as complete a job as one could desire. I would not tell this but Mr. Uchida and party will have been there before this is printed, and it is a dollar to a doughnut that they, not even Mr. Ingraham of the F.E.C. Ry., who accompanied them, will know but what the stately palms were grown there by

Nature."

Captain Rickards recited a great many other commendable things about these great little men. He believes strongly in them in every manner, and says that a year from now it is expected that the colony will number two hundred or more men and women as the F.E.C. Ry. is lending them all aid possible, and will, ere that time, he is told, have comfortable houses built for them and their families.

The captain further said that each and every member of the colony is satisfied and contented. They are proving good farmers, and their crop of tomatoes is unexcelled in the county. Unlike many Americans, they do not pretend to know it all, and are working to learn, receiving gratefully any advice and following it to the letter. At present they are living in houses owned by Captain Rickards, but will soon have their own homes.