

## 1890

other houses; Porcher L'Engle. Total loss, including stocks, \$75,000.

July 4: Largest crowd in history of Pablo Beach, estimated at 1500, assembled to witness the first exhibition of professional bicycle racing in this section.

August 7: Jacksonville Driving Park Association organized for the purpose of promoting amateur horse-racing. P. McQuaid, President; J. R. Tysen, Vice-President; J. F. Nichols, Secretary; H. T. Baya, Treasurer.

October 26: Two warehouses belonging to Dr. W. M. Bostwick, on the river front at foot of Pine (Main) Street, were destroyed by fire.

## 1891

January 15: Sub-Tropical opened its 4th annual exhibition. There were no elaborate opening exercises. That night a display of fireworks was given, followed by a ball in the fair building.

With each year's added growth of shrubbery the grounds had become more attractive, and the setting for the exposition was most pleasing; but it was soon evident that interest in the fair was waning. It closed on February 14. The outstanding special features for the month were the Kirmess folk dances, staged by local talent, and the 5-day revival of Sam Jones, the evangelist.

The Sub-Tropical was not opened again as a State fair. The lease and buildings were sold to a private company of local citizens, when an attempt was made the following year to open it as a County fair. Afterward the buildings became useful as a place for holding conventions and local celebrations of all kinds, until 1897, when they were torn down to make way for the waterworks reservoir on the site.

Of the numbers of fairs and exhibitions held in Jacksonville, the citizens that remembered it always emphasized with pride and pleasant recollection the Sub-Tropical, its attractive surroundings and pleasurable incidents.

March 27: Grand Union Hotel at the northwest corner of Forsyth and Cedar Streets destroyed by fire at 9 a.m. This was a three-story brick and frame building, 75x125 feet in dimension.