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LOVELY LOS KISS

To the Ocala Banner:

"Our Miss Marion," says the Evening Gretchen of this city, "is now, as you all know, a winter girl. And she sure is very charming; unusually sweet and girlish she is. It is no wonder that we do not wish to go elsewhere for a girl."

Charming Miss Marion every time and evermore. The thick gray Spanish moss is her winter fur (but we assure you she doesn't need it), and the green grass and garlands of green overhanging boughs—all there intermingled with splashes of gray and old gold, are her garments, and the sparkles of Silver Springs are the lights in her eyes.

In love with Marion besides us is Old Sol, who never tires of the pleasant task of kissing her, as she presents both peachy cheeks coquettishly.

"Eighty-nine home-seekers from the north are on board," the steamer Silverton wired by wireless from Eureka to the Los Kissan today—Monday, at 3:30 p. m.

The big, palatial J. U. G. Club's steamer is due to arrive in Los Kiss at 5 p. m.

On Saturday the Silverton's sister steamer, the Ethelton, landed forty-six home-seekers at her docks, foot of Ethelton avenue. Most of these people will stay and build homes and business institutions here in and around Los Kiss, and the others will settle in the "cream of the salad bowl"—Ocala.

As W. J. Bryan, the peerless one, will pass through Ocala on his way to Tampa on February 3rd, the evening paper runs this little line daily: "Be in Ocala on the 3rd with all the flowers you can wobble under—Bryan will be there!"

Two more miles of handsome driveway were added to the famous river front drive, Mary Lou Divide, today, when the last post light was firmly fixed this afternoon at 3 o'clock. This avenue now reaches from St. Helena on the south to Gore's Landing on the north. Mary Lou Divide is one of the best auto ways in the country. It is not straight, for in some places it follows the winding stream, and in other places it runs through beautiful hammocks and orange groves.

The Just Us Girls Club's home-seeker representatives in Ocala, Tampa, Jacksonville and Pensacola all write to the club's president, Miss Valentine, of heavy mail from every direction. Scores and scores of northerners and easterners, and even home people write them on souvenir postals, plain Uncle Sam postals and in sealed letters. They write and ask all about Los Kiss and the suburban towns along the raging Oklawaha, and the Marion national forest reserve.

Editor Solomon of the Evening Gretchen, and Mr. E. Crane of this city have put in a complete stock of Oriental goods in the handsome store-room of the fifteen-story Sunset building in Mercantile Place. This is one of the largest store-rooms in our city, and it is a beautiful place, indeed, neatly stocked with foreign goods.

Mercantile Place is only one block long, and only half as wide as an ordinary street, but what there is of it is the grandest and most artistic in town. The buildings on each side are all fifteen stories high, except the Sunset building, which has a balloon shaped tower that rises sixty feet higher. In the top of this tower is a very handsome drawing room, made especially by the owner of the building, Editor Solomon, for the J. U. G. Club.

Pete Button, "devil" for the Los Kissan, spends his idle minutes now and then in the hotel lobbies of the Royal Opal, Eric and St. Helena. He always comes in our office, at the right time, when news is scarce. To-

day's visit revealed lots. He whispered: "Say, you guy what gets de Los Kiss news for de St. Helena Irrigati-Mist, can you keep a secret?"

"Yes, Pete."
"Well, the big, portly American from Denver, Colorado, Mr. Harris, who is at the Royal Opal, took me up to his room yesterday and showed me a balloon-shaped railway—street railway—line in Florida. The line starts from Gainesville, in Alachua, and comes south to Rochelle, in the same county, and from that point it makes a bee line to Palatka, in Putnam. From Palatka it comes south to Los Kiss, where it loops several times in and around the city and the suburbs. It then goes further south towards Ocala; and from Ocala the line runs southwestward, with Sanford, the Celery City, as its terminus in that direction. In Sanford it makes a complete circuit of the Florida celery fields and goes down into the great pine woods in a western direction to Leesburg; then on to Brooksville, which is Florida's 'bridge of the gods.' Inverness, Crystal River, Dunnellon and Archer are all included on the homeward loop of the line to Gainesville. At Archer will be located one of the big power houses. This is only a proposed railway in the interior, and it will be pushed ahead to completion, as there is plenty of 'dough' behind the she-bang. Its name will be the Florida Balloon Route."

The Just Us Girls Club entertain to-night their suburban members at the parlors of the Royal Opal, on Figueroa avenue.—Los Kiss Cor. St. Helena Irrigati-Mist.

MARIONETTES

Special Cor. Ocala Banner:

Hey, there! It's daylight! Wake up! If you don't watch out, we'll have a Greater Marion before you know it! Col. E. O. Cordrey, the Lynne orange king, is erecting on his place another barn. "This barn," says the colonel, "will be two stories, 28 feet wide and 40 feet long, and will soon be completed. I was forced to build it; had to have additional room for my produce." He will probably give a "candy pull" in the barn when completed. We hope he will.

Mr. Isaac Perkins, the famous deer hunter from the Connor country, living out in the national forest reserve oasis, Eaton Creek, was a visitor to our writing den Wednesday. His little boy was with him. Mr. Perkins says deer and bear are plentiful, and that he goes out nearly every week and secures game. He also says that wild boars are numerous.

Dave Jackson, a prosperous colored farmer, living in the Grahamville valley, caught the other day in the Oklawaha river a mud fish that weighed thirty pounds. He said he (the fish) was four feet long. Dave is a reliable colored man of that section and this fish story can be put down as a fact.

I tell you, we have here in Marion the best bunch of farmers in the state. You just take a visit out into the "garden spots," and on all doors of the homes you will see the lathstring hanging outside, and it is meant for you and yours; and you had best enter, too, for the farmers would be mad should you pass them by.

The palatial Hiawatha is on the Oklawaha again, making three trips each week between Palatka and Silver Springs. The board of trade of Ocala could well afford to pay, it seems to us, a competent man, a man who knows the river and country, etc., an hundred dollars per month to traverse on each and every trip the distance from Eureka to Silver Springs on board the Hiawatha, to show and tell the passengers of the country and to distribute literature. Scratch your heads and think about it, members of the B. of T. SILVER PLUME.

RAISING CORN AND MEAT IN MARION

The question is asked, "Why was there not a much larger display of corn at our county fair?"

I do not know of but one reason, and that is that the farmers all up and down the county did not take enough interest in the fair to go to their cribs and pick out a dozen ears, or get out a half bushel of shelled corn.

They lose sight of the fact that we should all take a sample of what we grow along to the fair with us, and have a regular old-fashioned experience meeting, not Methodists—but farmers, with a method.

There is plenty of corn in all parts of our county, although last season was not favorable for a "bumper" corn crop. The corn crop by many is a secondary crop, and by some of our "shiftless" folks no crop at all; simply on account of the no-accountness of the farmers. You know that in our section we grow vegetables, and follow all such crops as beans, cabbage, potatoes, etc., with a corn crop, and the farmers make enough corn in that way to feed their work stock, chickens, milch cows, and enough hogs to make lard and bacon.

Now you see conditions have changed since I came to Florida. At that time it did not pay to grow corn, save hay or make lard and bacon—at least every man would tell you so—but you know we have learned different. Never mind how we learned the lesson, we have learned it in such a way that it is not easily forgotten, and let me tell you my friend with corn in the crib, bacon in the smoke house and a lot of lard hid out any old place, we can stay and live, too; then if we do not get \$3.75 for oranges we can live if they do not net us more than \$1.50.

I make from 800 to 1000 bushels of corn on my truck lands up here each season—and that corn is made cheap—15 to 20 cents per bushel will make it and put it in the crib, as breaking the land is charged to the truck crop.

Did I ever tell you of my little talk with my wife in February, 1905? You know all our truck had been killed December 26. We had planted over and February 18 another freeze killed all them up, and after this second killing my wife asked me what I was going to do, and when I replied "plant over again," she said, "Why, you tell me that the vegetables are sometimes killed in March; what will you do if you are killed out this March?" And when I replied if killed out a third time we could plant corn and sweet potatoes and make a living, anyhow, she thought—that living would be rather dry.

Corn farming will pay here. We cannot grow as many bushels per acre as sections of the corn belt, but we can grow it as cheap or cheaper, and it is worth 23 1-3 per cent, more here than in Iowa. Our corn is rich in protein, which makes it worth more as a feed ration, pound for pound, as compared with the northern corn.

We have not yet learned to use our fodder, and I hope that we can learn to utilize it without the assistance of another freeze. The Maryland farmer now counts the corn stalks and blade (fodder) worth as much as the ear, and we do not utilize a bit of it. Just think of that item for a minute, but we will come around—and make a profit on the trip, too.—W. M. Gist, in the Florida Fruit and Truck Grower.

Mr. D. M. Davidson of High Springs and Miss Emma Pinkerson of Dukes, in Bradford county, were romantically married Saturday on the Atlantic Coast Line train, bound for Jacksonville.

MARION COUNTY ORANGE AND VEGETABLE GROWERS

The New York Produce News now has a page devoted to Florida affairs from which we make the following clippings:

Crosby & Wartmann of Citra took the blue ribbon for oranges and grapefruit at the Marion County Fair, held at Ocala. The fruit was raised on the old Bishop & Hoyt's tract, which was the first home of the pineapple orange in Florida.

Citra is making rapid strides in the trucking business and a good quantity of vegetables is coming on for the market. The peach trees are in bloom on account of the warm weather, and the growers are afraid that any cold snap will do much damage. James S. Moody, a commission man of Tampa, has a fine young peach orchard of ten acres, which at present is looking fine.

The girl up in New York who swallowed a paper of pins without serious consequence ought to be considerably stuck on herself about her inner consciousness of marvelous vitality.—Pensacola Journal.

JUDGMENT AGAINST KNIGHT

Failing to appear either in person or by attorney, R. J. Knight of Crystal River, Fla., lost a suit in the federal court Monday, and the plaintiff, the Florida Syndicate, an English company, was awarded a judgment in the sum of \$6036.26.

The defendant was legally notified of the time set for the trial of the suit, but for some reason unexplained failed to appear in court. The syndicate claimed that \$9000 was due in rent and interest for certain lands in Levy county, leased by Knight, in 1904.

The syndicate further alleged that the land was leased for a period of twenty years, and that from the date of the lease only one year's rent had been paid. Attorneys Young and Adams and Senator D. U. Fletcher represented the plaintiffs. The lease and correspondence between the parties to the suit was introduced as evidence and William Moore Angus and Walter Mucklow, representing the syndicate, gave testimony.

By instruction from Judge James W. Locke, the jury found the verdict as stated.—Jacksonville Metropolis.

James Swain, who is in the employ of Col. W. S. West, and who, it will be remembered, was defended by the latter so vigorously at his trial for murder a few months ago, plead guilty Monday to manslaughter. He was fined \$300 and costs, which he paid and was discharged.

Superintendent of Schools Brinson has not only purchased Mr. Jim Brown's stock of cows, but has also purchased his farm, lock stock and barrel. It is only two and a half miles from town. Prof. Brinson will enlarge and remodel the dwelling and will pursue the "simple life."

Dr. Walter Hood is having his automobile made here. He is making it as he thinks one ought to be made for our roads, and it is being looked forward to with a great deal of interest, as it is expected to have a good many improvements over those manufactured in the regular factories. It will be on the streets in about ten days.

Florida oranges are now commanding good prices on the markets.

I say, do your drinking at Hogan's Place. There you find pure goods. Hogan, the mail order man.

J. K. CHRISTIAN

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