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SURPRISES IN FORT PIERCE

An Investor of Last Spring Returns to Make Home

PROGRESS OF OUR CITY

Home People Show Faith in Futnre—Orange Groves, New Buildings and Catholic Property Surprises

Fort Pierce, Fla., Dec. 5, 1911.

Editor TRIBUNE:

Someone has said "Surprises make life interesting" and I cordially agree with him for I have found my life in Fort Pierce most interesting in the past two weeks, largely because I am constantly surprised, and I may add, most agreeably.

A few of these "surprises" may prove interesting to THE TRIBUNE readers, so I have mustered up courage enough to put some on paper and submit them to the editor.

I am at least impressed, if not surprised, at the thoroughness manifested here in every undertaking. The people are genuinely cordial and unfailingly courteous to the strangers within their gates. They are ready to answer questions, patient with grumblers, kind to the lonely, jovial with the gay and comforting to the sorrowing. In fact they are just good, big-hearted, everyday folks and we strangers are made to forget the fact that we are strange and in a few days we say "over home" when designating the particular place where we are domiciled.

Then, another surprise I find is that when a new project is put forth, even though it be by a stranger, the "home folks" are willing to consider it and usually recognize the advantage and are first to venture, while the cautious stranger studies the pros and cons until the good bargain is realized and captured by a wide-awake citizen.

When I visited Fort Pierce last March my time was limited to six days so I really had no opportunity to become acquainted with the town that I chose as my winter home. I formed general impressions of this town as I did of numerous other towns along the East Coast and while I was fascinated by certain features in other localities and charmed by the natural beauty of some of the places I visited, my calm judgment was that Fort Pierce was absolutely the best place to settle, and this impression clung to me until my trip was finished and I was once more at home in Washington. As a result our investment was made here and here I am for the winter, at least.

Staying as I did such a short time here last spring, my impressions, as I said, were general, but upon my return this fall they are strengthening and lengthening from impressions to surprises.

To a stranger's eyes, especially one used to the stately buildings of the nation's capital, the first thing noted is usually the building or architecture of a town, and in this I was most agreeably surprised. Fort Pierce is so designed that a great city can grow westward over the beautiful level stretch of prairie; northward over the "ridge" where such a magnificent view of the ocean can be obtained, or southward where miles of beautiful homes can be laid out along the river front. A natural business center is thus created between the river and the railroad and I am delighted to notice the wide streets paved with native marl, and the location of the various business houses.

Not only can the roads extend southward, but westward clear across the state and northward to Jacksonville, and onward to Washington and Montreal.

I am charmed with the pretty homes all over the town, while some are a little in need of a coat of paint that would certainly improve their outward beauty, the interior is cozy and home like and the atmosphere of cordiality and welcome pervaded them all.

Before I left my home I thought it necessary to supply every need, fearing that I would be unable to successfully "shop" in Fort Pierce, but almost the first thing to greet my eyes was a wagon of a department store lettered "Everything to Eat, Wear and Use" and I found this to be an absolute fact. A visit to a river front emporium proved to me that hunger could be abundantly satisfied, vanity be gratified and everything that I could want in use, from a needle to a house furnished completely, could be supplied. "Surprise," may I call this?

Not only was I surprised in this instance but a visit to other business houses proved that all our wants could be supplied and that prices compared favorably with those of northern cities, and that whether it was a gift for my friends or an article of luxury or necessity there were plenty from which to choose and all best quality.

A word here in reference to a particular surprise I had this fall. A walk down Orange avenue showed me what wonderful things could be accomplished in a few months and I paused with admiration in front of a most artistic little church and parsonage that had actually sprung up in all its beauty since last winter. This place alone shows what a little patience, labor and brain can do and Fort Pierce may well point with pride to this delightful spot.

In walking along the country roads another thing surprises me and that is the great scarcity of gardens. Why, I have frequently read that one can plant something in Florida every month in the year and tables can be supplied with fresh, green vegetables and yet, even the kitchen garden, so dear to the heart of the German housewife, is conspicuous by its absence. I asked one man why this was, but I will not tell you his answer—you probably know it.

Another surprise was the total absence of a chicken farm. Is it possible the good people of this city do not eat that delicacy, and are eggs so little used? I hear, however, that eggs are shipped here in large quantities from Tennessee. What few chickens I have seen, seem to be beauties, so there surely can be no natural reason why this well paying industry is neglected. But perhaps I am too critical and soon the great American hen will come to her own in Florida and our wants will not only be supplied but one of our great shipping industries will be along

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SILVER SERVICE FOR BATTLESHIP FLORIDA

The silver service to be presented by the citizens of Florida to the officers of the battleship bearing the name of this state was fully described in an article appearing in the Jacksonville Times-Uuion. That paper says:

"The silver service for the new battleship Florida, the greatest fighting ship in Uncle Sam's navy, is here, and it is safe to say that no warship in the service will have a more, if as beautiful, a service outfit as the superdreadnaught named after the "Land of Flowers."

"The service arrived at the jewelry establishment of Greenleaf & Crosby Co., to which the committee appointed by Gov. A. W. Gilchrist gave the honor of designing and furnishing the service.

"The punch bowl, which is of course the main piece of the set, represents the acme of the silversmiths' art. The front of the bowl is embellished with a scene of Ponce de Leon's landing on the Florida shores and underneath is a likeness of the discoverer of Florida. the reverse side of the bowl is an engraving of two Seminole Indians in a dugout, with a tropical background, while underneath appears the great seal of the state of Florida. The handles of the bowl are formed in the shape of pelicans, while the center, front, and reverse sides are decorated with a spread eagle. The piece is also handsomely decorated with oranges and blossoms, while the supports are in the shape of alligators. On the front and reverse is the name of Flo ida in large, raised letters. The whole is based by a heavy plateau, which is also handsomely decorated.

"Other exquisite pieces of the service are two candlelabras, which have the design of the palmetto tree in which are perched four cranes. On the large center piece is engraved the inscription, "Presented to U. S. S. Florida by the People of Florida."

The whole service consists of the following pieces, each of which bears the seal of the state in bas relief:

"One punch bowl, one punch bowl plateau, one punch ladle, twenty-four punch cups, one centerpiece, two candlelabra with seven electric lights and fittings, one waiter, one pitcher, one pitcher tray, two goblets, one fish dish, one meat dish, one entree dish, one sauce boat, one sauce tray, one coffee urn, one sugar bowl, one cream pitcher, one coffee set tray, one fruit dish, one cigar box.

CALIFORNIA'S ENVY OVERRIDES JUDGMENT

Already the press of Los Angeles is printing scare headlines about the Orange Crop of Florida Frozen, and the Los Angeles Express referred to it editorially. The cold snap of Monday will give the California press another spasm, and within a week the papers of the 13th will be coming into this section with harrowing tales of suffering from the cold in Florida, and that the citrus industry is ruined again—they have it ruined four or five times each season.

Now for the facts in the case. The coldest weather in the orange belt of Florida for the season of 1911 was on Monday, Nov. 13, when the thermometer registered as low as 55 degrees in some places and others at 60.

At Los Angeles the average minimum weather for the whole month of October was 55 5 degrees.

Although the weather was colder every day in the month in the orange belt of Southern California than the coldest day of the season in Florida, the papers never lose an opportunity to knock Florida.

It is about time to retaliate. It would be a good lesson to California for the press to print the minimum weather records of California day by day for every month of the year, and how that is almost a necessity to have a fire some hour during each day in the year, with the exception of a few when the thermometer there goes above 100 —even to 110 degrees.—Ex.

ROAD RALLY BIG SUCCESS

The East Coast Automobile Tour Brought Many to Fort Pierce

BIG BARBECUE DINNER

Mass Meeting Provided Flow of Good Roads Logic—Smoker in Evening Entertaining and Instructive

Wednesday was a Gala Day in Fort Pierce, and one long to be remembered by everyone, visitors or citizens, for one of the largest Good Road Rallies ever held in Florida occurred here, and was attended by delegations from Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Daytona, New Smyrna, Titusville, Cocoa, Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, with practically every settlement or town in St. Lucie county furnishing its full quota.

Fort Pierce presented a Gala appearance, for every building, with but few exceptions, were decorated in bunting and flags, as was also the lot at the corner of Orange avenue and Pine street, where the big barbecue was served.

Preparations had been carried on for several days, the various committees working to make a complete success of the event, which they succeeded in doing in no small degree.

The various delegations began arriving shortly after ten o'clock, automobiles making their appearance from both directions, while several came in on the train, and practically all were in Fort Pierce when John Parker, in charge of the barbecue dinner, announced that all was in readiness, and a large crowd lined the tables to partake of the barbecued beef, pork and mutton; salads, bread and pies, which had been prepared by the ladies of Fort Pierce.

A severe disappointment to the people of Fort Pierce was contained in a letter from Claude Nolan, of Jacksonville, which reached this city Wednesday morning announcing that Mr. Logan W. Page, director of roads for the national department of agriculture, and President Elliott, of the Touring Club of America, had found it impossible to attend, and that as a result the Jacksonville delegation had been cut down from twenty to four cars.

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EVERYBODY'S FRIEND NEXT FRIDAY EVENING

An evening of unalloyed pleasure is in store for the Fort Pierce theatre goers on Friday, December 15th at the Improvement Club hall, when the popular comedy "Everybody's Friend" will be presented by one of the best casts ever assembled before a Fort Pierce audience. The play is given under the direction of Mrs E. E. Rollins which assures its success. Among the other characters will be: Miss Johns, Miss Smith, Arthur Brown and W. E. Tylander. The comedy role will be portrayed by C. H. B. Floyd. Mr. Floyd is a new acquisition in Fort Pierce theatricals and those who attend the play will have treat in store for them. He presents the character of Major DeBoots in a manner that would be the envy of the best of professionals

Don't forget the date, Friday, December 15th.

FLORIDA VEGETABLES ALL THE YEAR ROUND

The following list of vegetable crops that can be successfully raised in Southern Florida was compiled by the Florida Grower:

January: Beans, beets, brussels sprouts, cabbage plants and seed, carrots, cauliflower seed, collards, eggplant seed, Irish potatoes, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, radishes, rape, Spanish onion seed, spinach, tomato seed, turnips.

February: Adams early corn, beans, beets, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cantaloupes, carrots, cucumbers, eggplant seed, Irish potatoes, kale, lettuce, okra, onions, pepper seed, spinach, squash, Windsor beans.

March: Beans, beets, brussels sprouts cantaloupes, cauliflower, cowpeas, cucumbers, early corn, eggplant, Irish potatoes, lettuce, mustard, okra, onions peppers, pumpkin, radishes, squash, sugar corn, tomatoes, watermelons.

April: Beans, collards, cowpeas, cucumbers, eggplant, kohlrabi, okra, onion plants, peppers, pumpkin, radishes, squash, sugar corn, sweet potatoes, tomatoes.

May: Beans, butter beans, cowpeas, eggplant, okra, peppers, pumpkin, squash, sugar corn, sweet potatoes, tomatoes.

June: Butter beans, cabbage seed, celery seed, cowpeas, eggplant seed, peppers, squash, sweet potatoes, tomatoe plants and seed, watermelons.

July: Cabbage seed, cantaloupes, celery seed, cowpeas, eggplants and seed, peppers, pumpkin, squash, sweet potatoes, tomato plants and seed, and watermelons.

August: Beans (snap), cabbage, cantaloupes, carrots, cauliflower seed, collards, cowpeas, cucumbers, eggplant, English peas, Irish potatoes, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, onions, peppers, pumpkin, radishes, rape, rutabagas, spinach, squash, Swiss chard, tomatoes, turnips, Windsor beans.

September: Beets, brussels sprouts, cabbage plants and seed, carrots, collards, cowpeas, cucumbers, English peas, Irish potatoes, kale, lettuce, mustard, onion sets, radishes, rape, rutabagas, spinach, squash, Swiss chard, turnips.

October: Beets, Bermuda onion seed, brussels sprouts, cabbage plants and seed, carrots, collards, kale, lettuce plants and seed, mustard, onion sets, radishes, rape, rutabagas, spinach, Swiss chard, turnips.

November: Beets, brussels sprouts, cabbage plants and seed, carrots, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, onion sets, radishes, rape, rutabagas, spinach, Swiss chard, turnips.

December: Cabbage plants and seed, collards, lettuce plants and seed, mustard, onion sets and plants, radishes, rape, Spanish onion seed, Swiss chard.

THE FLORIDA GROWER ADVISES TO DRESS UP

The following from the Florida Grower is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you Bob, and is applicable to many towns. Read it, and then go to work:

It is discouraging to a stranger who has heard the glories and beauties of Florida sung through the columns of the press; who has seen the charming pictures in the magazines and the folders of the railway and hotel guides; who has heard the "Arabian Knights" stories in the prospectus of the land companies (though he swallows the latter with the proverbial grain of salt), to come down through Florida and see miserable, squalid, unkept places along the road. It makes the Floridian, who knows his Florida, and knows the beauties and grandeur of his state, hang his head in shame, and hunt the farthest corner of the smoker. He has bragged on Florida, extolled her beauties, her climate, her people—and this is Florida. He knows that among her lakes, along her rivers and bays, beside the sounding billows of the ocean that lave her snow-white beaches, there are scenes of beauty and sublimity that are unrivalled anywhere in the world. But does the stranger know it? What he sees from the car window he sees—and what he sees is Florida.

Nor is this slovan condition confined entirely to the path of the steel railway. Pass through our hamlets and villages. Weather-beaten, unpainted houses; untidy grass and weed-grown yards; back yards cluttered with tomato cans and trash; a window gone here and there; the gate hanging on one decrept hinge; the fence with a picket off, you know the place, you've seen it; maybe it's your own town. Ain't you ashamed of it? You ought to be.

No use talking "hard times can't afford to make any improvements." Can't you? Well suppose you try and hunt a few rusty nails and hammer and mend that fence. Put on a leather hinge, if you can't put an iron one—the sole of any old shoe will do. Save a few pennies from that box of "cartridges" you were going to buy and get a pane of glass; the storekeeper will give you enough putty and lend you a knife to put it on. Borrow a rake or make one with some nails and two pieces of wood, and rake that yard—grub out the weeds. Get some lime and a brush and whitewash that

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DO GOOD ROADS PAY? SOME FINE EXAMPLES

"Do good roads pay?" asks the Charlotte Observer. "Before good roads were built in Mecklenburg county land within eight miles of Charlotte could be bought for $8 the acre. The same land is now worth $50 to $100 the acre.

"Jackson county, Alabama, built 125 miles of good roads in two years at a cost of $250,000. In 1890 the average value of the land reached by these roads was $4 80 the acre. Now ready purchasers would be glad to take them at from $15 to $25 the acre.

"In Hall county, Georgia, a farm containing 65 acres was sold for $1,800. A macadam road was built through this farm and the owner was forthwith offered $4,500 for it.

"In Hamblin county, Tennessee, a farm near Morristown was sold for $6,000 before good roads were built in that county. Since the good roads were built it has been sold for $15,000.

"In North Carolina a farm at Apex was sold for $700 before a gravel road was built. After the road was built it was sold for $4,500.

"A good roads enthusiast in Pennsylvania bought one thousand inches of advertising in a local paper to tell his neighbors why they should have good roads. As a result the township has become one of the most notable in the state in the matter of road improvement."

These very interesting notes, the Observer says, are taken from the Southern Good Roads Magazine.

THE ROMANCE OF FLORIDA

A Boston Newspaper Reviews Florida from Earliest History

THE DEVELOPMENT ERA

For Less than Five Years Florida Has Attracted the Former Western Immigration—Great Progress

"Romance has played a leading part in every step of Florida's development from the settlement of St. Augustine, North America's oldest city, to the progressive era of the present," says the Christian Science Monitor. Romance walked daily with the first settlers, with the hardy pioneers who braved the Indian warriors, with the veterans of the civil war, who first fought and then struggled against oppression during the days of reconstruction and with the captains of industry who have builded a really great state upon a wilderness foundation. The history of no state has been more thoroughly interwoven with that which is romantic and old citizens revel in a wealth of stories that prove that 'truth is stranger than fiction.'

"Florida's first actual development began in the early '80s, opening with the entrance of a few small railroads, which have since grown into big systems that traverse every productive section of the state. The struggles of those who inaugurated these small roads were discouraging, especially from a financial point of view, and a majority found their way into the hands of receivers before their real development began. The big trunk lines were gradually attracted Florida-ward, though, and today several scores of passenger trains rumble into Jacksonville daily, particularly during the winter tourist season.

"It is estimated that 200,000 tourists visit the state each year and Florida's rapid growth during the last two decade has been greatly due to the settlement and investment of many of these tourist folk. They have worked hand in hand with the 'Florida crackers' in upbuilding the state and marks of their enterprise are found in even the remotest localities.

"Florida's principal attraction at present is the over-sea extension of the Florida East Coast railway, which is expected to be operating trains into Key West and from thence to Havana, Cuba, by the middle of February.

"The work of building the line of about 75 miles of water, underneath which is soft muck, is regarded as one of the engineering marvels of the time. It passes through a wondrously fertile section and is expected to prove a paying investment, as well as a monument to its builder, Henry M. Flagler, who has been a ceaseless worker for the commercial and industrial advancement of Florida.

"Havana is only 90 miles from Key West and it is the intention of Mr. Flagler to operate large railroad steamers between the United States and Cuba. If Mr. Flagler's purpose is carried out the trip can be made without leaving cars, and the expense of the transhipment of freight will be eliminated.

"For five years Florida has been taking the place of other western states in the eyes of immigrants from the crowded and less favored sections and the rush has been unprecedented since the reclamation of vast and fertile tracts of Everglades lands became a realized fact. Like the states of the West, though Florida has been exploited very much by 'land sharks,' many of whom have sold thousands of acres of practically worthless land to those who were not sufficiently wise to make thorough investigation before purchasing home and farm sites. These conditions, however, have been more than counteracted by the rich harvest yields that have come to those who have purchased farms and tilled the soil expertly, and at no time have the state's prospects been brighter. Furthermore, all settlers are being instructed as to the best manner of tilling Florida soil, and the results are surprising to them and to their friends 'back home.'

The principal agricultural industry is, of course, the cultivation of citrus fruits, for which the state is noted. Florida oranges, the growers claim are superior in quality to those from California, but for years they have been packed and shipped improperly. However, the day of antiquaded methods is passing. Three years ago prominent business men and growers, taking their cue from the progressive California organized the Florida Citrus Exchange, the obects of which are exactly those of the California exchange. A majority of the growers belong to this exchange, adhere strictly to its rules, and have their fruit prepared, shipped and marketed in a much more advantageous manner and the benefit is now greatly felt from a financial standpoint. In this connection the last legislature enacted a law against the shipment of green fruit, the enforcement of which will do much toward bettering the reputation of Florida fruits in all markets.

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