Charging combination in restraint of trade and extortion in the price of ice, W. J. Bryan, county solicitor, worked the case up against the local ice companies into many counts and started suit. The companies were acquitted on the first count, and there was a mistrial on the next; but there were twenty-odd more to come. After the second trial the ice companies agreed to the demands of the attorney and dissolved the combining agreements, lowered the price of ice, offered better service and equipped their wagons with scales. These suits gained wide publicity.

1907

January 10: Ralph Owen, driving an Oldsmobile, reached Jacksonville from New York, having made the run in 15 days. First through trip by automobile. Owen was accorded a great reception by automobilists here.

March 9: Dixieland Amusement Park along the riverfront of South Jacksonville opened. This was an attempt to afford a place of general amusement for the people of Jacksonville and vicinity, a place where entertainments, fairs, theatricals, athletics, and contests of every character could be held. When finally completed it was an attractive resort and was well supported for a time; but when the novelty wore off it began to go down and finally collapsed.

April 18: Severest hailstorm in the history of this section swept over the vicinity at 3:45 p.m., accompanied by a terrific wind. Much damage was caused in Dixieland Amusement Park. A tug boat was sunk and its captain drowned and another man was blown from a pile-driver and drowned. No serious damage resulted in the city, except a wholesale breakage of glass by hail. The hailstones in some instances were two inches in diameter and in sheltered places remained unmelted until the next day.