Flags Waved, the Band Played and 5,000 Celebrated Founding of Martin County in January 1926

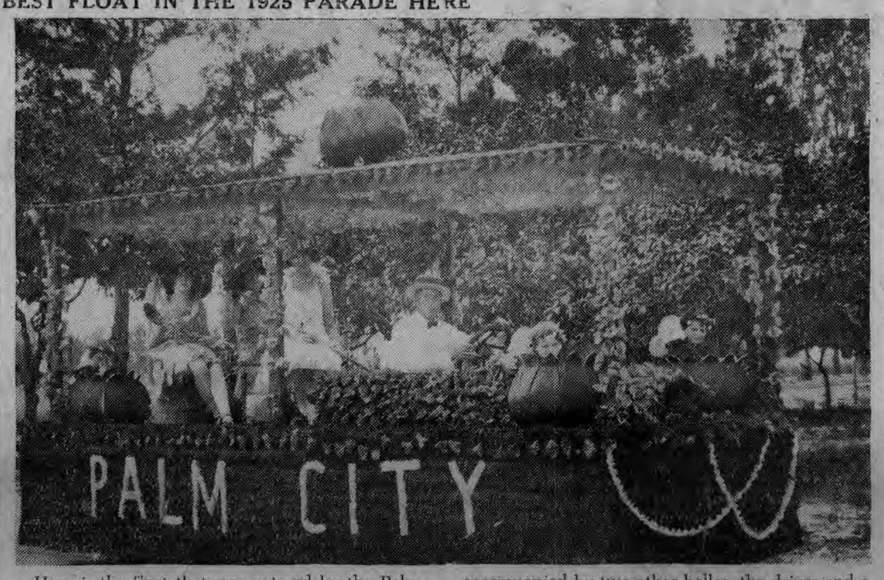
It was a gala day a quarter century ago when neighboring counties and State dignitaries joined in Martin County's first birthday festival. Gov. John W. Martin, for whom the county was named, can be seen standing in front of the speakers' stand as he congratulated the people and thanked them for memorializing his name. Most of the buildings seen in the picture have been victims of the storms of the past 25 years. The commodious, two-story St. Lucie River Yacht Club is behind the center clump of palms. It stood some 70 feet from the river's edge on piers. To the extreme right is a building of historical significance: it was the first ice plant erected in the city. Charles Blakeslee's fish house, on the dock, is also "gone with the wind." Aerial acrobatic acts were an added attraction of the day and a free barbecue was served on the tables at extreme left. The grove of native palms in the park today shows what Florida soil will produce when nature is left to its own beautification program. Stuart Civic Center is now located in this area.

COUNTY'S CREATION WAS HARD WORK

A SPECTACULAR FLOAT IN THE 1925 PARADE HERE

This was boomtime Olympia's float in the 1925 parade in Stuart when creation of the county was celebrated by a tremendous party. Theme of the float was the God Olympus and his horses passing through Golden Gate.

BEST FLOAT IN THE 1925 PARADE HERE



Here is the float that was entered by the Palm City Woman's Club in the 1925 county-founding celebration parade and won first prize of $200. "Miss Palm City" is the right-hand girl who was accompanied by two other belles, the driver and a child in each of the four tulips on the corners of the float.

Governor Supported '25 Committee's Battle to Get Legislature to Enact Bill

The creation of Martin County 25 years ago was not something that just happened accidentally. It was the result of a lot of scheming and conniving and hard work on the part of a dozen of this area's leading businessmen who felt that so long as Stuart was the tail on Palm Beach County's dog, all we ever would do would be to wag.

Palm Beach was the second largest county in Florida. Its communities were so widely scattered that they could not combat an organized majority of voters in the county seat, with the result that all county office holders invariably were residents of West Palm Beach. The only Stuart man ever to win county office in Palm Beach County was Joe A. Youngblood, an insurance agent who spent most of his time in West Palm Beach anyway, calling from door to door on prospects. Because of his wide acquaintance there he succeeded in being elected superintendent of schools.

Stuart had a small voice in the road programs adopted from time to time by the Palm Beach County Commissioners, chiefly as a result of the aggressive politics of Henry Newton Gaines who served 10 years as County Commissioner from the Stuart area, and was highly successful in trading votes on the board to get what he wanted for his constituents. But unfortunately he was frequently maneuvered into accepting a special road and bridge district job instead of a county-constructed job, with the result that most of the network of country highways around Stuart was built by the taxpayers right here and not by the county at large. (In fact, we are still paying.) Gaines did the best he could but he was outnumbered, and when early in 1925 the Palm Beach County board announced a $6,000,000 road bond issue, of which less than $250,000 was to be spent in the Stuart area, Gaines was frantic. But as a good politician, he played along with the four other County Commissioners and schemed up ways and means of getting a bigger piece of pie for his constituents at Stuart. It was hopeless, but Gaines played the game to the hilt.

Stuart business people refused to be happy about the whole thing. Their instant reaction was to demand county division —creation of a new county. They called a meeting in the office of Lyons, Atkins and Innes, real estate brokers, and laid plans for revolt. They constituted themselves a committee, designated Edwin A. Mennnger as chairman and John E. Taylor as treasurer. They promptly subscribed $14,000 to a campaign fund, and with cash in the bank the committee set out to get results. Among those who subscribed $1,000 each to the campaign fund were Lyons, Atkins and Innes, Taylor, Warner B. Tilton, R. R. Ricou and Sons Company, Dunscombe and Shuman, Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Babcock, Menninger, George H. Browning, Arthur J. Ogle, George W. Bingham and a West Palm Beach realty firm, Woods, Moore and Seward.

The first move was to hire an attorney. Recommended for the spot was P. A. Vans Agnew of Sebring, a kindly old gentleman who had a few suggestions to offer but who accomplished nothing at all for the $1,000 retainer the committee paid him. The second move was to corner M. S. McCracken, member of the Legislature for Palm Beach County, and try to persuade him to get behind the county-division movement and sponsor the Stuart bill in the Legislature. But McCracken was a sly young man who did not know anybody in Stuart and who owed his election to residents of West Palm Beach—the same old story. There were several persuasive sessions with McCracken which got exactly nowhere until in desperation he finally told the boys from Stuart: "I cannot support this move unless you convince me that the people of my county want it. You bring me petitions signed by 3,600 voters asking for county division and I will introduce your bill in the Legislature and carry it through." McCracken thought he was safe because there were less than 1,000 votes at Stuart, but he reckoned without the committeemen from Stuart.

The committee took McCracken at his word. They prepared the necessary petitions, and various members carried them from door to door not only in Stuart area, but in Kelsey City, Jupiter, Belle Glade, Canal Point, Pahokee, Delray and Boynton where folks were fully acquainted with existing inequalities in Palm Beach County and who sympathized with Stuart. The Stuart committee put petitions into the hands of Don R. Innes, Earl Giberson and other members who carried them to West Palm Beach and who on the enemy's doorsteps talked county division. It was a long, hard, grueling job, but in 4 weeks the committee had almost 4,000 names on the petitions. Boarding McCracken's train as it passed through Stuart on its way to the legislative session in Tallahassee, the Stuart committeemen handed him the petitions and told him in effect: "All right, you laid down the conditions; we have complied with them. Here are 4,000 voters in your county who favor county division. It is up to you to keep your word and introduce our bill."

McCracken had no intention of doing any such thing. The committee smelled a rat, so went to West Palm Beach and hired E. B. Donnell as its attorney to carry on the fight. The reason was that the firm of Blackwell, Donnell and McCracken was an outstanding law partnership in West Palm Beach, so the committee thought it was smart to hire one partner to watch another. Perhaps it was, but McCracken was so angry on learning that Donnell had accepted a $1,000 retainer fee to accomplish what McCracken had no intention of letting happen that he broke up the law partnership and notified Blackwell and Donnell they could get along without him.

But stil lthe Stuart Committee was not discouraged. They selected a delegation to go to Tallahassee and stay there till results were obtained. The delegation consisted of J. B. McDonald, Stuart's first Mayor, who had a very wide acquaintance over Florida and knew most of the legislators by their first

(Continued on Page 3-A)

Cabot May Have Found Florida in 1496

RIVER ON 1500 MAP REPORTED BY HISTORIAN

D. O. True Says Cosa Mentions St. Lucia Before Ponce de Leon

Evidence indicates that John Sebastian Cabot, the English navigator and explorer, beat Ponce de Leon of Spain by 16 or 17 years in the discovery of Florida, The News recently was informed by David O. True, corresponding secretary of the Historical Association of Southern Florida in Miami.

True reports that cosa's map of 1500 shows Cabot's discoveries in Florida in 1496-97 and mentions for the first known time the River St. Lucia. Ponce de Leon is credited with Florida's discovery in 1513 when he came seeking the Fountain of Youth, and historians state that the Spaniards gave the river here its name. It is called Rio Santa Cruz on some early maps and also River Luz which perhaps is an abbreviation of Santa Lucia.

Cabot's father is the Venetian navigator who was in the service of England when he found the North American continent in 1497. The Cabots are generally known in historical records as having settled the Newfoundland territory, but the fact is that a river north of here is named Sebastian and it may well have been named for the explorer who traveled through this section just four years after Columbus discovered points off the coast of Florida and won credit for the discovery of the great new land later named America.

True's information which predates the present-day history books is such as to arouse interest in a book on Ponce de Leon which he is now writing. In his letter to The News he adds: "The South Inlet is where Ponce de Leon buried the cross, from which the place was given the name La Cruz in 1513, and is so shown on the Freducci map of 1514-1515. I suppose that the use of 'Bleech Yard" and the unearthing of Spanish gold on Rocky Point are well-known parts of your local history. This data, considerably augmented, will be used in my book on Ponce de Leon.

True's contribution to this edition is the earliest authentic historical information of the St. Lucie region. A lifetime nistorian, True is named in a recently compiled list of U. S. specialists in various fields in which he is credited as an outstanding authority on pirates. Of True we inquired about the pirate Gilbert for whom Gilbert's Pass (as called on old maps) and now Gilbert's Bar is said to have derived its name. His answer to that query appears elsewhere in this issue.

Local Inlet That Was, Wasn't, Then Shifted Is Fascinating History Tale

A fascinating thread woven into the early history of this section is the variously told tale of the St. Lucie Inlet which was here, then there, then not at all and during another period at a still different, or third location. Thanks to the early typographers whose crude but surprisingly accurate maps have been resurrected from the archives of the native lands of the early explorers, it is known that the waves of the Atlantic angrily lashed through the protecting island of coral reef which protected the mainland from the raging sea. Their stories of the inlets are woven into the tragic efforts of the early Spaniards to subdue the early Indians and of the martyrdom of the Catholic missionaries to Christianize the red men.

The persistence of a growing band of historians, some of whom have spent months in foreign lands, transcribing diaries, reports and records, have revealed much absorbing reading for those interested in the sacrifices made for early America. Much work remains to be done to authenticate certain facts which conflict with other data which at one time was presumed to be correct. To the Florida Historical Society in St. Augustine, The News is grateful for research work concerning this section.

Carroll Dunscombe, whose hobby is early Florida History, initiated efforts to locate the site of the early Spanish fort or block house thought to have been located on Sewall's Point. From Alberta Johnson, librarian of the society, he received the following communication which is rich in the lore of this section:

I am sorry, but believe it impossible to definitely establish the site of the Spanish "fort" or blockhouse, due to the vagueness of records. Quoting from Lowery's "Spanish Settlements in the United States, Florida, 1567 to 1574," Volume 2:

"In 1566 the vessel in command of Gonzalo Gallego had found the Ays colony in a deplorable condition. Driven by starvation the settlers (soldiers) had divided up into small groups in search of food. The cacique of Ays had arisen against them in company with neighboring Indians. In their extremity they had moved 20 leagues farther down the lagoon (Indian River) to the neighborhood of Gilbert's Bar and St. Lucie River, where they found more abundant food, fish and mulberries and friendly Indians. During the four days previous to Gallego's arrival they had subsisted solely upon palmettoes, grasses and water, and they named the place Santa Lucia. Later Menendez had sent Madeano with relief to Santa Lucia and found the Indians had risen and killed 15 of the colonists (soldiers)."

The Spaniards named the settlement Santa Lucia, preserved in that of the St. Lucie River, called on some maps Rio Santa Cruz and River of Luz, probably an abbreviation of Santa Lucia. According to Roberts (1764) it was three leagues south of the River de Ays (Indian River). Lowery places the "Ays" camp in the vicinity of Malabar, and a Spanish league was approximately 2⅞ miles. But exactly where the first Ays camp was located, and how accurate their "20 leagues" was is uncertain. Chatelain places the St. Lucia Jesuit Mission, 1567, on the west side of the Indian River slightly north of the St. Lucie Inlet. The

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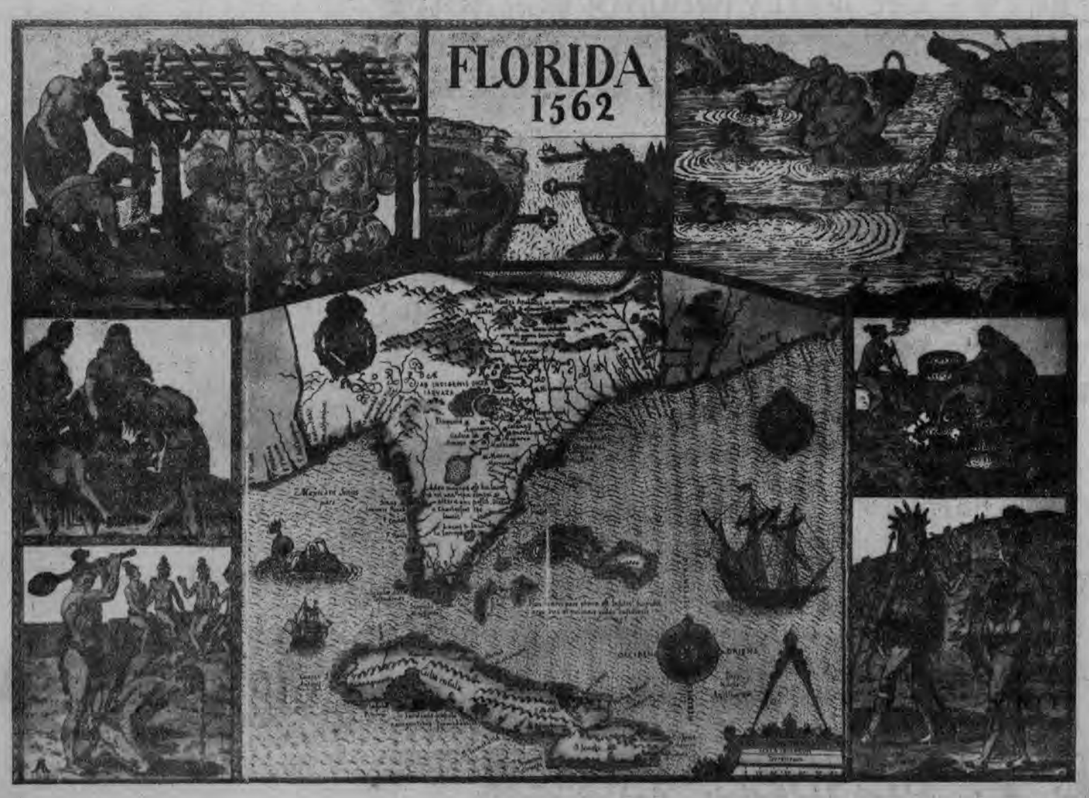
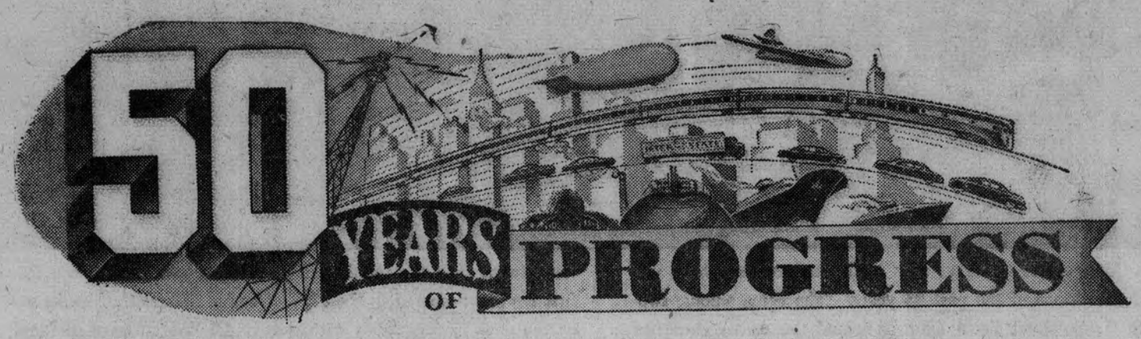


This is one of the earliest known maps of Florida. Besides the actual outline of the State as it was then (1562) believed to be formed, the map also shows a better drawing of Cuba and a somewhat distorted picture of the Bahamas. Florida's map clearly shows Lake Okeechobee and to the immediate right of it may be seen the North and South Forks of the St. Lucie River. Decoration of maps was fashionable 400 years ago as witness the seven map-surrounding Indian scenes and the extra figures on the map itself.



We Are Proud of a Half-Century Record As Taxpayers in South Florida

ALMOST 50 YEARS AGO WE BOUGHT TWO MILLION ACRES OF LAND AROUND LAKE OKEECHOBEE. WE REGARDED IT AS AN INVESTMENT BECAUSE WE FORESAW, IN SOME SMALL MEASURE, THE GIGANTIC POSSIBILITIES OF THE EVERGLADES REGION.

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR PART IN HELPING TO BRING ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOME OF THOSE POSSIBILITIES. OUR FAITH NEVER DIMMED IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITIES OF ALL KINDS—FLOOD, DROUGHT, HURRICANES, FINANCIAL DEPRESSION, AND THE FEVER OF LAND SPECULATION. WE SUFFERED SEVERELY WHEN EARLY DAY PROMOTIONS COLLAPSED. WE HAILED THE DAY WHEN FINGY CONNERS BUILT THE FIRST ROCK ROAD INTO THE EVERGLADES AND MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR PEOPLE TO GET THERE WITHOUT A BOAT, AND SEE THE MUCK LANDS FOR THEMSELVES.

TODAY WE ARE FADING OUT OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA PICTURE. OUR USEFULNESS AS ENTREPRENEURS AND LAND AGENTS IS OVER. BUT WE ARE JUSTLY PROUD OF OUR PART IN A LEADERSHIP THAT BROUGHT ABOUT THE COMPLETE AND SUBSTANTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAKE OKEECHOBEE REGION THAT EXISTS TODAY.

AND WE PAY TRIBUTE PARTICULARLY TO THE MEN WHO WORKED WITH US IN OPENING UP THE EVERGLADES. THE EMPIRE THEY BUILT LIVES AFTER THEM AND PAYS TO THEM MORE ELOQUENT TRIBUTE THAN CAN ANY MERE WORDS WE MIGHT UTTER HERE.

SOUTHERN STATES LAND & TIMBER COMPANY

GEORGE F. BENSEL, President

604 Harvey Building West Palm Beach, Florida

Dickinson's Shipwreck Diary Is Great American Classic

BOOK DESCRIBES 1696 HORRORS ON EAST COAST

An American classic—perhaps the greatest—was born in Martin County 250 years ago. Neither Hawthorne nor Poe or the "fictioneers" of modern days have written a more enduring book than "God's Protecting Providence, Man's Surest Help and Defence in Times of Greatest Difficulty . . ."

The book known more briefly as "Dickinson's Journal," was originally the diary of Jonathan Dickinson, a converted Quaker, formerly a planter in Jamaica, who sailed from Port Royal in August 1696 with his family and Robert Barrow, a leader of the Friends, bound for the new colony of Pennsylvania. Their barkentine, the **Reformation,** was wrecked on Jupiter Island some six miles south of the present St. Lucie Inlet, in a gale (we call them hurricanes now) on the night of Sept. 23, 1696.

The company of 25 Quakers, seamen and slaves were thrown ashore in a savage new world. From Dickinson we get an eyewitness view of the primitive Indians who once lived in Martin County: "About the eighth or ninth hour (after the wreck) came two Indian men, being naked except a small piece of platted work of straws . . . and fastened behind with a horsetail in likeness made of a sort of silk-grass, from the southward, running fiercely and foaming at the mouth, having no weapons except their knives, violently seized the first of our men they met . . . Their countenance was very furious and bloody. They had their hair tied in a roll behind from which stuck two bones, shaped one like a broad arrow, the other a spearhead . . ."

Other Indians soon came swarming up. The Quakers and English seamen, armed with muskets, had to make their choice as to whether they would fight overwhelming numbers or place their trust in God.

"We sat ourselves down, expecting cruelty and hard death, except it should please the Almighty God to work wonderfully for our deliverance. In this deep concernment, some of us were not left without hopes; blessed be the name of the Lord in Whom we trusted."

This is really the theme of the entire book: full faith in God though seized by savages and enduring unheard of privations. It would be "good reading" for all of America today to refresh itself with this diary which recounts instance after instance in which unswerving faith in God brought the shipwrecked company through dangers.

Antiquity of the name of the St. Lucie River, which doubtless has opened and closed time and again through the centuries, is shown by Dickinson's reference to an Indian town "Santa Lucea" at the mouth of a wide and broad river of the same name "about a degree to the northward." The Quakers, captive of the Indians, wanted to be taken northward to St. Augustine, whence they could hope to reach the Carolinas and eventually Pennsylvania, but their Indian captors took them instead to the south to a large Indian town at Jupiter, then called Hoe Bay. (It is believed that the Englishmen misinterpreted the Spanish Hovay for Jove or Jupiter, and that through gradual usage Hobe Sound derived from this same lingual error.)

Eventually, they got their captors to take them northward and came to St. Lucie Inlet, on the north side of which was the town of Santa Lucea. Old shell mounds near the House of Refuge probably mark this town, as shell mounds at Dubois Park in Jupiter mark the old Hoe Bay town.

Here the Indians tore their clothes from them, snatched the Dickinson infant—a 6-months-old child from its mother and threatened to tear it to pieces. They tore Mrs. Dickinson's clothes from her, but finally relented and gave her a pair of breeches. Remember that these were cultured people—Dickinson later became Chief Justice of Pennsylvania. They theratened to scalp them all and told how they had burned two Spanish friars at the stake.

"And being all stripped as naked as we were born," wrote Dickinson," and endeavoring to hide our nakedness, these cannibals took our great Bible and a book of Robert Barclay's and tearing out the leaves would give each of us a leaf to cover us . . . at which time they would deride and smite us, and instantly another would snatch away what the other gave us . . ."

As you sail out St. Lucie Inlet, comfortable and serene, visualize this hapless band of men, women and children, stripped naked, tauntingly given leaves of a Bible as their only covering and then losing that.

Through all of this they kept their human dignity, their nobility of spirit, their close touch with a God who never failed them.

No crisis was reached except "a heart turned." Naked, they were, plagued by unbelievable hordes of mosquitoes. The Indians threw fish guts to them for food. They walked in the shadow of the valley of death, endured a hurricane which wiped out flimsy huts in the Indian village, were passed from hand to hand and tribe to tribe up the coast, walking the sea beach while the Indians threatened them with death at every turn and plagued them by throwing rocks and conch shells at them.

And yet they kept their faith in God!

Although 250 years has passed, let us see these people as the vital human beings they were, and place ourselves in their over shoes. How many of us could have made it and still kept our unswerving faith in Deity? The Dickinson episode is a preview of the faith that was to make a great nation; 80 years before the American revolution, they showed the spirit of the America to come.

Before they got to St. Augustine, walking the sea beach, a late November "blue northwester" swept down on them. Here, Benjamin Allen, a kinsman of Dickinson's, froze to death. How the aged Robert Barrow ever made it was a miracle. From St. Augustine, the Friends were transported to the Carolinas in dugouts of the Yamassee Indians, and eventually reached Philadelphia.

Dickinson first published his book in 1700 in London and Philadelphia, and it has seen some 20 successive printings through the 2½ centuries, the most recent being by Yale Historical Publications in a vivid historical compilation by Charles MacLean Andrews and Evangeline Walker Andrews. This edition is available in The Stuart News book department.

Through the efforts of Edwin A. Menninger, publisher of The News, the former Jupiter State Park opposite Jupiter Island at Hobe Sound was renamed Jonathan Dickinson State Park.

And there's something more—

If Martin County ever awakens to the genuine possibilities of this story, this rich historical background of our county which most of us think of as being so "young," a Jonathan Dickinson Pageant could be a community event of nationwide significance. Just as Oberammergau puts on its Christ Play, we could have our story of the faith in God that these pre-Revolutionary Americans displayed on this earth of ours.

The citizens of today could play out the parts of human beings long gone but whose spirit shines as brightly today as then.

The Jonathan Dickinson Play would be well worth doing. It would remind us all, as we so need to be reminded, and as does the world, that "God's Protecting Providence" is still "Man's Surest Help and Defence in Times of Greatest Difficulty and Most Eminent Danger . . ."

MARTIN COUNTY SITES ARE SHOWN ON THIS OLD MAP OF 1617

In this old map showing HOBAY (now Hobe Sound) and marking the shipwreck landing of Jonathan Dickinson, north was at the left of the map as shown by marker just below LUCAYAE.

MORE ABOUT COUNTY'S BIRTH

(Continued from Page 1-A)

names; Warner B. Tilton who provided the delegation's steam, and Richard F. Ensey, a civil engineer about town who was not very busy in Stuart after Flagler Ave.'s paving job was completed and could easily spare the time

A summary of their eight-weeks effort would fill several pages. Suffice it to say that with no help from McCracken and no help from A. W. "Tony" Young who was then member of the Legislature from St. Lucie County and had plans up his sleeve to create Indian River County when nobody was looking, the Stuart committee finally persuaded Rep. Fred H. Davis of Leon County, subsequently a member of the Florida Supreme Court, to introduce the bill. The committee would still have achieved nothing except for the interference on a grand scale of Gov. John W. Martin who liked the idea of having a new county named in his honor. He sent word to Young that there would be two new counties or none at all. This was the clincher that carried through the Legislature the bill creating Martin County.

Its exact wording on the subject of Stuart "as the temporary county seat for five years" brought on a lot of lawsuits later, but it was the result of a compromise between the Stuart committee and Clement S. Ucker, representing the Seaboard Air Line Railway. "We have just bought 150,000 acres out here in the back country," said Ucker, "and we are going to be the largest taxpayers in this new county. At Indiantown in a few years we will build a city that will far outstrip Stuart; we want a chance to have it named the county seat if in five years it really is the municipality we hope to make it." Ucker's dream vanished when S. Davies Warfield died; that story is told elsewhere in this issue.

When the Legislature adjourned, the Stuart committee sat down and picked the officials of the new county, and the slate selected by the committee was appointed by Governor Martin. E. J. Smith, Jr., as county judge and A. O. Kanner as State's attorney, were newcomers from Jacksonville. Other officials named were J. R. Pomeroy, clerk; B. H. Babcock, sheriff; G. S. Moore, tax collector; H. L. Snyder, tax assessor; County Commissioners Carroll Dunscombe, Warner Tilton, Fred H. Powell, H. N. Gaines and Howard A. Eells.

After things got moving, the Stuart committee decided on a huge celebration. There were floats, a parade, barbecue, band concert, ball game, public speaking at which Governor Martin was key figure, and a lot of other events, ending up with winding at the Pelican Hotel.

JOIN IN THE FUN IN NEXT SATURDAY'S COUNTY-CITY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION HERE

Congratulations, Martin County on Your 25th Anniversary!
for
GOOD FOODS
at the
RIGHT PRICES
See
KINDREDS
SUPERETTE
Ph. 248-249 FREE DEL.

MORE ABOUT LOCAL INLET

(Continued from Page 1-A)

blockhouse and mission was probably the usual construction, palm logs and thatched roofs. One of Menedez' soldiers testified in Spain, 1573, of the efforts made to fortify the coast and "the Indians had slain many Spaniards in the district of Santa Lucia, where a company was garrisoned, and they were killed in such numbers that those who were left alive were forced to leave and abandon the fort, because the Indians were persecuting and killing them every day."

Comparing maps, we find that very few show the course of the St. Lucie River or its relation to the inlet. A number of them do not show the river, just the inlet, and this has changed many times since 1567. John Lee Williams, in his "History of Florida," says: "A few years ago the high waters of the St. Lucie River forced a passage through the coast at a place called the Gap—St. Lucie Island was formerly connected with Jupiter. In 1831 a mile in front of the north end of island was torn away by a storm." Jeffery's map, 1769, indicated a recent inroad of the sea similar to that mentioned by Williams. In 1840 the inlet was open, but in 1856-57 both the Jupiter and St. Lucie inlets were closed, according to survey.

As the Spanish fort or blockhouse was of such short duration, and the changes mainly in the inlets, only a limited amount of serious research has been done.

BROUGHT FIRST CARS

Robert McPherson, who came to Stuart in 1890, is reputed to have brought the first car to Stuart in about 1910. Col. O. O. Poppleton is credited with having the second car in the county.

LaSalle's ancient map of the Mississippi and "Coste de la Floride" is a far cry from the actualities of modern geographers. Based on data of 1683, this map was published at Paris in 1704.

28 Years of Service . . .

Stuart Auto Camp—Martin County's most modern and convenient—is also the Pioneer Auto Camp, being established by John Woodrum back in 1922 in the age of the real "Tin Can Tourists."

Under ownership and management of Blair & Baker since 1936, it has seen yearly improvements and additions both for our Cottage Guests and Trailer Visitors.

Some of Stuart's finest citizens and home-builders were first our guests.

At this time, we thank all of you for your patronage through the years and pledge ourselves to keep growing with Martin County.

STUART AUTO CAMP
A. S. BLAIR W. R. "BOB" BAKER
CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS 25th ANNIVERSARY

QUIT EXPLORING . . .
SEE
R. V. JOHNSON
REALTOR, POST OFFICE ARCADE, STUART
FOR
MARTIN COUNTY REAL ESTATE
HE HAS LISTED WHAT YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR

STUART FEED STORE

136 FLAGLER AVENUE **PHONE 210**

Representing

THE FEEDERS' TUXEDO FEEDS SILENT PARTNER

WILSON & TOOMER Fertilizer Company

Jacksonville, Florida

Manufacturers of

IDEAL FERTILIZERS

JOIN THEIR MARTIN COUNTY DEALERS IN CONGRATULATING MARTIN COUNTY ON ITS 25th ANNIVERSARY AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROGRESS OF THE GREAT STATE OF FLORIDA.

FOR 56 YEARS IDEAL FERTILIZERS HAVE BEEN USED WITH COMPLETE SATISFACTION BY CITIZENS OF FLORIDA AND MARTIN COUNTY — BEFORE AND AFTER ITS CREATION. THEY MAKE FERTILIZERS FOR YOUR EVERY POSSIBLE NEED.

See Our Martin County Dealers

STUART FEED STORE at Stuart
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O. D. HATAWAY at Indiantown
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The Early & Daniels Company

TUXEDO FEEDS

Congratulates Martin County On Its 25th Anniversary

●

DOG FOOD . . . BABY CHICKS
CHICKEN EQUIPMENT
VEGETABLE AND FLOWER SEEDS
GARDEN SUPPLIES . . . INSECTICIDES

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SEE OUR STUART DEALER

STUART FEED STORE

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THE FEEDERS' TUXEDO FEEDS SILENT PARTNER

"We Have the Stuff to Make Things Grow in a Growing County"

CONGRATULATIONS, MARTIN COUNTY

1950 Hotpoint RANGE

Model RB-39

By the Makers of America's Leading Electric Ranges

- DEEPWELL COOKER
- CALROD® UNITS
- HI-SPEED BROILER
- 1-PIECE STEEL BODY
- PORCELAIN FINISH

Now Every Family Can Enjoy the Big Advantages of Electric Cooking!

You'll never find a bigger, better buy than this one!

We offer you a genuine 1950 Hotpoint Electric Range at a market-shattering price—payable on the easiest terms in town! All the joys of cooking electrically can be yours, yet your budget will hardly notice the difference!

Like Hotpoint's famous Pushbutton Ranges, this low-cost Model RB-39 is built to the industry's highest standards of quality. Come in and judge its big advantages for yourself!

LOOK TO Hotpoint FOR THE FINEST FIRST!

Hall's Electric Service

ESTABLISHED 1931

Joins in Welcoming Governor John W. Martin in Martin County's greatest Home-Coming next Saturday.

•

For 19 years of the 25 that Martin County has been in existence, we have occupied the same location in the Post Office Arcade – growing with the years.

Confidence in Martin County? *It took confidence* when we opened our small store in the center of the Arcade back at the very depths of the Depression. Remember? There were only four other stores occupied in the Arcade building then. But that faith has been more than repaid by you, our friends and customers, whose patronage has helped us to expand. We now occupy three store spaces – and expect to keep right on growing with Martin County.

We specialize in a full line of kitchen appliances, cabinets and sinks. Hall's maintains a complete electrical service department equipped to handle commercial and domestic refrigeration, with well-trained and competent service men. We carry a beautiful line of lighting fixtures and have recently added a Housewares Department.

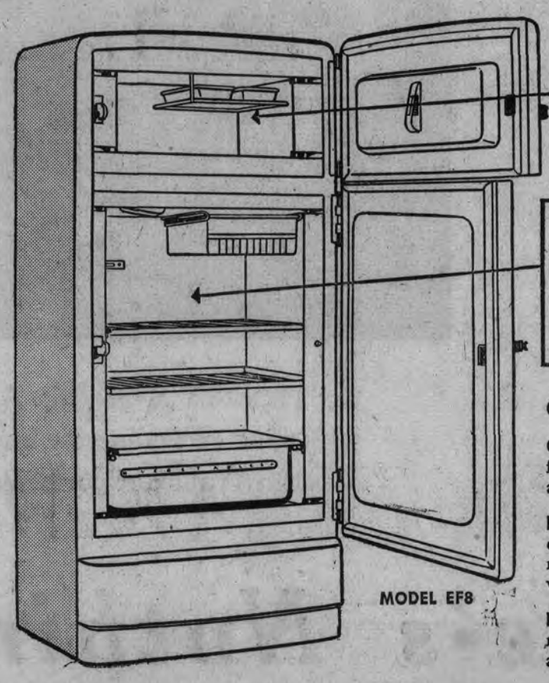
WE HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE LARGEST ELECTRICAL CONTRACTS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN MARTIN COUNTY!

At this time we wish to thank all of you who are our loyal customers and friends.

—Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hall

COSTS NO MORE THAN ORDINARY REFRIGERATION

New 1950 Hotpoint COMBINATION FREEZER & REFRIGERATOR



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MODEL EF8

Compare These Advantages!

Complete Refrigeration Service from *two* engineering marvels in a single kitchen unit!

New Low Price makes this superb combination as inexpensive as many single-door refrigerators which have fewer features.

Famous Thriftmaster Unit offers maximum refrigeration performance at low operating cost.

For Quicker, Easier, Cleaner, Safer Dishwashing

1950 Hotpoint Automatic Electric DISHWASHER-SINK

With New WONDERFLO Faucet

WATER, WATER, EVERY WAY! One handle controls everything—water temperature from hot to cold—water force from off to a trickle to a torrent!

and

"READY-PLUMBED" To Save You Money!

Everybody's Pointing to Hotpoint

Here's Hotpoint's streamlined new Dishwasher-Sink Combination for 1950—the greatest time- and work-saving appliance ever invented for your kitchen! The dishwasher alone saves you seven hours a week and banishes dishpan drudgery forever! Just load it, touch the dial and go—that's Hotpoint's automatic "Touch and Go" Dishwashing! The "Ready-Plumbed" model shown above saves you money on installation costs, for it requires no more plumbing connections than any ordinary sink.

LOOK TO HOTPOINT FOR THE FINEST FIRST

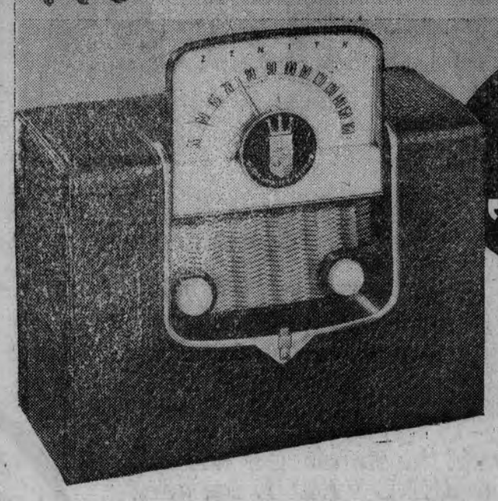
How to get your dream kitchen-and save

It's a Youngstown Kitchen you've been wanting! Come in and let us show you how easy it is to have. You take a Youngstown cabinet sink, add matching base and wall cabinets and accessories—LO! Your dream kitchen. Let us help you plan it now!

Youngstown Kitchens BY MULLINS

SEE THEM AT HALL'S ELECTRIC SERVICE

New! SUPER POWER



THE ZENITH "UNIVERSAL"

Plays Where Ordinary Portables Won't

Here's the perfect portable! So sensitive that it brings in your favorite programs with amazing volume and clarity. So powerful it plays where ordinary portables won't. The Zenith "Universal" features an extra-powerful 3-way circuit . . . the famous "Tip-Top" Dial . . . and a built-in Wavemagnet* Antenna. Beautiful in its luggage-style case of Black or Brown. See . . . hear the Zenith "Universal" at our store today! *Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

SMALL DOWN PAYMENT

•

CONVENIENT TERMS

See These Zenith Portables, Too.

Zenith "Trans-Oceanic" World's Most Powerful Portable Radio. $99.95.

Zenith "Tip-Top" Holiday Power-packed beauty of Portable Radios. $39.95.

Zenith "Zenette" America's mightiest Personal Portable. $39.95.

TODAY! SEE . . . HEAR . . . BUY! Zenith—The World's Greatest Portable Radios

HALL'S ELECTRIC SERVICE

THE BRIGHT SPOT IN THE POST OFFICE ARCADE

STUART, FLORIDA PHONE 13

RUHNKE PHOTO

STANLEY'S Osceola Avenue entrance . . . The Store of the Golden Fifties, where the Styling of Tomorrow appears in Stuart first. In these display windows appear The Newest in Tropical Sports Wear.

There's Nothing Old-Fashioned About

STANLEY'S

Our Policy in The Past

During the short time in which STANLEY'S has been serving the people of Martin County, we have followed the policy of only selling modernly styled, quality wearing apparel for men, women and children at Fair Prices.

No matter what the name, if the standard is not up to STANLEY'S measure of a REAL VALUE for our Customers, we will not handle the line.

If it has STANLEY'S mark of approval, it is good merchandise.

When STANLEY'S holds a sale—you may be sure that it is a sale WITH REAL VALUES far below regular prices.

THE STORE OF

1950

THE Golden Fifties

Our Policy of The Future

We know of one sure way to make a business grow—the way STANLEY'S is growing—and that is to continue to meet the public's demand for "Right-Styled," quality wearing apparel at Fair Prices.

So our Policy of the Future is to continue to make friends by the best possible merchandise, priced right. We will from time to time take on new lines, testing them with the people of Martin County.

You will be the judge as to whether Stanley's will retain these lines—and the sole judge. No matter what their advertising says, the real test of national brands is with the people of Martin County.

Congratulations, Martin County, On This 25th Anniversary

Stanley's joins with you in honoring the Florida Governor for whom this County was named back in 1925. In our short business life here since we completed this business building in 1948, we have experienced having our store blown out by the 1949 hurricane—and, like the rest of you who similarly suffered, we took it on the chin—and built back and restocked better than ever. We have confidence in Martin County. Our home is here, we are raising our family here—and we hope that each and every one of you will make a point to drop in, shake hands and get acquainted—because we want to know every single citizen of Martin County. Thanks for past patronage—and inviting you all to visit

In Honor of This Silver Anniversary

STANLEY'S WILL GIVE YOU ONE SILVER DOLLAR FOR YOUR OLD SHOES

Yes, come in wearing the oldest pair of shoes you own—any kind—buy a new pair of leather shoes at Stanley's at our regular prices—and we'll give you a Silver Dollar for your old pair of shoes. Men and ladies, take advantage of this big saving!

MARTIN COUNTY'S MOST MODERN DEPT. STORE

STANLEY KANNER AND STAFF

REMEMBER-JUST ACROSS FROM THE POST OFFICE ARCADE

How Did Stuart Get Its Name? Beliefs Conflict

There seems to exist an indissoluble conflict of opinions among this area's pioneers as to how the City of Stuart got its name. Both sides agree it was named after a man named Stuart, but which "Stuart" starts the argument. *Consequently here is presented both sides of the case so you can take your choice:*

H. H. STUART CAME TO AREA TO HUNT GATOR

A brief history of Homer H. "Jack" Stuart might be of some interest to those who are curious to know what sort of a person this city is named after.

After his graduation from Dartmouth College as a lawyer he failed to find the interest in that profession as his father fondly thought and hoped he would, and instead he came to Florida to hunt alligators and bought the land that was later platted as Gosling and then, without the lot owners' knowledge and consent, replatted as Riverside Park.

He brought with him George Gosling who spoke no English and had just graduated from Heidelberg University with the customary sabre cuts that distinguish such graduates.

At that time the present Inlet was not open and the St. Lucie River was more in the nature of a brackish lake that was filled with grass and in which manatees and alligators found a pleasant and comfortable place of existence. Stuart and Gosling built a house near the present location of the late John Faria's house on tall supports. They kept a large gopher snake to take charge of the field rats, but their nights were disturbed by gators that crossed over between the North Fork and the main river and staged terrific battles when the bull gators happened to meet. When their powerful tails hit the house supports it was always a question of whether the underpinning would give way.

Gator hunters used to work in pairs. One had a short stick with a crook in the end. The gator would be found asleep on the bottom of a white sandpond, approached from the front and the stick hooked under his chin. Then he was gently raised to the surface and the partner smashed his head with an ax. The only thing that was saved were the teeth and oil. The teeth were sold to members of the Elks organization and the oil was tried out and used for its claimed medicinal value.

Stuart was originally platted as Potsdam by Henry Stypmann. But when the railroad came through and crossed the river the brakeman would divide up the syllables and call out "Pots," "Dampots," "Pots," "Dampots" and that greatly disturbed the residents so they demanded the name be changed.

Jack Stuart had a brother who was an authority on railroads and a close friend of the FEC General Manager Parrott. When the matter came before them he suggested the name be changed to Stuart and as the name was acceptable it was adopted.

Life in Florida in those days was no paradise. It lacked any conveniences, and sandflies and mosquitoes abounded, so Stuart soon tired of his occupation as a gator hunter and turned his land over to Gosling who developed it with pineapples and citrus fruits.

Stuart returned north and later was elected Mayor of Beacon, N. Y. and where he served a number of terms and died in 1920. His memory of his days on the St. Lucie River were not such that he ever had any desire to return to the scene of his gator-hunting days.

FEC Worker's Name Adopted For Potsdam

It is generally supposed that Stuart was named after H. H. Stuart, but such is not the case. When the railway was built, the building of the bridge across the St. Lucie river took quite a time. As transportation was not sufficient to bring the material to the place as needed, the contractors established a telegraph line from their headquarters at Jensen to the bridge and put the office in charge of L. C. Stuart as operator. After the railroad was finished they maintained the name of Stuart, and what now is known as Gosling was originally known as Stuart which had a store and the first fish house south of Fort Pierce which was established by J. T. Cleveland and James Ogletree. The south side of the St. Lucie River had no station. The outlet was the north side station, while what is now known as Stuart was at that time called Potsdam.

Some time after the opening of the railway the people of the south side petitioned the railway people to move the Stuart station to the south side of the river as the bulk of the population was located there, and accordingly the two small houses that later were moved to Salerno were moved from the north side to where the Stuart railway station is now located. Since that time Potsdam has been known as Stuart.

However, the people of the north side did not submit to the removal of the station and the railway people were compelled to maintain a station on the north side as well which was known for many years as Wa-Wa, the Indian name for gray goose. In later years that was changed to Gosling.

OLD PADDLEWHEELER THAT FORMERLY PLYED THE WATERWAY

This is the Steamer St. Lucie, old two-stacker paddlewheeler that used to run from Titusville to Jupiter carrying freight, passengers, mail. She was one of three owned by the Indian River Stemship Company. In this picture she is pushing a barge loaded with fresh water tanks to supply fresh water for the settlers in the Florida Keys.

TELEGRAPHER DISPUTES HOW CITY GOT NAME

By W. F. STEEVER

Curt Schroeder says that Stuart was named for the first telegraph operator in that section.

I tried to convince Schroeder that he was wrong, and that the town should be named "Steever." I still think I am right because I did not leave Stuart until Feb. 1, 1895, and to my knowledge there was no telegraph office or operator between Stuart and Jupiter. We had spent four previous winters in Florida, three of them in the Palm Beaches, which we like best of any other Florida cities, and so we expected to locate permanently in Florida soon. I even offered to locate in Stuart if he would agree to change the name of the town to Steever instead of Stuart.

However, he insisted that Jack Stuart had his office somewhere south of the present town site, presumably near Salerno, and felt that they could not comply with my request as to changing the name of the town.

I do know, however, that I was the first operator on the ground and the office was located north of the river near the present location of an oil warehouse and dock. What is now Stuart was then called Potsdam and there were only three buildings in sight on the whole south side of the river. One was a store run by Kitching and Fink, one the home of "Uncle" Ernest Stypmann and the other one the house of his brother, Herman (I think), both very German.

My office was a building the size of a flat car, that had been used by the superintendent of the track gang, out at the front. When the rails had been laid another 5 or 10 miles, the office would be loaded on the flat car and again moved to the "end of the line," and worked its way thus all the way from Fort Pierce to Stuart. There it stopped as it was not needed south of the river, the rails already having been laid from Jupiter to Potsdam, so that as soon as the bridge was completed they started to run the trains through to West Palm Beach.

Stanley Kitching, head of the Inland Waterway Commission, is another pioneer of Stuart. It was his uncle who helped operate the store I mentioned above and another uncle, Walter, operated the trade-boat Merchant on the Indian River for a number of years.

About that time pineapple raising was the principal industry. There were 30 to 40 acres planted along the St. Lucie River then, and the hard "freeze" of January '95 damaged them but did not kill them all. That cold spell lasted three days and I saw ice a half-inch thick on the swamp near my office. Also at that time thousands of fish, mostly Cavalla Jacks, were killed. They were numbed by the cold water and floated ashore by the thousands where they were gathered up by the farmers and used for fertilizer.

I also recall coming north on the train a few days later. Through the orange section, Rockledge to Titusville, the ground was covered with oranges, the result of the same freeze.

"THE PINK PAPER" NOW THE PALM BEACH SUN

Most oldtimers around here will tell you about getting the news in the early days from the Pink Paper. That refers to the Indian River News which was first published in Melbourne in 1887. It was really considered a South Florida paper as compared to the Titusville Sun which had first supplied the settlers in this area with the news of the day for several years.

The Palm Beach Sun now has the distinction of being South Florida's FIRST newspaper for it IS the original Indian River News. The plant was moved in 1891 to Juno, the county seat of Dade County, and the name changed to the Tropical Sun. It was published there until 1896, the building being located about halfway between the court house and the dock of the Celestial Railroad. It was in charge of the late Bobo Dean and Guy I. Metcalf. The Sun plant, 2½ stories high, housed the Post Office and Metcalf was also postmaster. The Metcalf family and newspaper employes occupied the upstairs of the building. Since 1934 the Sun has been largely owned by the present publisher, A. S. Bussey who shortened the name to Palm Beach Sun.

JOIN IN THE FUN IN NEXT SATURDAY'S CELEBRATION HERE

Col. O. O. Poppleton Was Here 31 Years, Became Bee Expert

Col. Oscar Ogden Poppleton, 1843-1917, has been called "one of nature's noblemen." Poppleton Creek here bears his name. In 1886, at the termination of Government service, he came with his wife and three children to the east coast of Florida and lived at Hawk's Park for a few years before coming to Stuart. This was his home until 1917 until ill health caused him to go to the National Soldiers' Home in Hot Springs, Ark., where he died Oct. 4 at the age of 74. He left two daughters, Mrs. Pearl H. (Fred J.) Babcock of New Hampton, Iowa and Mrs. Grace A. Hatch of Shelton, Wash., and a half-brother, F. W. George of Aberdeen, S. D.

Colonel Poppleton was born at Green Springs, Ohio. At 18 (in 1861) he joined the Army as a private in Company B, 7th Iowa Infantry, from which he was discharged as a 1st lieutenant at the close of the Civil War. He then entered the service of the Government for two years during which he was engaged in gathering the remains of the Union soldiers in the different battlefields and reburying them in the national military cemeteries.

After coming to Florida he devoted his life to bee culture and was so successful that he was employed on a two-year contract in Cuba to take charge of an apiary large enough to market from 25 to 40 tons of honey a year. While there he gave the information he gathered from his studies of bees to the bee journals, until he became recognized as a world authority on bee culture. At the termination of his contract he refused to renew it for five years and returned to Stuart. Here he compiled his observations on the honey bee and published them in a "Manual of Bee Culture" which is to this day a standard authority on that subject.

Colonel Poppleton made a record in the Union Army as a brave soldier and stood high in the regards of his comrades in the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Florida, holding for years a position on the staff of the department commander of Florida. That gave him the rank and title of colonel.

KENTILE . . . ALL TYPES OF FLOORING . . .

Congratulations, Martin County

ON THIS 25th ANNIVERSARY

We feel that we have played an important part in helping to build a better Martin County . . . So many of your fine homes and new office buildings have enduring floor coverings furnished by us.

Griffin-Ecker, Inc.

FLOOR COVERINGS

900 SOUTH DIXIE PHONES - 799 or 1862 FORT PIERCE, FLA.

CONGRATULATIONS, MARTIN COUNTY ON YOUR 25th BIRTHDAY IN

. ALL TYPES OF ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING ESTIMATES WITHOUT CHARGE

THE NEW ERA

16 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN ELECTRICAL REPAIRS

CONSULT

C. A. HALL ELECTRIC

OLD PALM BEACH ROAD PHONE 347-J

ON YOUR

ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE In Which Quality Came First...

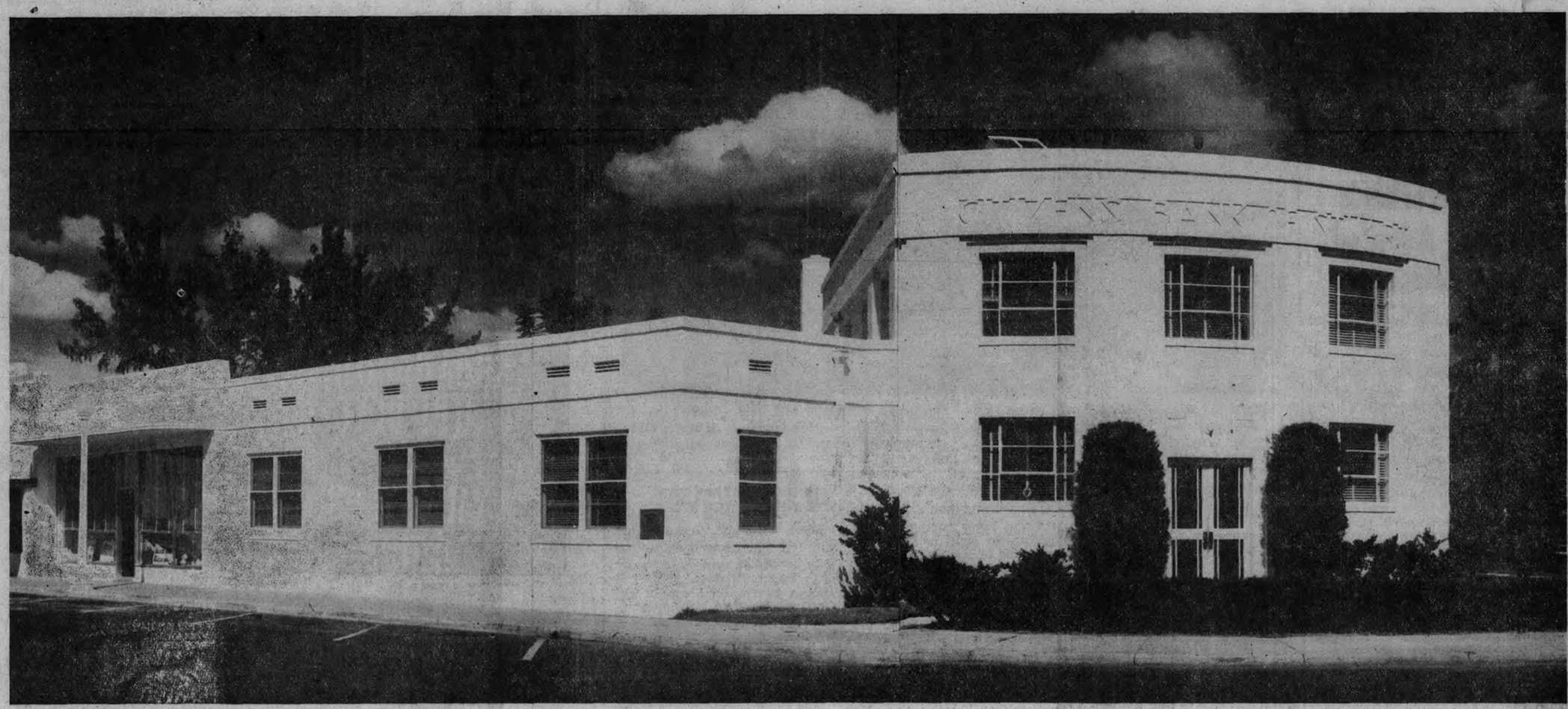
It is not always how long has a firm served you, but how well . . . In the 15 years in which Cromer's Market has had the pleasure of serving the fine people of Martin County, since the "Recovery Days" in 1935—we opened in September of that year—our Standards of Quality have never been lowered. We have served both long and well.

To our hundreds of customers in Stuart—and our resort areas of Jupiter Island, Sewall's Point, Port Sewall and Jensen Beach—as well as all other communities throughout Martin County, Cromer's extends thanks for your continued patronage through the years, and Congratulates Martin County on this 25th Anniversary.

W. N. CROMER

CROMER'S MARKET

WE DELIVER PHONE 395



Modern Home of The Citizens Bank of Stuart

DEPOSITS

Have Climbed Steadily
Every Year
Since The Bank Was Founded
On Feb. 13, 1933

1933
$56,328.93
1934
$140,708.78
1935
$263,892.05
1936
$325,110.35
1937
$440,260.70
1938
$445,848.73
1939
$494,898.45
1940
$637,858.47
1941
$715,850.07
1942
$934,638.48
1943
$1,326,718.99
1944
$1,585,893.45
1945
$1,937,694.42
1946
$2,847,682.63
1947
$3,164,244.38
1948
$3,206,184.17
1949
$3,495,877.37
1950
$3,668,560.78

Mural of Florida wildlife by Miss Joy Postle, Florida artist, decorates an interior wall of the Citizens Bank.

Seventeen Years of Service...

The Citizens Bank of Stuart joins in extending sincere congratulations to Martin County on this 25th Anniversary. We join in welcoming the County's Founder, Hon. John W. Martin, in next Saturday's countywide celebration at Stuart.

This firm opened in 1933, is proud of the part we have been able to play in our growing County. With full confidence in Martin County's future, we built the modern Citizens Bank building in 1938, and in June of 1948 expanded the building.

Your Bank knows Martin County's possibilities. We know of the great strides which have been made in Agriculture, Ranching and Resort Development.

We have full faith that this County of ours is just beginning to measure up to its marvelous opportunities.

SERVICES

The Growth of this Bank
Is Reflected in the
Measure in Which We
Provide Service to
Our Community.

★

Special Accounts
Regular Accounts
Savings Accounts
Escrow Accounts
Collections
Commercial Loans
Consumer Credit Loans
Personal Loans
Safety Deposit Boxes
Storage Vaults
Night Depository
FHA Title I and II Loans
Real Estate Loans
Farm Loans
Equipment Loans
Domestic and Foreign Exchange
Securities on Order
Recordak Filing
U. S. Savings Bonds
Travelers Checks
Stedman Home Library

★

WE INVITE YOU
TO MAKE USE OF OUR
COMPLETE
BANKING FACILITIES

★

This Bank deeply appreciates the confidence and support of its depositors and customers through the years — and we pledge ourselves to continue sound policies of conservative growth and service that we may merit your continued, appreciated patronage.

MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

CITIZENS BANK OF STUART

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION MEMBER

A SAFE PLACE TO BANK

Incorporation of Stuart Began May 7, 1914

FIRST 2 TRIES FAILED; PAST OFFICERS LISTED

City Commission Replaced Town Council Setup Aug. 5, 1925

Of the half a dozen municipal incorporations that were started in the area that's now Martin County, only the one of Stuart has lasted through the 36 years since it became a reality. This is its story.

Early in July 1913, when Stuart was a bustling little community of almost 400, a town meeting was held for the purpose of incorporating a town, but the residents weren't enthusiastic and the attendance was so poor that the meeting was canceled.

In January 1914, a second meeting failed because less than a dozen people had paid the poll tax which would establish them as qualified voters.

The leaders of the incorporation movement were determined, however, and through their efforts 78 people registered to vote at the third incorporation meeting. "Incorporation Night" was May 7, 1914, and it was then that 58 of the 78 registered voters met in the Christian Endeavor Hall and voted to incorporate.

J. B. McDonald was elected Mayor and J. R. Pomeroy, C. W. McPherson, C. E. Schroeder, George W. Parks and S. A. Matthews were elected aldermen.

The new town was confronted with the task of creating a municipality, with streets and alleys, police regulations, taxation, fire protection and peace and morals, all of which had to be set out by ordinances, duly enacted, published and approved.

While this operational procedure was being set up, the municipality was officially created when the State Legislature in the spring of 1915 enacted Chapter 7245, Special Acts of 1915, which embodied the town charter. By May 11, 1915, when the second town council was elected, Stuart's city government was beginning to branch out.

A. T. Hogarth was the second of Stuart's 15 Mayors and the second council was composed of the same men as the first with the exception of McPherson, who was replaced by J. A. Boggan, Jr.

Pomeroy resigned during 1916 and was replaced by F. J. Frazier who remained in office until April 1917. W. C. Simmons, Stuart A. Noble, Boggan and Schroeder were elected in 1916, but Boggan resigned a few months later and was replaced by Dr. F. B. Eurit.

Harry A. Dyer replaced Frazier in 1917, but resigned two months later to be replaced by W. F. Crews, who remained in office until Jan. 8, 1918.

For the first and only time in the history of Stuart, the vote for Mayor in 1918 resulted in a tie between Stanley Kitching and George W. Parks. Parks won in the runoff and served with C. E. Christensen, Noble, Eurit, Simmons, Schroeder.

Schroeder resigned in May 1918, and was replaced by W. J. Lewis, who remained in office until January 1919. Noble and Simmons resigned shortly thereafter and were replaced by R. L. Beville and A. T. Hogarth. In January 1919, Lewis was replaced by W. J. Sams who remained in office until December 1920.

Stanley Kitching was elected Mayor in January 1920 and served with Dyer, Leroy Ricou, John E. Taylor, Dr. Eurit and Sams. John N. Dunham replaced Dyer in December of that year. Kitching served as Mayor until December 1922 when E. J. Ricou was elected along with J. N. Dunham, R. L. Brewer, Taylor, J. E. Gregg and R. Q. Stewart.

In 1923, Ricou was again elected Mayor and served with Stewart, Hogarth, L. W. Barnes, J. A. Youngblood and L. B. Eurit. These men remained in office until January 1925 when Stanley Kitching again was sworn in as Mayor and George H. Browning and G. P. Bailey replaced Barnes and Youngblood.

The City Commission form of government which includes three commissioners, one of which is chosen Mayor, and a city manager came into use here in 1925. That spring the State Legislature enacted Chapter 11214, Acts of 1925, which offered Stuart voters a city charter and creation of the City of Stuart and repealed the special act creating the town. It was provided that before this repeal should be effective, and before the statute should become effective to create the City of Stuart, the act must first be ratified by the majority vote of resident freeholder electors owning land in and resident in the area defined by the act. Ratification came about at an election held here June 30, 1925.

The town council continued to govern the municipality until an election was held Aug. 4, 1925 at which time the first three commissioners were elected. They were Kitching, Taylor and C. Van Anglin. The next morning at 10 the first organization meeting of the commission was held with Taylor, high vote recipient in the election, being named as Mayor. The first city bond election was held the following Oct. 27 and another during 1926.

Kitching was replaced in 1926 by Theodore Dehon and Taylor was elected Mayor. C. E. Schroeder was elected Mayor the following year, replacing Van Anglin on the commission.

Harry Dyer replaced Taylor in 1928 and was elected Mayor by the commission. Two weeks later Dehon resigned and was replaced by Ralph Willets. Dyer served as Mayor-Commissioner until 1931 when Earl J. Ricou again was elected and served with Dehon and Schroeder.

T. T. Oughterson replaced Ricou in 1932 and Dehon was elected Mayor. H. H. Hipson was elected along with the other two in 1933 and these men remained in office until 1935, when Harry C. Beckman replaced Oughterson. Hipson was Mayor-Commissioner until 1937 when Beckman was elected along with Floyd H. Bain.

In 1933 the Legislature passed Chapter 16692 to create a second City of Stuart with the same territory and expressly stating that the old city should continue to be a body corporate. Thus this act is a continuation of the first city.

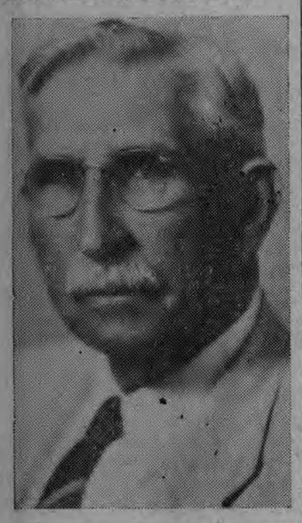
Bain resigned and was replaced by H. J. Greene. Dan H. Davis was elected in 1940, replacing Hipson. Hipson returned to the Commission in 1941 with Davis and Phil Pence.

Phil Pence was elected Mayor-Commissioner in 1943 when J. L. Coleman replaced Davis on the commission. In 1945 W. R. Baker replaced Hipson on the commission and Coleman was elected Mayor-Commissioner.

An act of the State Legislature in 1947 which was ratified that fall increased the number of commissioners from three to five. Baker was elected Mayor-Commissioner with Arle Stuart, Paul M. Hoenshel, Kenneth Stimmell and Coleman. Stuart was elected Mayor-Commissioner in 1948 with Henry P. Lyons, Otto J. Matousek, Coleman and Hoenshel.

In 1949 Drew W. King, Jr., was elected Mayor - Commissioner with Ernest Tyner, John W. Keller, Lyons and Matousek. As a result of a recall in January of this year Lyons was replaced by Herman Reitz, Jr., thus establishing the present City Commission.

PIONEER IN 3 STATES



J. B. McDONALD

Stuart's first Mayor was born during the Civil War in Arkansas where his father, County Judge Donald McDonald, homesteaded. As a crusading Methodist evangelist, he was sent into Indian territory before the turn of the century and became business manager of a church college development when Oklahoma was at the height of its boom. After the crash there he retired to Florida in 1912 joining former Oklahoma associates in the opening of Palm City Farms here. He was in the realty and insurance business here for 36 years. He died in 1948 at 87.

A PANORAMIC VIEW OF STUART'S BUSINESS SECTION BEFORE THE BOOM, LOOKING EAST, TAKEN FROM WEST SIDE OF RAILROAD

Before the boomtime building of the Victory Hotel the riverfront home of Stanley Kitching was viewed from Flagler as shown above. The two-story building to the north housed a drygoods store and later a poolroom and has since been razed. Shortly after this picture was taken Flagler was widened which entirely changed the picture of this main street. All buildings (except the Stuart Department Store then owned by Kitching) had to be moved back and several were torn down.

Facts Prove City, County Prospering

Nestled strategically around the mouth of the St. Lucie River and the terminus of the Cross-State Canal (Okeechobee Waterway) is Stuart, county seat of Martin County, one of Florida's newest and most prosperous political divisions.

Created out of Palm Beach County Aug. 5, 1925, Martin County ranked 32nd among the State's 67 counties for population gains between 1940 and 1950. From 5,111 in 1930 and 6,295 in 1940, it has risen to 7,665 in 1950. Within the confines of the City of Stuart the population figure stood at 1,924 in 1930; today it is 2,892 according to the 1950 census.

With 12-ft. elevation, Stuart has an average annual temperature of 73.7 degrees and an average rainfall of about 56 inches. This latter varies 2.10 inches in February to 10.09 inches in September, the heart of the rainy season. During a 37-year period the Weather Bureau has recorded only six killing frosts in the spring and only 11 in the fall.

No single source of statistics more clearly indicates Stuart's and Martin County's gains in recent years than the county's one banking institution, the Citizens Bank of Stuart. Deposits with this bank have increased 460 per cent in the last decade. Its June 30, 1940 report showed $654,989.56 in deposits; the report 10 years later shows total deposits of $3,668,560.78.

Another indication of current growth is the upward spiral of building activity in the county. Building permits issued by the City of Stuart during 1947 totaled 112 and had a total valuation of $342,916.87 putting Stuart among the top smaller cities of Florida. The 1948 valuation total was more than $5,000 greater than that of '47, and indications are that 1950's totals easily will surpass both of these years. During the first seven months of 1950 there were 62 permits issued valued at $276,520.

The Stuart Water Company reported 12.8 per cent gain in revenue in 1947 over 1946 and only 4.7 per cent increase in expenditures; this year the revenue gain is even larger.

Indicative of a prosperous area are tax collection figures from the city manager and county tax collector. City taxes of 1949 were 97 per cent collected with their volume considerably better than a decade ago; county taxes have been collected 100 per cent for the past six years and already are approaching that figure again. The county's 1949 tax roll of more than $495,000 was the highest in county's 25-year history.

Education facilities are an essential in any community. In Martin County in 1937 its schools taught 1,109 students and steady annual gains have been made ever since. Buildings which are valued at $301,997 underwent a survey in 1947 by State officials who reported them well administered and recommended $424,000 worth of new building over the county. This is being realized gradually.

The national shortage of reasonably priced autos is no deterrent on Martin County tag sales In 1936 there were 1,333 sold. In 1949 this had risen to 3,443 and more than 3,600 are expected to pass over the counter of the tax collector's office this year.

The facts add up. Stuart and Martin County are prosperous, up-to-date and moving ever forward. Give them the consideration they merit.

THE CITY'S BIRTHDAY TOO

Whether it was named for Jack Stuart, Homer Stuart or for the Stuarts of Scotland may be argued a long time, but one thing is certain—the bare place "at the confluence of the North and South Branches of the Halpatiokee" where our first tourists camped 71 years ago, later called Gosling and Potsdam, is just about ready to really start to grow.

This county celebration is double-barreled; it's Stuart's 25th year too. The Old Town of Stuart (you've heard about it in the lawsuits) was abolished on Aug. 4, 1925, and the City of Stuart formed with a three-man commission plus manager type of government. With a change from three to five commissioners—the more the merrier—in 1948, this form of government has continued for a quarter century.

Few who remember Stuart of 1925 but are amazed at the changes of the past few years. Starting with the Citizens Bank building, and followed by the Hipson Professional Bldg., Pressel Bldg., two Dehon buildings and such recent new construction as Hayes Motor, King Pontiac, Kindred and Bruner buildings, Stuart is rapidly becoming one of the most modern small towns on the east coast.

When it gets bridges to the ocean and Grumman Aircraft decides—we mean really decides—that this is the place for their plant in the South, watch out, Fort Lauderdale.

A. D. Fort Recollects Much On Early Hunting Days Here

Among the original old-timers of Stuart was A. D. Fort who came from Marion County in 1903. He was a hunter and farmer, a real Florida cracker and proud of it. He later fitted into the commercial development of this section, as most woodsmen did, when in 1918 he was appointed watchman on the new St. Lucie River bridge.

He loved to tell tales of the early days and several of his reminiscenses have been recorded in the very early issues of the Stuart papers. "The only place we could cross the river then," he said, "was up at Spruce Bluff (North Fork) where they had a flat boat fast to a wire tied on shore at both ends. People pulled themselves back and forth across free of charge except for the work. The woods were full of owls, fish hawks and eagles. It was fun to see the fish hawks and the eagles fighting for fish. Most any time of day you could look away up in the air over the river—the higher up the better they could see—and first thing you knew there was a hawk coming head down straight in the water and he never missed getting a fish. Then when he got well up in the air with his next meal he would have to give it up and let it loose for there was a baldhead after him. If he was high enough up the eagle would get the fish before it hit the ground."

Summarizing the settlement of the new century years, Fort said, "Charlie and Frank Glass were over here at Rio fishing. Jim Winter was up on the South prong farming and working his bees. "Daddy" Poppleton was keeping bees over on Poppleton Creek. Will Dyer was out on his place this side of Poppleton Creek on the east side of the road to Indiantown, and Harry A. Dyer was out there living where he does now, but was then raising pineapples.

"Charlie Guller was neighbor out there then and he was also raising pineapples. Old man Lees was up on the South prong; his home was somewhere in Canada. Reuben Carlton, who went to Fort Pierce, was out there where Roebuck is and was taking care of a big bunch of cattle. Old man Platt and his boys were out at Indiantown, also the Bowers boys. There was no town at Salerno and there was no Port Sewall; that country was my hunting ground."

"HOG CLAIMS" BOUGHT

There was no need for conservation of wildlife in the early days, but rules of the woods were formed by gentlemen's agreements and respected by newcomers. Fort explains his initiation fee as a "Hog Claim" in these words:

"We got some wildcats, a panther once in a while, coons, turkeys and 'possums all the time, and once in a while a nice young razorback. The first thing I did when I went hunting was to buy a 'hog claim.' That is, suppose you had a bunch of hogs in the woods and had your own private mark on all the hogs. I, being a stranger and new in the woods, just as a matter of man-to-man courtesy, would come to you and buy up a hog claim from you by paying you so much for the privilege, and hunting over the range and killing such unmarked hogs as I needed. You didn't own the unmarked hogs any more than I did and my paying you $10 or so recognized you as a first-comer and gave me a right to hunt in the woods and kill razorbacks as you had. There might be other owners' hogs, and others could sell claims same as you did, but by recognizing one another's rights we all got along like neighbors if we had 'claims.'"

SEMINOLES FRIENDLY

After the terrific fighting and bloody massacres of the previous century, it was heartening to both the pioneers and the Seminole tribes to find that they could be of assistance to each other by living in harmony and that they became good and valuable neighbors, states Fort.

"There was right smart of Indians up there in the woods then; sometimes we would meet and hunt all day together. The Indians were great hunters and they were always fair in dividing the game: squirrels, turkeys and everything else. They knew the ways of all the animals, where they could be found, their feeding time and when it was easiest to get them. They were not much on fishing. There was lots of otter, skunk, coon and opossum, right smart of deer and every once in a while a bear. There was plenty of snakes and lots of orders for their skins, but I wouldn't skin one for any amount of money."

He added a story of training their hounds to skip the snakes, and said that high-priced setters and pointers brought in from the North had little chance in the Florida woods. "I have seen them let loose in these woods and all at once you would hear a sharp howl and in less than 30 minutes you would have no dog. When those snakes hit them they died in 30 minutes for there is about a teaspoonful of poison in a big rattlesnake."

JOIN IN THE FUN IN NEXT SATURDAY'S COUNTY-CITY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION HERE

5 Martin Communities Once Were Incorporated Towns

The boom era of the 1920s brought six municipal incorporations into being in the area that's now Martin County. Half of these were created while this was Palm Beach County and the other three came along soon after Martin County was created in 1925.

But the plush of the '20s was followed by the crush of the 1930s when money was scarce and incorporations such as these were hard pressed to make ends meet. As a result only one of the six survived the '30s; Stuart this year observed the 25th anniversary of its foundation as a city. It was functioning long before the gaudy '20s but not until 1925 did it attain its present "city" label.

However, this is a story of the five that tried the incorporation idea but found it to include a "Gordian Knot" that couldn't be untied. Records of the five show that lack of interest and increasing debt stymied them all.

PALM CITY, 1921-37

Longest lived of the five nonexistent towns was Palm City. Founded as a community in January 1913, Palm City's residents voted to incorporate on March 26, 1921. As such the town operated for 16 years until an act of the State Legislature abolished it as of May 22, 1937. Although the town's records are filed here at the court house, details of them were not available for research.

SALERNO, 1921-35

Only other town to live for more than a decade was Salerno which was begun by a legislative act in 1921. An organization committee of five persons met June 16, 1921 at the Comstock House under authority of this act, chose the office of B. W. Mulford as the town hall and called for an election July 21 to ratify the incorporation act. The five organizers included J. M. Fox, J. K. Clark, Alice M. Young, Trula Osborne and J. H. Whitfield, chairman.

The election ratified the act by a 28-2 margin. At the same time F. H. Chandler was elected Mayor, Whitfield Vice-Mayor and Lawton F. Geiger clerk.

First meeting of the Town Council was July 28 when it was decided to meet every Friday evening. C. C. Chillingworth was named town attorney and James R. Whittle was chosen as marshal. Subsequent marshals included C. S. Clayton, E. L. Padgett, A. C. Rowell and A. Brownlee. Later in 1921 R. B. McPherson replaced Whitfield as Vice-Mayor.

The first regular election was June 6, 1922 when W. R. Peters was elected Mayor, Frank A. Handy became Vice-Mayor and Geiger was retained as town clerk. The Sept. 2, 1924 election made Wade H. Earle Mayor, George Jones Vice-Mayor and Mary Church the clerk. Next voting was Nov. 16, 1926 when W. R. Jessee became Mayor, Eli Taylor Vice-Mayor and Gertrude G. Whitfield clerk. Mrs. Whitfield remained as clerk until the town was dissolved and today is Salerno's postmaster. The '26 commissioners named Lewis L. Hill as engineer and T. H. Getzen as attorney.

Irregularities in office tenure began with this trio. Jessee stayed as Mayor less than a year, and W. C. Constable was chosen Oct. 4, 1927 as his replacement. The following summer Constable resigned and was replaced Aug. 14 by A. L. Brown. Brown remained as Mayor until Chandler won another term June 7, 1932. Chandler held sway in the job until C. L. Mooney was elected June 4, 1935, just five days after a legislative act to abolish the town became law.

Taylor resigned as Vice-Mayor and James A. Stockley was elected to replace him June 4, 1929, and when Chandler won another term J. B. Shelton went in replacing Stockley. The bill to abolish the Town of Salerno ordered a referendum to make it effective, and the election on July 12 ratified the act by a 54-40 margin. The council's last meeting to close out the town's affairs was held July 27, 1935.

JENSEN BEACH, 1926-33

Jensen began as a municipality with the first session of the town council Jan. 18, 1926. The first commission included Ernest L. Ricou as Mayor, B. P. Pitchford and William L. Fredrickson. Ray S. Robertson was selected as clerk, T. H. Getzen as attorney, the Roat Concern, Inc., as engineer, T. F. Gardner as town marshal and V. V. Wortham as city judge. Meetings were the first Monday of each month and the office of R. R. Ricou and Sons was chosen temporarily as town hall. Subsequently two other sites were town halls.

During the seven years of incorporation four other men served on the commission. They were W. C. Johnson, J. J. Pitchford, W. A. Palmer and Robertson. Charles T. Tyndall later replaced Robertson as clerk. In the 1930s many meetings were skipped for lack of a quorum, the minutes show, and finally an act of the Legislature abolished the town as of Aug. 1, 1933.

First meeting of the Jensen Bridge District was Sept. 13, 1922 with W. L. Fredrickson as chairman.

PORT SEWALL, 1927-33

The 1927 Legislature enacted a bill to create the Town of Port Sewall and an organization committee of five men started its operations that fall. These five were Francis R. Cole, John D. Golden, Horace Lockwood, James H. Reardon and Hugh L. Willoughby, Jr. First election of a council was Nov. 30, 1927 at which Willoughby was chosen Mayor, Cole Vice-Mayor, Reardon treasurer and Lockwood clerk.

The council in turn selected Raymond L. Whitman as town assessor, and decided to meet twice monthly in the town hall that was the administration building of the Golden Gate Development Company. W. G. Chester was named as marshal and later replaced by Bert H. Babcock, A. O. Kanner was town attorney and W. H. Roat the engineer. Subsequent council members were Francis J. Gribbin and Harry D. Thomas.

Financial problems led to dissolution. The Governor signed the bill to abolish the town April 19, 1933 and the council's last meeting was two days later.

INDIANTOWN, 1927-33

The State Legislature on June 1, 1927 enacted a measure to create the Town of Indiantown, and Chapter 16483, Acts of 1933 of the Legislature, abolished the town. No records are on file at the Martin County court house of this corporation and further details are unavailable.

STUART'S FIRST BANK

"Bank with the Bank of Stuart" was the slogan of Stuart's first bank built in 1912, long before the streets were paved. With a capital stock of $15,000 the bank was organized in the summer of 1912 and opened for business in this fine new building (the present city hall) in November. Walter Kitching was president; C. C. Chillingsworth, vice-president; A. R. Wallace, cashier; George W. Parks, Stanley Kitching and E. A. Fuge, directors. Harry C. Feroe donated the lot for the building and S. A. Matthews was the contractor.

Novel Describes Early Mail Service

How the U. S. mail first came to Florida in the swashbuckling days of the State's earliest land boom at the turn of the century is dramatically told in Theodore Pratt's book, "The Barefoot Mailman."

It is an intense and true drama revealing a little-known chapter in Florida's history, the inception of U. S. mail service to Miami. Incredible as it seems, the only route to Miami in the 1890s was by foot from Palm City, now Palm Beach, along a treacherous 68-mile-long strip of beach inhabited solely by lawless outcasts and beachcombers.

Steven Pierton is the barefoot mailman who was asisgned to the route, a lonely trail which he covered in three days of walking along the hard sands of the ocean's edge or by rowing bottom skiffs across lagoons and rivers infested with alligators and sharks. He also guided travelers—for a $5.00 fee—along the route to Miami.

Not only is the story a dramatic tale of the early days of the State, but it also recounts a true and exciting story of a historic battle between the northern and southern inhabitants of Dade County over the site of the first courthouse. Pierton, as the mailman, plays a central role in this battle and through it also discovers the girl whom he is later to marry.

HISTORIC LOCATION

At this location in the Feroe Bldg., which was built in 1913, Stuart Drug Co. was founded and for some 35 years continued here until our expansion to take in the entire ground floor.

This is one of Stuart's historic buildings, housing one of the original post offices on the corner. E. J. Ricou was postmaster, and here Stuart's early settlers used to gather "to meet the mail train."

The business was run in the early days by Mrs. D. E. Wynne and Mr. Wynne, who was also station agent for a while.

Dr. J. A. Newnham was founder of the modern store, acquiring it in 1919, and it was incorporated by M. G. Littman in 1929. The present owner, D. L. Williams, acquired control in 1943 from Littman, who left the drug business to become one of Stuart's leading attorneys at law.

The Feroe Building was purchased by D. L. Williams in 1945 from Benj. Fox, with the second floor being remodeled from business offices into attractive apartments. A complete remodeling of the downstairs, following approved Rexall Store plans, occurred in 1947.

THE FIRST DRUG STORE

Here, back in the early 1900's, was Stuart's first drug store, originally started as a sundries supply department at Stanley Kitching's old store on Flagler Avenue.

A "Dr. North" was the pharmacsit who was in charge when a regular drug department was installed, and he was followed by a "Dr. Roberts."

Note the Seminole women on the porch of the old building and the advertisements for "Cardui" and "Black Draught" in the background.

They didn't have any "Hadacol" back then.

STUART'S PIONEER DRUG STORE IS MODERN AS 1950

D. L. Williams, proprietor of Stuart Drug Corp., came here from De-Funiak Springs in 1923, and has had more than a quarter century of continuous work in pharmacy.

His faith in the future of Martin County caused him to continually invest in the growth of the business, and to build it into a modern Rexall Store, engineered with the assistance of Rexall's designing staff.

He has constantly kept in touch with the progress of pharmacy, attending State pharmacy conventions and Southern States Rexall meetings, to keep the store "abreast of the times." He is a member of the Executive Board of the Florida State Pharmaceutical Association.

Stuart Drug Corporation has the largest and most complete Prescription Department in Martin County, with two registered pharmacists, one being on duty at all times.

Its cosmetics department includes such nationally advertised lines as Elizabeth Arden, Cara Nome, Harriett Hubbard Ayres, DuBarry, D'Orsay and others.

The always popular Soda Fountain and luncheonette is a rendez vous for those enjoying fountain drinks, Alfar Ice Cream, sandwiches and light luncheons.

CONGRATULATIONS, MARTIN COUNTY, ON YOUR 25th BIRTHDAY. WE JOIN IN HONORING GOVERNOR JOHN W. MARTIN—AND IN THANKING ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE BEEN OUR FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS THROUGH THE YEARS.

THE REXALL STORE

STUART DRUG CORP.

D. L. WILLIAMS, President

PHONE 11