"Where Quality Meets Economy"

THE MOTTO OF OUR FOUNDER

A Message From
MRS. H. J. GREENE
President, Treasurer

The ownership and management of Greene's Dry Goods Co., Inc., is deeply appreciative to the people of Martin County for your loyal support through the years.

Without your help, this business could not have grown. During good times and bad times, during times of crisis and normal periods, our customer-support has been the most priceless asset of Greene's.

We not only value your trade—but we also value your friendship.

H. J. GREENE
Has Remained Unchanged Since 1924
And Is Proudly Carried On
By His Family
And Associates

Greene's Dry Goods Co., Inc., was founded by H. J. Greene, who moved to Stuart in 1924 and on Feb. 29 of that year opened the first W. H. Swan Co. store here, in the building now known as Carlton Hotel Building. Two years later he moved to the store on the west corner of the new "Toric" Hotel, and in 1928 bought out Swan's interest, changing the firm's name to his own.

For 12 years Greene's Dry Goods Co. was operated in this location until, in 1940, confident of the growth and opportunities of Martin County, Mr. Greene constructed the concrete and stucco two-story Greene Building between Osceola and Flagler Avenues where the business is now operated by his family.

Besides his activities at Stuart, Mr. Greene established dry goods retail outlets elsewhere in South Florida, and these business affiliates are now operating at Pahokee, Moore Haven, Melbourne and Clewiston.

While he did not live to see the fruition of all his plans—he was taken by death in 1944—the merchandising principles which he established, the goodwill which he built, and the enduring motto at the top of this page are proudly carried on by his family and associates.

The Store for the Whole Family

GREENE'S HAS ALWAYS BEEN "THE STORE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY." THIS YEAR, AS WE CELEBRATE OUR 26th YEAR OF TESTED VALUES, IS MORE THAN EVER A VALUE YEAR FOR YOU AND YOURS. YOU CAN ALWAYS BUY WITH CONFIDENCE AT GREENE'S—A STORE RUN BY A FAMILY FOR THE FAMILIES OF MARTIN COUNTY.

WHETHER IT'S A NEW SUIT OR A PARTY DRESS, CLOTHES FOR THE YOUNGSTERS AT SCHOOL, OR WORKING CLOTHES FOR THE MAN OF THE HOUSE, YOU'LL ALWAYS FIND THE BEST QUALITY AT THE BEST PRICES AT GREENE'S. REMEMBER, FOR FAMILY WEARING APPAREL, IT PAYS TO TRADE AT THE FAMILY STORE.

Congratulating Martin County On Its 25th Anniversary

IT IS OUR FAITH THAT MARTIN COUNTY WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AND PROSPER

TRUE IN 1924-TRUE TODAY IN 1950

"Where Quality Meets Economy"

GREENE'S DRY GOODS CO., INC.

GREENE BUILDING STUART, FLORIDA

Congratulating Martin County On Its

25TH ANNIVERSARY

CASA LUMBER COMPANY'S FLOAT IN THE GOV. MARTIN DAY PARADE BACK IN 1925

We Helped Celebrate the Forming of the County

CASA LUMBER COMPANY PROUDLY TOOK PART IN MARTIN COUNTY'S FIRST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION - - WHEN THE HOPES AND DREAMS OF THIS YOUNG COUNTY WERE FIRST STIRRING. WE WELCOMED GOVERNOR JOHN W. MARTIN BACK THEN, AND HAPPILY JOIN AGAIN IN HONORING OUR COUNTY'S FOUNDER NEXT SATURDAY.

We Have Helped To Build Martin County

MANY, MANY DREAMS HAVE COME TRUE IN THE QUARTER CENTURY WHICH HAS PASSED. MANY HUNDREDS OF NEW HOMES AND BUSINESS BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN BUILT - - AND CASA LUMBER COMPANY HAS HELPED TO BUILD THEM BY SUPPLYING THE BEST OF BUILDING MATERIALS.

Let's All Pitch in and Build for the Future

Martin County's Possibilities Are Unlimited. We Are Entering A New Era Of Growth. Build For The Future-And See CASA For Your Building Supplies.

Henry Cabre

CASA LUMBER CO.

TELEPHONE 66 **STUART, FLORIDA**

Ashley Gang Terrorized This Area For Decade, Was Broken Up in 1924

(From LAKE OKEECHOBEE, by Alfred J. Hanna and Kathryn Abbey Hanna. Copyright 1948. Used by special permission of the publishers, The Bobbs-Merrill Company.)

For many years Lake Okeechobee harbored despoilers of law and order—men who wanted to be forgotten in other parts of the country. They lived remote, reticent lives, asking no questions of anyone and seeing to it that none was asked of them. They hunted, trapped or fished for a livelihood and, whenever they found themselves in a tight spot, fought or shot their way out. Every frontier had these folk, but most people did not think of South Florida—just a stone's throw away from the new deluxe winter resorts—as a frontier. Frontiers were in the West, which was wild by nature. There bank robbers, train looters and masked men, armed to prey on hapless travelers, possessed the romantic danger of the faraway and, presumably, murdered Indians could be found in a variety of odd places without violating propriety.

As settlement moved down the Florida peninsula, opportunities for lawbreakers became vastly more varied and profitable. Criminals became organized and most notorious of such groups were the Ashleys, who operated in the tradition of Jesse James.

Joe Ashley and his brood of five sons and four daughters moved to the lower east coast of Florida from the valley of the Caloosahatchee River. Progress and self-preservation were responsible for his migration: progress as symbolized by the building of the Flagler railroad, and self-preservation resulting from an unsuccessful bit of gunplay. The offended party of the episode was not killed, only seriously wounded; this was unfortunate for the Ashleys. Operating on the Biblical "vengeance is mine" principle the wounded man refused to name his assailant; instead, he passed word around that as soon as he recovered he would handle the matter. By the time he was once more in social circulation, armed and ready to proceed on a well-planned program of retaliation, the Ashleys had found opportunities on the east coast too inviting to be resisted.

Joe Ashley and his older sons became wood choppers for the Florida East Coast Railroad construction; the younger ones hunted and trapped. They moved along the coast with the railroad operations for a time; ultimately they settled down west of Stuart and Hobe Sound. They soon became known to most of the sparse population along the coast and around the lake; they were not unfriendly with officers of the law who, like themselves, were crackers. More and more, however, they gravitated toward bad company.

The limelight was first turned on the Ashleys when, on Dec. 20, 1911, a dredge working on the canal between Fort Lauderdale and Lake Okeechobee churned up the body of a Seminole identified as DeSoto Tiger. A friend of the dead man, Johnny Gopher, reported the Indian was last seen with John Ashley. Investigation brought out the fact that the two had started down the canal with a load of otter skins which John alone had sold later to Girtman Brothers in Miami for $1,200. Deputies were sent out by Sheriff George B. Baker of Palm Beach County to arrest John. As they scouted for him along the Dixie Hwy. they were surprised by John and Bob Ashley who disarmed and ordered them back to the sheriff's office. Father Joe returned one of the confiscated guns with discreet indirectness. He gave it to Fred Cabot, a storekeeper at Hobe Sound, to be deposited at the sheriff's office on his next trip to West Palm Beach.

John was unconcerned about the episode. He is reported to have boasted he "would just as leave kill an Indian as a buzzard." His reluctance to enter court was due less to fear of being tried for the murder of DeSoto Tiger than to apprehension of being found guilty—justifiably—of selling the Indian the bootleg "shine" to get him drunk.

As it turned out, DeSoto Tiger was scarcely comparable to a buzzard. Rather, he was a person of some consequence among his people, and, since the furs he was carrying to market belonged to his tribe, its members started out in hot pursuit of the murderer. To the sparsely settled lower east coast of Florida, struggling to become a mecca for tourists, nothing could have been less desirable than trouble with the Indians, and the Board of Commissioners of Palm Beach County urged Gov. Albert W. Gilchrist to offer a reward for the capture of John Ashley. Before long J. W. Strongheart, an assistant Indian agent who was a Sioux, arrived in Florida to see that justice was done. He urged State and Federal cooperation on behalf of the Indians with such forcefulness that the Governor's Cabinet passed a resolution urging strict enforcement of the law.

John then took a three-year vacation from Florida. He was traced as far as New Orleans, whence he went to the Northwest. In these faraway lands he worked at a variety of jobs; he was even a member of a Government surveying outfit. Apparently he did not molest the law in that part of the United States, but he was known to have boasted of slipping across the border to stick up a bank in Canada. Eventually he returned to Florida, sent word to the authorities that he was tired of avoiding them and was willing to surrender. After an exchange of messages he was escorted to jail by his brother Bill and Fred Cabot.

In due season John Ashley's trial was opened in West Palm Beach and was attended by his relatives with the liveliest interest. Almost immediately a crisis arose; the State's attorney moved to transfer the case to Miami, seat of Dade County, within whose jurisdiction the murder had occurred. This proposed change from a known and friendly place to one that was strange and probably hostile outraged John and his kindred. He had been an exemplary prisoner and on such good terms with his jailer, Bob Baker, son of the sheriff, that he had never been handcuffed. After a long troublesome day in court, John calmly broke through the 10-foot chicken-wire fence surrounding the Palm Beach County Jail while his keeper was politely unlocking the door. Baker was at a loss to account for the escape. The Ashley family's explanation was more plausible—they said the law had shut one eye.

The next year, in 1915, the Ashley Gang made its professional debut by sticking up the Bank of Stuart. John was then naive about banks, which explains why the teller kept him out of the vault by the simple expedient of announcing that no money was there. John also passed up the deposit boxes when he learned they could not be opened without the keys of the owners and that at best they contained merely papers. When the gang was ready to leave, they ordered a shanghaied customer to drive them out of town. To the amazement of everyone, most of all himself, the driver returned unharmed.

This enterprise, however, netted the Ashleys more than $4,300. John was accidentally shot in the jaw and as a result lost the sight of one eye. Furthermore, forced to hover on the outskirts of town in order to secure medical treatment, he was eventually captured and taken to Miami to account for his first known venture in crime—the murder of DeSoto Tiger.

Miami's jail was then less commodious than its tourist hotels, which caused Ma Ashley to worry over the health of her favorite son. She got a tonic from "Dr. Anner" to keep up the boy's strength and daily sent delicacies to tempt his appetite. The Ashley womenfolk suspected that John was not getting the food; this became a conviction when they saw the jailer throw their treasured offerings of fried chicken into a corner. Their resentment was soothed when Bob Ashley decided to rescue John.

On the afternoon of June 2, 1915, Bob walked into the house of Jailer Hendrickson, killed him and took his keys. Prevented from reaching the jail by a commotion on the street, Bob ducked into a garage where his confederates had left a Ford. He demanded a driver but two of the mechanics professed no knowledge whatever of the intricate machinery of Fords, and a third was suddenly struck deaf. Bob could not stop to argue. He hopped onto a passing delivery truck, but was overtaken by the police, thanks to the truck driver's ability to stall his engine. More fireworks ensued and, when the smoke cleared away, Bob and one of the officers were wounded mortally.

Not daunted, the Ashleys tried threats to secure the release of John and to avenge Bob who had been, so they said, so "brutally shot." Miami, they warned, could "expect to feel the results of it any hour." If John was not "turned loose simply for the life of a —— —— Seminole Indian we expect to shoot up the hole —— —— town regardless to what the results might be we expect to make our aperance at a early date." Signed, "Ashley Gang."

No evidence remains to indicate that this grim communication influenced the cause of justice, yet by strange coincidence John's trial for murder miscarried although he was actually convicted by a jury and, on April 6, 1915, sentenced to death.

Punishment for bank robbery was more realistic than was retribution for the murder of an Indian. In the Palm Beach County Court where John was next tried, he was sent to the State penitentiary for his job at Stuart. Then, in 1918, after he had served two years of his term, he escaped from the chain-gang twice, was recaptured and returned, but not for long. The Ashleys by then knew how to rescue for keeps.

Back in the fastnesses of the Everglades John grew expansive and added to the family circle other persons of neuter conscience. He also acquired a sweetheart, Laura Upthegrove, whom the press crowned "Queen of the Everglades." Laura's contribution to the gang, aside from personal relations with the leader, was twofold: to case the banks marked out for raids and to provide the speedy getaway which was usually effected. She never came within the clutches of the law probably because she took no chances. On the approach of officers she drove off in a flash and at least on one occasion abandoned her colleagues to shift for themselves. The gang next undertook rum-running from the Bahamas or, more often, hijacked other bootleggers and exacted tribute from those they allowed to do business. Their victims could not squeal since there was no recourse to the law.

It soon transpired, however, that the game of hijacking did not invariably work in favor of the Ashleys. Frank and Ed, carrying $18,000 for liquid purchases in Bimini, never returned. Some people said a storm wrecked their small launch, but the family thought otherwise, particularly when they observed shortly after the disappearance of Frank and Ed that various competitors blossomed out into sudden and unaccountable affluence.

Sprinkled among numerous expeditions to Bimini and hijacking ventures were frequent bank robberies and a few murders. Whether the Ashley Gang turned to the banks, following the example of more conventional enterpreneurs, to supply capital for their enterprises or merely to supplement their income from these handy sources is not known. The radius of their activities extended well beyond the east coast and Lake Okeechobee into Central Florida, and it was charged by the press that for a decade most of the bank robberies were their work. At least once, sentiment protected a potential victim. While the bank at Pahokee was being cased for an attack, one of the gang, Wild Bill Henderson, recognized the president as a boyhood friend. He refused to proceed with the raid, and succeeded in persuading his accomplices to abandon their plans. Later, in a confession preceding his execution for murder, he declared, "I just hadn't the heart to do it."

Almost always the vast uninhabited and untraveled expanses of the Lake Okeechobee region provided a haven of safety for the lawless. Jails and even the state penitentiary at Raiford had few terrors for the Ashley Gang as their skill in outwitting authorities and their ability in rescuing those who were caught became notorious. Some sheriffs and deputies were their implacable enemies; others remained halfhearted in their efforts to catch the bandits or casually indifferent to their responsibility for guarding them once they had been apprehended.

Periodically an outraged public opinion kept the Ashleys dodging to safety in the Everglades; at other times they visited their friends who, for good or bad reasons, were numerous, appeared in towns, made purchases at stores and, when need arose, carried a doctor to their hideout. Bill Ashley, against whom the law had no mark more serious than possessing moonshine, married and settled down at Hobe Sound. In fact, according to one

(Continued on Page 7-E)

GANG LEADER

JOHN ASHLEY

Ashley, leader of the notorious Ashley bandit gang that operated in this area for nearly two decades until most of its members came to "sudden-death" ends, is shown at the ocean beach here at the height of his infamous career.

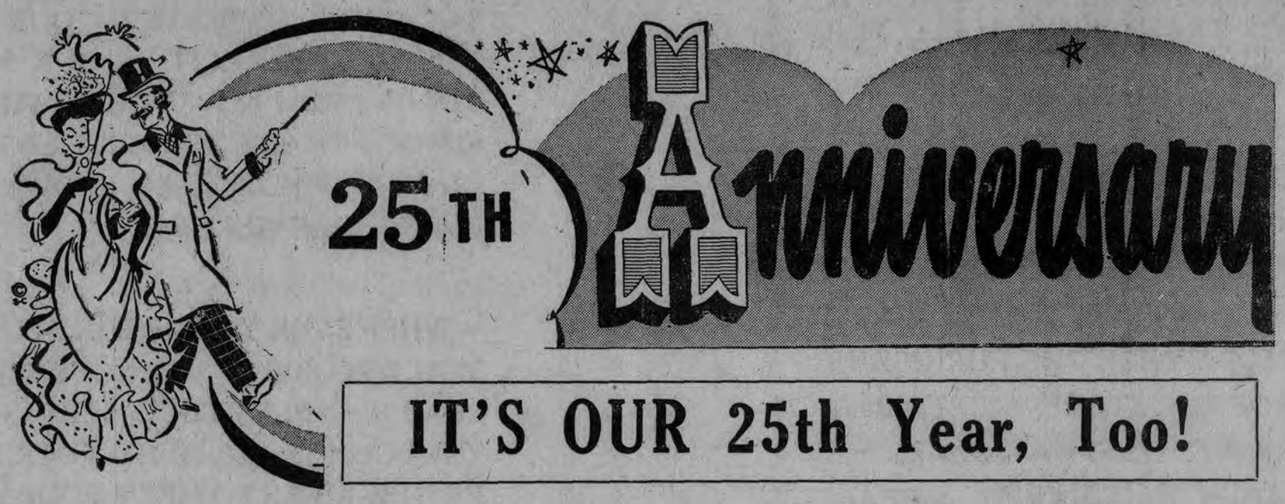
SEMINOLE CHIEF LITTLE TIGER

This leader of the Seminoles was frequently seen in this area in the 1880s. He became well known to the first pioneers of this section.

Congratulations, Martin County, On This

25 YEARS

The Duntile Co. has been in continuous operation at its present location for A Quarter Century!



IT'S OUR 25th Year, Too!

THANKS

We take this opportunity to thank our many patrons who have so loyally supported us through the years.

EVERYTHING IN CONCRETE

IT IS WITH PLEASURE THAT WE JOIN IN EXTENDING OUR SINCERE BEST WISHES TO OUR COUNTY, MARTIN COUNTY, IN THIS 25th BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCE. I. L. DECKER CAME HERE FROM ALBION, MICHIGAN, IN DECEMBER OF 1925, WHILE MARTIN COUNTY WAS YET BUT A FEW MONTHS OLD. OUR FIRST CONCRETE BLOCKS AND CONCRETE BRICKS WERE PRODUCED IN FEBRUARY OF 1926.

This firm produced a great many of the concrete blocks and bricks for the building in this area. An important part of our business has been the pouring of concrete floors, driveways, sidewalks and foundations.

We are also builders of septic tanks, flagstones, and ornamental garden benches and tables. Mr. Decker's son, Allen N. Decker, has been an associate since returning from the Armed Services in World War II.

DUNTILE BUILDERS SUPPLY CO.

I. L. DECKER
BOX 936, STUART

ALLEN N. DECKER, Associate
PHONE 37-W

25 YEARS EXPERIENCE GIVES US THE "KNOW HOW" FOR ALL TYPES OF CONCRETE WORK

1902

Stanley Kitching built a small dry goods and general merchandise store on Flagler Ave. about one block west of the present Stuart Dept. Store.

—Ruhnke Photo.

The home of Stuart Department Store was built by Commodore Stanley Kitching in 1921. The firm, which was a direct outgrowth of the little business started in 1902, did business as Kitching & Eckess until the passing of B. F. Eckess in the late 1930's The business was purchased by O. S. Kanarek in 1938 and the name changed to Stuart Department Store.

1950

Stuart Dept. Store, owned and managed by O. S. Kanarek, assisted by his son, Irving, and daughter, Mrs. Florence Auerbach, represents the finest of Nationally Advertised lines in men's, women's and children's wear.

A Store Which Grew with the Pioneers

Congratulates Modern Martin County

TWELVE YEARS AGO STUART DEPARTMENT STORE WAS BORN, UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT AND OWNERSHIP — BUT CONTINUING THE GOODWILL AND TRADITIONS BUILT SINCE THE EARLY 1900's.

WE HAD FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN MARTIN COUNTY'S GROWTH AND IN THE NEED FOR A STORE CARRYING QUALITY WEARING APPAREL. ONE OF OUR FIRST MOVES WAS TO COMPLETELY MODERNIZE THE FURNISHINGS AND FIXTURES OF THE STORE, AND TO BRING TO MARTIN COUNTY THE NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BRANDS IN WEARING APPAREL WHICH HAVE SINCE GIVEN THIS STORE ITS REPUTATION.

WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO THE PEOPLE OF MARTIN COUNTY FOR YOUR FINE PATRONAGE THROUGH THE YEARS, AND TAKE THIS OCCASION TO EXTEND OUR THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT 25 YEARS FROM NOW THERE WILL BE AN EVEN FINER STUART DEPARTMENT STORE IN A COUNTY WHICH HAS GROWN TO MEET ITS MANY POSSIBILITIES.

WHENEVER YOU ARE IN STUART, WE WANT YOU TO COME IN AND GET ACQUAINTED. THIS IS A FRIENDLY STORE, SERVING ALL OF MARTIN COUNTY. YEAR BY YEAR WE HAVE ADDED NEW LINES TO MEET YOUR NEEDS, AND ALWAYS WELCOME SUGGESTIONS BY WHICH WE MAY BETTER SERVE YOU.

SOME OF OUR MANY

Nationally Advertised Lines

FLORSHEIM SHOES
PALM BEACH SUITS
HICKOK BELTS

INTERWOVEN SOCKS
JANTZEN BATHING SUITS AND SPORTS WEAR
AIR STEP SHOES
MANHATTAN SHIRTS AND SPORTSWEAR

NELLY DON DRESSES
MOJUD HOSIERY
SEAMPRUFE SLIPS

STUART DEPARTMENT STORE

MARTIN COUNTY,

WE WERE

Here Ahead of You,

Attended Your Birth,

Are Still Here - And

Are Proud of You.

•

FOR

REAL ESTATE

AND

INSURANCE

CONTACT

JOHN E. TAYLOR

OR

C. R. "DICK" ASHLEY

-STUART SINCE 1912-

PHONE 104 **OSCEOLA BLDG.**

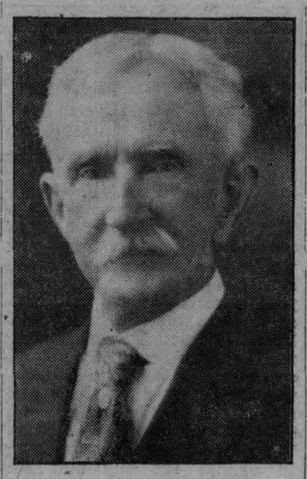
Walter Kitching Came to Florida In 1882, Bought First Land Here

Walter Kitching was born in Leeds, County of York, England, Jan. 31, 1846. Educated in England, he was a stock broker in Leeds associated with the firm of his father, Joseph Kitching, which firm maintained offices in London, Leeds and New York City. When President Lincoln was assassinated it was through this office that the cablegram was sent stating: "Lincoln shot, panic in everything," and the firm immediately notified the American consul in London.

Walter Kitching was from an educated and cultured family and his parents were of the Quaker, Friends, faith. He was the son of Joseph and Sarah Broster Kitching whose ancestry has been traced back to 1066 at the landing of William the Conqueror of England.

He came to the United States in 1867, settling in Texas, later Kansas and Arkansas. He moved to Florida in 1882 and took up a homestead at Wabasso on the Indian River. Later he purchased from the Government 15 acres of riverfront property on the St. Lucie River at $1.25 an acre. In 1894 he married Emma J. Michael of Frostburg, Md., who was visiting her brother at Wabasso. They built the home which now stands in Stuart. Both he and his wife were enthusiastic horticulturists and beautified the 15 acres with hundreds of cocoanut palms, avocadoes, mangoes, orange and grapefruit trees besides an assortment of tropical plants. This is now known as Kitching Addition to Stuart.

For nine years he operated a trade boat the 100 miles from Cocoa to Jupiter making the round trip in 30 to 40 days. The first boat was the Waves, the second the Sparkle and the third the Merchant. On these trips he was the "needed man" for he was notary public, medicine man, lawyer and merchant and even performed wedding ceremonies.



WALTER KITCHING

The Stuart railroad station was first located north of the river where at that time there was also an express agent, docks and a small store. It was through the efforts of Kitching that the FEC moved its station and docks to the south side of the river. He gave sufficient property necessary for railway purposes, along with $200, and the name of Potsdam was changed to Stuart.

In 1895 he discontinued the trade boat and erected a general merchandise store which operated until 1922 when it was sold to Raulerson Grocery Company of Fort Pierce. The first store building was a two-story frame structure on the northeast side of the railways tracks while the second two-story frame and stucco building was erected in 1914 on the corner of what is now West 1st St. and U. S. 1. Neither building is standing today. The slogan of the Walter Kitching Company was "We Have It." He was "banker" for the Seminole Indians who sold their otter, coon and alligator hides to him and purchased their supplies from him, leaving their cash in his hands until their next trip in from the Everglades. They called him affectionately "Kitchie."

Walter Kitching was Stuart's first taxpayer, because he purchased his land instead of homesteading. While operating his store he was also a large grower of pineapples and was developing an orange grove on the North Fork of the river.

He and his wife gave the lot for the Methodist Church as well as the parsonage. He also gave the property for the Danforth Hotel where U. S. Presidents visited. It was located on the riverfront a few hundred feet southwest of his home.

He was president of Stuart's first bank, the Bank of Stuart organized in 1912. Active in the Methodist Church, he was superintendent of the Sunday School and chairman of the board of stewards. He died at the age of 86 on Aug. 20, 1933.

HOW MANY OF THESE DO YOU REMEMBER?

These names were found in business records of Potsdam of 1894. All were here then, SOME are here today, many are well remembered and quite a few have left little or no trace of their later whereabouts. How many do YOU remember?

W. H. McNulty, Henry Stypmann, Elias Simmons, W. F. Steever, C. W. Corbett, M. R. Johns, Benjamin Parks, A. R. Krueger, Curd Schroeder, Mrs. Maggie M. Frazier, Harry A. Dyer, Will Barge, D. Hankins, Mrs. Kate Hamilton, W. G. Parks, J. T. DeBerry, N. H. Parks, Otto Stypmann, P. E. L. Rogers, John T. Cleland, A. E. Bertelsen, Reuben R. Frazier, J. C. Frink, H. C. Olson, O. O. Poppleton, Ernest Stypmann, George McPherson, Mrs. Susan Wilson, R. Cothron, Elias Simmons, William H. Lawrence, Jr., Stanley Kitching, Mrs. Mary Simmons, Ed Evans, Broster Kitching, Miss May Jones, John Bell, Miss Meda B. Frazier, Thomas J. DeSteuben, Mrs. W. J. Dyer, George A. Fultz, Miss Lucy Jenkins, H. J. Haney, P. L. Wright, Mrs. Walter Kitching, W. S. Rivers, J. A. Hendry, R. A. Jones, Robert McPherson, E. T. Stephens, Peter Blunt, Rideo Dedwiley, Edward L. Winter, D. M. Bryant, Mrs. R. Hamilton and Noah H. Parks.

ARRIVED IN 1893

MRS. WALTER KITCHING

Emma Michael Kitching's life in Stuart is symbolical of the true pioneer spirit. Now 80 years young and very frail, she still attends church and public meetings whenever possible. She was born and reared in Frostburg, Md., and was graduated from the Teachers' Seminary there. In 1893 she came to Wabasso to live with her brother, John Michael, who had homesteaded there. In 1894 she married the popular English captain of the trade boat, Walter Kitching, and together they carved out the wilderness on the St. Lucie River banks and built her present home. Their only daughter, Mrs. John E. Taylor, and her family live beside the Kitching home having reared three children there: Dr. John E. Taylor, Jr., of Atlanta, Mrs. C. R. Ashley, of Stuart and Mrs. Lee Cozort, Jr., of Little Rock, Ark.

FORWARD 2 SECTIONS

It was erroneously printed that C. E. Schroeder's historical story was continued on this page. Instead you will find it concluded on Pages 3, 4 and 5 of Section C of this edition.

LOOK TO YOUR *Beauty Shop*

FOR PERFECTION AND PROTECTION

25 YEARS of

Continuous Experience in

Beauty Work

WE JOIN WITH PLEASURE, ON THIS 9th YEAR OF OUR SHOP IN ITS PRESENT LOCATION, AND OUR 25th YEAR OF CONTINUOUS EXPERIENCE IN BEAUTY WORK, IN EXTENDING BEST WISHES AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF MARTIN COUNTY WHO HAVE BUILT SO WELL IN THE PAST QUARTER CENTURY.

— Our Experience Is At Your Service —

Magdalena Maloney, a native of Ohio, is a graduate of the noted Moler's Beauty College, was an associate of the Yvette Company of New York's Salon in the John Shillito Co. Dept. Store at Cincinnati for 5 years, then associated with Peter Strunk, exclusive Cincinnati hair dresser, for 15 years, and was manager of the Beauty Salon at the Netherland Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati, before coming to the Palm Beach Everglades Club Beauty Salon and Roger Baron of Cleuzelle's . . . Our shop in the Post Office Arcade, Stuart, was opened in October, 1941.

•

One ingredient in professional beauty work wears no price . . . It is the experience and know-how of the operator who gives you beauty treatments best suited to your personality. Our work is done by a highly skilled hair specialist . . . her experience is at your service.

•

Magdalena Maloney

BEAUTY SHOP

P. O. Arcade Phone 215

Power First Came to Stuart in 1916; Palm City, Jensen Serviced in 1926

On Dec. 27, 1916 C. H. Ellis, with headquarters in West Palm Beach, acting as representative of Southern Utilities Company, a Jacksonville concern, completed negotiations with the City of Stuart for a 10-year franchise for electric service to the city. The franchise was granted and signed on this date.

The Stuart branch of the Southern Utilities Company was commonly known as the Stuart Public Service, and was headed by E. C. Simmons, manager under the supervision of Ellis.

Simmons remained with the company only a short while in this capacity. After Simmons left the company, Dick Hill, now division manager in West Palm Beach, came to Stuart from that city by train bringing his bicycle with him and read meters in the Stuart district. This was in about 1919. Then Frank Ulmer, plant operator, resumed the duties of Hill, reading meters and making meter installations until 1921.

P. P. deMoya, now located in Pahokee, opened the first downtown office of the Southern Utilities Company Jan. 1, 1921 in the old Johns building on Flagler Ave. This office consisted of a space 12x12 ft. and was shared with a real estate operator and a photographic shop. Duties of deMoya were to read all meters, set all meters, bill, collect and assist in keeping the distribution system in order.

Plant Erected

According to deMoya, "At that time if any trouble occurred on the distribution system, the plant was shut down and service discontinued until repairs had been made, and at times these shutdowns would last many hours."

Immediately after the granting of the franchise Southern Utilities Company started the erection of a power plant on Flagler Ave. which went through a period of construction from December 1916 to Aug. 3, 1917 at which time electricity was for the first time available to the citizens of Stuart with a population of approximately 500. The power plant consisted of a 75 KW generator operated by a 125 H.P. Armington-Sims steam engine which was served by an 80 H.P. boiler.

Hours of operation of Stuart's first electric plant were 6 p. m. to midnight for a period of approximately 10 months. Then the plant started operating from 5 to 10 in the afternoon and until midnight on Tuesdays only to permit housewives to do their weekly ironing.

Street lights were operated on moonlight schedules, meaning that on moonlight nights the street lights were not in operation. This schedule applied until the electric plant started giving all-night service in the early part of 1919. The schedule of operation became 6 p. m. until 8 a. m. At this time there were approximately 7 miles of distribution system in the city, serving between 90 to 100 customers.

Steam Engine Replaced

Early in 1920 a Primm oil engine was installed to replace the steam engine which was worn out, but retained for standby. In 1922 a second Primm oil engine was installed with additional capacity of 60 KW, giving the Stuart plant a total generating capacity of 120 KW. Immediately after the installation of the two 100-H.P. Primm engines 24-hour service was inaugurated. After the two Primm oil engines were installed for a period of about one year the load was small enough that only one engine was operated at a time.

About the winter of 1923 switches were installed so that over the peak one 60-KW machine could be operated on each circuit to take care of the district which was divided into two circuits, there being no known means of synchronizing the two generators. The load rapidly grew until both engines became heavily overloaded in 1925 to the extent that the generators were burned up several times. The Armington-Sims steam engine which had been held over for standby service, operating with a belt of three different sizes, was put back on the line over the peak. Before the engine was put back into service a highly unsatisfactory oil burning fuel system was installed under the 80-H.P. boiler. After the steam engine had run about two weeks it blew the head out of the cylinder, broke the guy rods and stools and went out of service.

According to deMoya, J. H. White instructed him to take all broken parts, start out and not stop until he came to a foundry where he was to have the parts recast and machined. White now is FP&L vice-president in charge of transmission and generating plants. He landed in Orlando at 5 a. m. after the steam engine had blown up about 7 the previous night, and stayed there two days until the parts were finished and returned to Stuart.

The engine was put together again and put on the line, but exploded two days later. This time it was beyond repair. The engine and boiler were sold for junk in 1928. During the time the steam engine was being repaired the two oil engines were carrying the load with the voltage ranging from 110 to as low as 75 volts.

Service Undependable

According to some of the old residents in Stuart the quality of electric service during the period 1917 to 1925 was undependable and many hours of prolonged interruptions were experienced and expected. However, they were delighted to have any type of electric service. Up until the time Florida Power and Light Company took over the Stuart property, a 5-H.P. motor was the largest permitted on the lines.

On Oct. 21, 1925 a franchise for a period of 30 years was granted to the Florida Power and Light Company at which time interests of the Southern Utilities Company were transferred to FP&L. On Dec. 27, 1925 the hiline was completed to the City of Stuart and the distribution system serving the city was cut in at 2:30 a. m. making the City of Stuart's distribution system a part of the inter-connected system of the Florida Power and Light Company.

The plant serving Stuart was so overloaded that the Phoenix Utility Company rushed a large crew in and built the 3 miles of tap line from the Salerno substation along the Old Dixie Hwy. to the plant.

A newspaper article appearing in The Stuart Daily News stated, "Many residents observed that their lights were much brighter and steadier than any other time." However, after the hiline was cut in at 2:30 a. m. it failed approximately one hour later and service was not restored for about 48 hours. This interruption was the first of many transmission line failures during the following six-months period. During the first year after the hiline had been completed local forces had to patrol the hiline through swamps and woods when failures occurred.

Sub-Station Built

In 1926, according to The News, "The Florida Power and Light Company spent approximately $35,000 on the installation of a sub-station on U. S. 1 at Salerno and additional distribution facilities within the City of Stuart, also approximately 6 miles of distribution system to serve Port Sewall which is virtually a suburb of the City of Stuart, serving about 10 customers. Last year this Salerno station was dismantled and moved to a mile west of Stuart on the road to Indiantown.

The location of the Salerno sub-station was chosen due to the rapid growth of the community caused by the boom, and it was presumed that its present location would be the center of distribution. At this time the terminus of the hiline was at Stuart and later, when the line was built to Okeechobee and before the completion of the Fort Pierce sub-station, the Okeechobee line was controlled from the Salerno sub-station.

During the years from 1925 to 1950 distribution facilities of the City of Stuart have grown from approximately 10 miles to a network of distribution lines that make service available to every single lot within the corporate limits of the city.

On July 27, 1926 at 3 a. m. a storm of tremendous force hit Stuart doing much damage to buildings, disrupting power lines and communication systems and causing thousands of dollars worth of damage.

Gang Repairs Damage

According to The Stuart Daily News, "After the storm period deMoya made a hurried trip to West Palm Beach this morning and after a conference with the general superintendent returned with a gang of 32 men who were put to work replacing the hilines between the Salerno station and Stuart. The company expects to clear the hiline and restore service between West Palm Beach and Stuart before nightfall. The company got an engine at the local plant underway shortly after the storm had abated Wednesday and restored service to the downtown section. Wires and poles are down throughout the city and the power company's loss will run into several thousand dollars. DeMoya states that he expects to have service restored within 24 hours."

The News again comments July 28 as follows: "Line crews of the Florida Power and Light Company labored ceaselessly to repair damages to their power facilities suffered in last night's storm. Almost exhausted by their efforts the line crews are nearly at the end of their toil, and service from the hiline into Stuart will be restored by 5 p. m. today." It was.

On Oct. 8, 1926 construction was started to extend the hiline north from Stuart. Objections by Stanley Kitching and others were to the effect that the line would be an obstruction to the waters of the St. Lucie River if run across the river from the foot of 1st St. to Speedy's Point. Communications of this were transmitted to the War Department. On Oct. 15 U. S. Engineers held a hearing in Stuart on the subject, and eventually the War Department granted permission to Florida Power and Light Company to construct this line providing they would maintain a 50-ft. clearance over the river. This was entirely satisfactory to those citizens who entered a complaint.

In September 1928 a tropical storm of great intensity hit Stuart wrecking the distribution system in the entire district. Service was out for a period of 52 hours despite the fact that a large crew had been brought into Stuart to get the line back in operating condition quickly. At this time one circuit of the transmission line was hurriedly repaired and used as a feeder while the other circuit of the hiline brought 66 KV service from the north rendering service to the Stuart district. Estimated damages to the distribution system was about $30,000.

Another Storm Hits

Prior to the 1928 storm the old plant was abandoned so that it was useless as a standby plant when this storm disrupted hiline service. It was decided to recondition the two 100-H.P. Primm engines and build a stormproof power plant on the site of the old power plant building which was galvanized iron on frame, giving the Stuart district sufficient standby power for emergency use.

In September 1933 Stuart again suffered from a severe storm which damaged the distribution system between Stuart proper and the sub-station so badly that the 66-KV transformers and other necessary equipment was moved from the station and set up at U. S. 1 and 4th St. This station operated in the middle of the street for approximately two weeks before being moved back to its regular site. Service was interrupted over the entire district for a period of approximately 36 hours with the exception of some of the outlying laterals which remained out of service for a greater length of time. The storm damage to the district was estimated to be between $40,000 and $50,000.

In August 1931 approximately 6 miles of distribution system was constructed extending from the Jensen feeder to serve Sewall's Point which at that time had approximately 11 potential customers. Port Sewall and Golden Gate were first given service in May 1926 after the completion of approximately 9 miles of distribution system to serve approximately 30 customers.

In February 1927 approximately 10 miles of distribution system was constructed from Fort Pierce sub-station south to White City serving approximately 52 customers scattered over the entire 10 miles. In July 1930 about 12 miles of distribution system was completed to serve the suburban district west of Fort Pierce which involved 25 to 30 customers.

Jensen Gets Service

In April 1931, after the completion of approximately 7½ miles of distribution system which was tapped to the White City extension, Ankona, Eldred and Walton were given electric service involving approximately 20 customers. In October 1938 construction of approximately 7 miles of distribution system was installed from the Salerno station west to the St. Lucie Locks to serve approximately 18 customers.

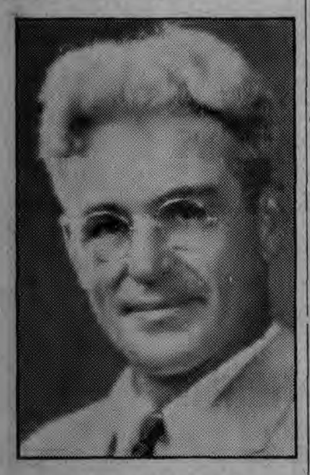
In 1926 after the transmission line was extended north from Stuart, construction of approximately 7 miles of distribution system was started to serve the City of Jensen which then had a population of 300. The extension was completed in September 1926 and service was rendered to approximately 60 customers. Prior to this time Jensen had no electric service.

On Feb. 22, 1926, Ellis, district manager of the Florida Power and Light Company, met with Palm City city officials, Mayor O. Coffin and Edwin Brobston, and Ellis secured franchise for a 30-year period to serve the city, installation of service to be within 90 days from the date agreement was executed.

According to The Stuart Daily News of Aug. 23, 1926, "The Florida Power and Light Company has installed approximately 7 miles of distribution line, and current was turned on Aug. 21. The coming of electric service to Palm City is one of the largest steps forward ever made by Palm City. The people have watched the installation of the line, which has been going on

(Continued on Page 7-E)

FP&L MANAGER



JOHN M. LAW, JR.

Law came to Stuart 11 years ago to take over the management of the Stuart office of the Florida Power and Light Company. He replaced P. P. deMoya who was transferred to Pahokee.

RAN UTILITIES IN 1921

PETER PAUL DeMOYA

DeMoya opened the first downtown office of the Southern Utilities Company in the Johns Bldg. sharing space with a realtor and photographer. He read and set all meters collected bills and assisted in keeping the system in order. He is now power company manager in Pahokee and often returns here to greet old friends.

STUART'S FIRST POWER STATION

This metal-covered frame building, erected in 1916, housed Stuart's first electric power plant when the "juice" was first turned on here that year. It was located along the FEC Railroad tracks with the city's water tower in the background. It was torn down in 1926.

Martin County Events Year by Year

1913

April 13—First newspaper in Stuart published.
May 1—Stuart votes dry 42-37 in county election; county went wet.
May 21—Henry M. Flagler died.
July 11—Kimberly Apts. building started.
July 14—Palm Beach County School Board orders school building for Salerno.
July 22—First effort to incorporate Stuart failed.
Aug. 2—E. J. Ricou starts as Stuart postmaster.
Aug. 15—First hard roads in Port Sewall ordered built.
Sept. 1—Postal savings accounts opened at Stuart Post Office.
Oct. 24—Stuart Woman's Club organized.
Nov. 5—Ground broken for erection of Woodmen Hall.
Dec. 3—Bids ordered sought for bridge over St. Lucie River at Stuart.

1914

Jan. 22—Captain Hugh Willoughby flew from Stuart to Port Sewall in 4 minutes and took first aerial pictures of Stuart.
Jan. 27—Incorporation meeting failed due to lack of qualified voters.
Feb. 13—U. S. Army Engineers began surveying St. Lucie Inlet for deepening.
Feb. 20—Florida Gospel Navy Bible Conference held in Stuart.
March 6—All-time high of registered voters, 155.
April 10—First wireless set up in Stuart by George Krueger.
April 17—Lyric theater, Stuart's first, opened.
May 1—John Ashley, notorious bandit, surrendered.
May 7—Stuart incorporated.
Sept. 11—Major R. H. Dudley died.

1915

Jan. 22—Ice factory in Stuart completed and working.
Feb. 12—Florida East Coast train robbed in Stuart.
Feb. 19—Contract for dredging of St. Lucie Canal signed.
Feb. 26—Ashley gang robbed Bank of Stuart; escaped with $4,000.
April 9—First pay station telephone in Stuart, located in Stuart Drug.
May 7—City charter bill passed in Legislature and signed by Governor.
May 28—St. Lucie-Okeechobee Canal started.
July 2—City telephone system ready for use.

1916

Jan. 1—Fire started in J. B. McDonald home and spread to others in neighborhood. Estimated loss $17,500.
Jan. 7—Contract for dredging St. Lucie Inlet awarded.
March 10—Contract for building bridge across St. Lucie awarded for $65,595.
April 14—Announcement made that number of registered voters in Stuart had increased to 215.
May 12—Movie, "Westward, Ho!" was filmed in Stuart.
June 1—First diplomas ever awarded to graduates of Stuart High School presented to graduating class of two.
July 7—Announcement that Post Office in Stuart had sold $5,500 worth of stamps in past year startled citizens.
Aug. 5—Dredging of inlet stopped temporarily due to unexpected hardness of rock and the approaching storm season.
Sept. 22—$10,000 Palm City bond issue carried.
Oct. 20—Total assets of Stuart declared to be more than $23,000.
Nov. 3—Heavy rains washed away St. Lucie-Okeechobee canal dam. Damage estimated at $15,000.
Nov. 17—Water and light franchise for city granted. Twenty-five hydrants promised by company.

1917

Jan. 19—Electricity turned on for the first time in Stuart; $45,000 school bond issue failed.
July 13—First Stuart men enlisted in U. S. Army.
Oct. 19—Robert McPherson died.
Nov. 2—Stuart voted dry, 74-22.

1918

Jan. 10—First and only tie vote for Mayor of Stuart between Stanley Kitching and George Parks.
Jan. 31—Bridge across the St. Lucie opened formally.
Feb. 14—J. B. McDonald appointed Superintendent of Schools for Palm Beach County, first choice from Stuart.
March 14—Amendments to city charter passed with the exception of woman suffrage.
March 21—Ernest Stypmann, pioneer settler, died.
Sept. 19—H. H. Bessey, pioneer, died.

1919

Feb. 22—Formal opening of the Palm City bridge.
May 20—$60,000 bond issue for streets and fire hall in Stuart passed.
Aug. 12—$120,000 bond issue for county roads from Stuart to Lake Okeechobee passed by 55-6 vote.
Nov. 13—Stuart's first publicity signs placed every 5 miles from Jacksonville to Stuart on highway.
Dec. 3—Palm City drainage district organized.
Dec. 24—Stuart's first community Christmas tree celebration held.

1920

Jan. 8—Stuart's prosperity evidenced by announcement that Stuart Bank deposits reached $180,000 in 1919.
March 11—Stuart's city band reorganized.
July 22—First Republican committee in Stuart organized.
Oct. 14—The Mellicent, bootlegging schooner, carying $17,000 worth of "booze," burned and sunk in St. Lucie off Sewall's Point.
Nov. 4—Announcement made that complete hot meals were being served in the cafeteria of Stuart High School for 8 cents.

1921

Feb. 14—$15,000 contract for paving Stuart streets awarded.
March 26—Palm City voted to incorporate, petitioned State Legislature for charter.
June 16—Stuart began paving streets for $1.10 a square yard.
July 21—Carroll Dunscombe shipped first carload of mangoes to leave State from his farms.
Aug. 4—Stuart's first fire truck was announced ready for use.
Aug. 11—$60,000 bond deal for paving Stuart streets fell through. No bonds sold.
Aug. 25—Town Council voted to dredge Frazier Creek for $16 a linear foot.
Nov. 28—Town Council bought Stuart Bank Building for $8,000 to use as town hall.

1922

Jan. 12—Stuart announced completion of 12 miles of sidewalks and 7 miles of paved streets
Feb. 8—Two stores robbed of $65. First robbery in town since the Ashley gang was captured.
May 12—Bank robbed of $8,133.14 by nephew of Ashley gang, Hanford Mobley.
June 8—St. Lucie Inlet dredging completed.
July 20—W. J. Dyer died.
Aug. 3—Jensen voted bonds 39-19 for $125,000 bridge.
Nov. 5—$50,000 high school building started.

1923

March 8—President Warren G. Harding and party visited Port Sewall.
March 14—Country Club organized, laid plans for 18-hole golf course for Stuart.
April 2—Second bank in Stuart opened.
May 28—St. Lucie Inlet District created by State Legislature.
May 30—Legislature voted $80,000 worth of roads for Salerno district.
June 13—First water flowed from Lake Okeechobee through St. Lucie Canal.
Aug. 6—Salerno voted $80,000 bonds for roads.
Sept. 20—Stuart's $50,000 school opened with more than 200 enrolled.
Oct. 23—St. Lucie Inlet District voted in 195-22.
Nov. 9—First cafeteria in Stuart opened.

1924

Jan. 17—Construction of Jensen Bridge started.
Feb. 19—Citizens' Committee of three appears before Washington, D. C., board to plead for deepening of St. Lucie Inlet.
March 11—Country club golf course completed.
June 17—Noted geologist reported sure signs of oil in Stuart area.
July 22—Supreme Court declared Jensen Bridge district invalid, three land companies tax-free.
Aug. 14—Stuart Citrus Growers Association formed.
Sept. 16—Assessed valuation of town up to $2,500,000.
Oct. 6—Work on new Post Office Arcade started.
Oct. 7—Exclusive St. Lucie Estates subdivision opened.
Nov. 1—Cornelius Vanderbilt and party visit Stuart.
Nov. 10—St. Lucie Estates owners agreed to join city. Name "Port Stuart" proposed.
Nov. 25—St. Lucie Inlet bond issue carried 350-11 for $250,000.

1925

Jan. 13—R. R. Ricou died.
Feb. 6—Announcement made that New Dixie Highway would pass through Stuart.
Feb. 17—Rio St. Lucie subdivision opened.
Feb. 27—U. S. Army Engineers endorsed opening of St. Lucie Inlet, $76,000 appropriation recommended.
April 3—Movement started to create new county between St. Lucie and Palm Beach Counties.
April 10—Proposed city charter sent to State Legislature.
May 7—Bill to create Martin County introduced to Legislature accompanied by petition signed by 3,200 residents.
May 19—City charter passed by Legislature and signed by Gov. John Martin.
May 26—Martin County bill passed in House of Representatives, 71-6.
May 28—Senate passed Martin County bill 26-4.
May 29—House of Representatives unanimously concurred on Martin County bill.
May 30—Governor Martin signed bill.
June 30—City charter approved at polls 81-6.
Aug. 2—H. E. Sewall died.
Aug. 4—Martin County approved by voters, 331-2.
Aug. 18—Governor Martin visited county named after him.
Oct. 13—J. E. Taylor elected Representative from Martin County.
Dec. 22—J. H. Rogers, founder of Port Sewall, died.

1926

Feb. 4—Seaboard Air Line Railroad announced plans to establish division headquarters at Indiantown.
Feb. 10—Jensen threatened by brush fire which raged for hours.
Feb. 12—Colored section of Stuart almost wiped out by night fire.
Feb. 13—South Fork bridge seriously damaged by fire caused by explosion of oil tank.
March 15—$100,000 Lyric Theater Arcade opened.
March 17—First National Bank of Martin County organized, announced plans to build in Salerno.
April 20—Million dollar bond issue for St. Lucie Inlet deepening voted in, 566-17.
May 1—$225,500 contract let for construction of north jetty at St. Lucie Inlet.
May 19—R. E. Mahr given job as first city manager, salary $3,600.
July 24—Stuart Bank and Trust Company failed to open due to failure of fiscal agents, Bankers Trust of Atlanta.
July 27—80-mile-an-hour hurricane caused $300,000 worth of damage to Martin County; Jensen damage estimated at more than $15,000.
Aug. 4—$238,000 contract let for county road work.
Sept. 19—90-mile-an-hour hurricane struck South Florida killing 700. Damage set $75,000,000 in Miami alone. Stuart losses light.
Oct. 11—Stuart Bank and Trust Company re-opened.

1927

Feb. 15—Stuart named permanent county seat.
Feb. 17—Indiantown petition circulated to contest naming of Stuart as county seat.
March 18—Seminole Bank failed to open.
March 21—Petition contesting Stuart as county seat denied.
June 1—Indiantown and Port Sewall incorporated by State Legislature.
June 7—Seminole Bank re-opened.
Aug. 19—North jetty of St. Lucie Inlet completed.
Sept. 3—U. S. Senate appropriated $50,000 for work on inlet.
Nov. 30—Port Sewall elected first city officials: Hugh L. Willoughby, Jr., Mayor.
Dec. 17—City Commissioners' salary reduced from $100 a month to $1 per year.

1928

Feb. 26—Formal opening of Flagler Park.
March 1—Stuart's municipal airport, Krueger Field, opened.
May 8—First vessel entered Stuart harbor.
July 28—H. N. Gaines died.
Aug. 7—Hurricane struck South Florida—worst in 40 years—winds as high as 110 miles an hour—$18,000,000 damage to citrus crop.
Aug. 11—St. Lucie Canal found to be blocked by sand from recent hurricane. Damage as high as $1,000,000.
Aug. 13—Second hurricane of season touched coast, passed out to sea.
Aug. 15—Third hurricane swept across Florida Keys.
Sept. 12—$200,000 Stuart ice plant burned.
Sept. 16—Hurricane struck South Florida—Palm Beach hardest hit—130-mile-an-hour winds reported—dyke at Lake Okeechobee broken—Lake region flooded.
Sept. 20—$4,000,000 damage to citrus crop—5 dead in Martin County—1,000 known dead in disaster area.
Sept. 22—1,000,000 acres flooded—emergency ordinances passed by city making it unlawful to raise prices—all able-bodied men not working put in jail.
Sept. 25—Final reports on hurricane: 1,805 dead, 16,082 homeless; property damage $50,000,000.
Oct. 24—1,550 registered to vote in Martin County.
Nov. 28—Insurance rates for storm damage in Martin and Palm Beach Counties increased 50 per cent.
Dec. 24—Population of Stuart is 4,200.

1929

Jan. 12—"Trinidadian," Gulf Oil tanker, grounded on Gilbert's Bar.
Jan. 14—Otto Stypmann died.
Jan. 22—President-elect Herbert Hoover spoke to Stuart residents from railroad station.
Jan. 23—Noted "numerologist" visited Stuart, assured residents that Florida would not experience another hurricane until 1963.
March 1—Seminole Bank closed by state examiner.
March 6—Stuart Bank and Trust Company closed.
March 19—Crisis reached in city finances; $60,000 needed to pay interest on bonds and debts.
March 28—City street lights ordered turned off until fall; city owed Florida Power and Light Company $27,000.
May 8—Martin Maloney, Port Sewall pioneer, died.
May 15—Stuart Central Farmers Bank opened.
Oct. 5—W. J. Connors, builder of Connors' Highway, died.

1930

Jan. 7—Martin County requested the State to take over the completion of Martin Hwy.
Jan. 14—Grand jury called in to investigate closing of Seminole Bank.
Feb. 1—Grand jury charged conspiracy in the sale of $1,000,000 worth of St. Lucie Inlet bonds, indicted seven.
March 2—Judge disqualified in inlet conspiracy trial.
March 17—Army Engineers recommended that Congress spend $9,692,000 for flood control and navigation in the Lake Okeechobee area.
July 9—Land Company of Florida announced plans to abandon its $4,000,000 investment in Martin County.
Aug. 5—Martin County School Board and County Commissioners announced plans to slash budgets.
Oct. 1—Stuart street lights turned on for winter season.
Dec. 1—"Danger Lights," Stuart's first talkie, shown at Lyric.

1931

Feb. 18—Inlet conspiracy charges dismissed.
Feb. 28—State took permanent responsibility for Martin, Dixie, Gaines and Warfield Hwys. in Martin County.
March 24—Federal Government leased Douglass Air Field, announced plans to spend from $10,000 to $20,000 in county.
May 28—County Commissioners voted to extend the Jensen Beach road to the inlet.
Sept. 15—Stuart Farmers Bank closed its doors.
Dec. 31—Government announced plans to spend $2,000,000 on drainage canal in 1932.

1932

June 14—Midnight fire wiped out Gulf Oil warehouse, used to cover double robbery of Seaboard and Standard oil companies. Damage estimated at $8,000. Undetermined amount of cash stolen.
June 20—Okeechobee flood control efforts ceased due to lack of cash.
July 13—County taxes cut 13 per cent below 1931.
July 16—Okeechobee flood control work resumed. Congressional appropriation of $2,133,000 received.
July 25—Mrs. Cynthia S. Haney, 93-year-old pioneer newspaper woman, and Johan Bentel, old settler died. Plans begun for $360,000 bridge to be built across St. Lucie in the fall.
Aug. 20—Walter Johann, pioneer of St. Lucie section, died.
Sept. 19—Last member of notorious Ashley gang captured.
Nov. 4—Fiery cross and dynamite explosion frightened the residents of Negro section in Stuart; connected with unusually large registration of Negro voters. Ku Klux Klan denied having a part.
Nov. 5—Cross and dynamite used in Indiantown to scare residents. KKK again denied any knowledge of incident. Evidence linked demonstrations with county sheriff's election.
Nov. 7—State's Attorney Angus Sumner started investigation of illegal slush fund to pay poll tax for Negro voters in Martin County, promised to be on hand to watch elections in county.
Nov. 29—Contract awarded for bridge across St. Lucie for $384,814.

1933

Jan. 21—New St. Lucie River bridge construction begun.
Feb. 13—Citizens Bank of Stuart opened for business.
March 19—Mrs. Benjamin Parks, Stuart pioneer, died.
April 8—Hobe Sound Company started operations.
April 17—George T. Gosling, North Stuart pioneer, died.
May 11—City of Stuart received new charter.
July 10—FEC freight depot burned.
July 30—Hurricane struck here; damage light despite 20 in. rain.
Sept. 4—Hurricane struck here; two killed, damage heavy, winds exceeded 100 miles an hour.

1934

Jan. 9—Dedication of Roosevelt Bridge.
Feb. 10—Hail storm buries Stuart with 6 in. of ice.
May 11—Ralph W. Hartman takes office as acting postmaster succeeding Charles M. Loy.
May 15—Gene Tunney, national boxing champion, buys home on Jupiter Island.
May 21—Chamber of Commerce chooses "Fishing Grounds of President" as Stuart slogan, submitted by Miss Mamie Underwood.
Aug. 1—Work begins on $35,000 project to fill swamp on Jupiter Island, build yacht basin and 8-ft. channel.
June 8—City signs contract for 29 new whiteway lights.

1935

Feb. 4—County fair opens for one week.
Feb. 13—117 escape injury when passenger train crashes through drawbridge at Jupiter.
March 22—New Jensen Beach school burns.
May 11—Stuart census reports 2,049.
May 20—County census reports 5,304.
July 10—Mrs. F. E. Evarts, 81, rescued after being lost five days in a swamp.
July 15—Matt Gindorff, Jr., 41, died.
Oct. 21—Construction of Log Cabin in 4th St. park sanctioned.
Oct. 29—Stuart Junior Chamber of Commerce organized with 52 charter members.
Nov. 7—Capt. Benjamin Hogg died.

1936

July 10—County agrees to buy court house from city for sum equivalent to $25,000 in city bonds, appraised at market value of $5,375.
July 20—County accepts R. E. Crummer's plan to refund $4,000,000 worth of general and inlet debt.
July 26—Frank L. Young, pioneer newspaper publisher of Salerno, died.
Aug. 4—Capt. R. D. Hoke, 1880s pioneer in Jensen, died.
Aug. 24—Susanna Kitching died.

1939

March 4—Herbert Hoover made week-end visit.
Marlh 8—Martin County Hospital dedicated.
April 4—Hugh Willoughby died.
April 26—Martin County High School announced as a fully accredited institution for the first time.
Aug. 3—Cleary Brothers made low bid of $642,765 for construction of east lock in St. Lucie Canal.
Aug. 15—Construction of new Jensen Beach bridge to ocean authorized by 308-238 vote.
Sept. 12—Seines in county prohibited by 772-667 vote.
Sept. 27—Mrs. Robert McPherson died.

1940

May 7—County anti-mosquito district created.
June 6—Census shows city has 2,418 population, county 6,295.
July 30—$167,514 contract awarded for construction of 12 miles of road 76 from South Fork to Indiantown.
Sept. 1—Cattle industry starting tremendous growth in Indiantown area.
Oct. 8—C. E. Schroeder retired from city hall.
Oct. 16—749 men register for draft; board created.

1941

Jan. 9—Record sailfish run underway off Inlet.
Jan. 17—Stuart Sailfish Club charter adopted.
March 27—Katherine Hepburn, famed movie star, made personal appearance during Kiwanis Club benefit show at theater here.
Aug. 15—County and inlet bonds totaling $2,842,000 were ordered refunded.
Oct. 23—CAA appropriated $398,000 for work at Witham Field.

1942

Jan. 1—Water plant is sold to Nat T. Wagner.
Jan. 22—CAA starts work on airport.
Feb. 5—$15,000,000 Army school approved for county.
Feb. 19—City signs Cook refunding plans for $1,000,000 city debt; E. A. Fugo, pioneer banker died.
Feb. 26—Subs sink 3 U. S. tankers off coast; work begins on Stuart airport.
July 5—Forcal opening of Signal Corp School at Camp Murphy.
Aug. 20—Official notice received that Homer Witham was killed in action.
Oct. 1—Navy takes over Stuart airport, appropriates additional $800,000.
Dec. 17—President approves $35,000 recreation project here.
Dec. 26—W. S. Barstow, hospital donor, died at Great Neck, N. Y.

1943

Jan. 9—George W. Parks died.
Feb. 2—Stuart airport named after Paul H. Witham.
Feb. 18—William S. Roat died.
April 10—Martin County first in nation to over-subscribe its 2nd War Loan quota of $91,000.
May 14—County Agent T. H. McRorie fired, rehired, resigned.
June 1—U. S. Post Office Department officially changes Jensen to Jensen Beach.
May 27—Navy leased Witham Field.
July 20—Creation of Stuart Park Board voted 174-57.
Aug. 10—A. T. Hogarth died.
Aug. 31—A. M. Christiansen, Rio pioneer, died.
Oct. 10—Martin County Service Club (Stuart Civic Center) dedicated.
Nov. 3—National oil companies began leasing lands in county.

1944

March 4—H. J. Greene died.
April 6—Borden Company buys Shark Industries plant.
Sept. 7—Dismantling of Camp Murphy began.
Nov. 12—Governor Caldwell dedicated new St. Lucie Inlet channel.
Nov. 30—Camp Murphy officially closed.
Dec. 27—Drew W. King died.

1945

Jan. 4—Chicagoans purchase expansive waterfront property east of Stuart for yachting and residential developments.
April 19—Troup brothers buy 15,000-acre tract at Indiantown.
April 25—City buys water plant for $130,000.
May 2—Agar-agar plant begins production at Jensen Beach.
July 21—John Michaelis died.
July 25—Mrs. Ann Speirs Krueger died.
Oct. 10—225 trees planted in Stuart park to honor Martin County war veterans.
Oct. 17—Stuart Jaycees reorganized.
Nov. 26—John A. "Uncle Joe" Bowers died in Indiantown.
Dec. 12—Chicagoans purchased Sunrise Inn.

1946

Jan. 30—Stuart school students hold one-day strike; coach resigns.
Feb. 3—William Chisholm died.
Feb. 27—County Commission orders redistricting of county.
May 2—City buys Civic Center.
May 7—Crary, Rowell elected to Legislature for 1947.
May 15—Witham Field placed on caretaker status, officially returned to county six weeks later on July 1.
June 30—Daylight Saving Time abandoned in Stuart after three-months trial.
July 10—C. E. Schroeder died.
July 29—Camp Murphy properties sale started for 10 days.
Sept. 11—City adopted 10-per cent utility tax.
Nov. 7—Cassie H. Munch, Jensen Beach pioneer, died.

1947

Feb. 25—Purchase of Camp Murphy area for a State park approved.
March 1—First house-to-house mail delivery in Stuart began.
March 31—Record one-day catch of 341 sharks made in Salerno.
June 26—$53,000 allotted by Congress to improve St. Lucie Inlet.
July 7—Emerson Cook Company named fiscal agent for proposed new county bridges.
Sept. 16—City park board abolished; hurricane struck.
Oct. 22—Salerno Civic Association founded.
Oct. 27—Arthur Dehon Bldg. begun.
Dec. 15—City Commission increased from three to five members.

1948

Jan. 7—One killed, nine saved in Inlet boat accident.
March 21—James H. Reardon died.
April 11—3,500 attended first big Indiantown rodeo.
May 9—First Air-Sports Carnival sponsored by Jaycees attracted 2,000.
May 25—George Keith elected to Legislature.
June 2—County Democratic Committee solves County Commission race tie by electing Ransom R. Tilton by 13-2 vote.
June 11—$1,276,000 contract let to deepen and widen Cross-State Canal.
June 26—First radoi station in county, Police Station WRWL, began operations.
Aug. 1—J. B. McDonald died.
Sept. 22—Hurricane hit: "eye" passed over Jensen Beach.
Nov. 27— Stuart News rated best weekly in Florida.

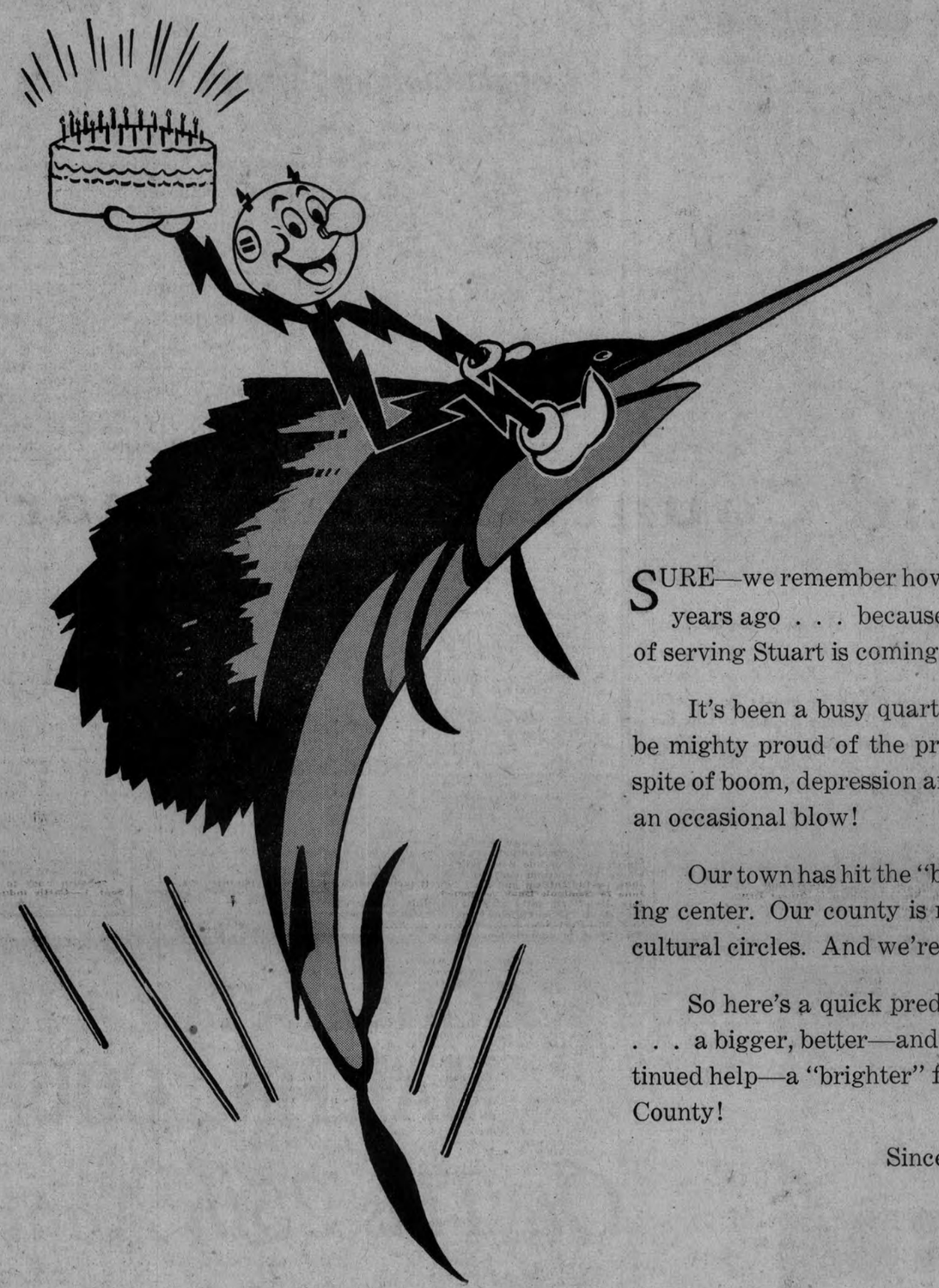
1949

Jan. 26—City buys Langberg building north of Civic Center.
Feb. 23—CBS radio show broadcast here from ball park.
May 23—Grand jury clears Rep. George Keith.
June 15—Creation of county health unit approved, to start Nov. 1.
Aug. 26—Worst hurricane in area's history strikes with winds of 160 miles an hour and a dozen inches of rain.
Sept. 6—Martin County Road and Bridge Authority approved by voters.
Oct. 6—County Clerk J. R. Pomeroy died.
Oct. 11—SRD starts $40,000 repair job on storm-damaged Jensen Beach bridge.
Dec. 13—Sale of 4th St. park tract to schools approved 507-158.
Dec. 20—New York City Mayor William O'Dwyer married here.

1950

Jan. 10—H. P. Lyons recalled from City Commission.
Jan. 12—State Road Department pledges $750,000 to Martin County bridges-to-ocean project.
Feb. 9—Jupiter State Park renamed Jonathan Dickinson Park.
March 14—City sells 16-acre park tract to School Board.
April 9—County Commissioner O. D. Quisenberry died.
May 9—State audit flays County Commission, Sheriff, lauds schools.
May 23—Sen. Evans Crary re-elected.
June 29—1950 census shows county 7,665, city 2,892.
July 7—Two bridges from Stuart to oceanfront ordered of SRD.
Aug. 1—County Commission Chairman R. L. Wall resigned.
Aug. 8—City water system expansion project's fiscal agent named.
Aug. 27—Dr. F. B. Eurit died.
Sept. 27—Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation leased Witham Field.
Nov. 11—City and county celebrated simultaneous 25th birthday anniversaries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARTIN COUNTY!



SURE—we remember how it was in Martin County 25 years ago . . . because our own 25th Anniversary of serving Stuart is coming up, too!

It's been a busy quarter-century. And we can all be mighty proud of the progress we've made . . . in spite of boom, depression and war . . . not to mention an occasional blow!

Our town has hit the "big time" as a resort and fishing center. Our county is making itself heard in agricultural circles. And we're still going places!

So here's a quick prediction for the next 25 years . . . a bigger, better—and with Reddy Kilowatt's continued help—a "brighter" future for Stuart and Martin County!

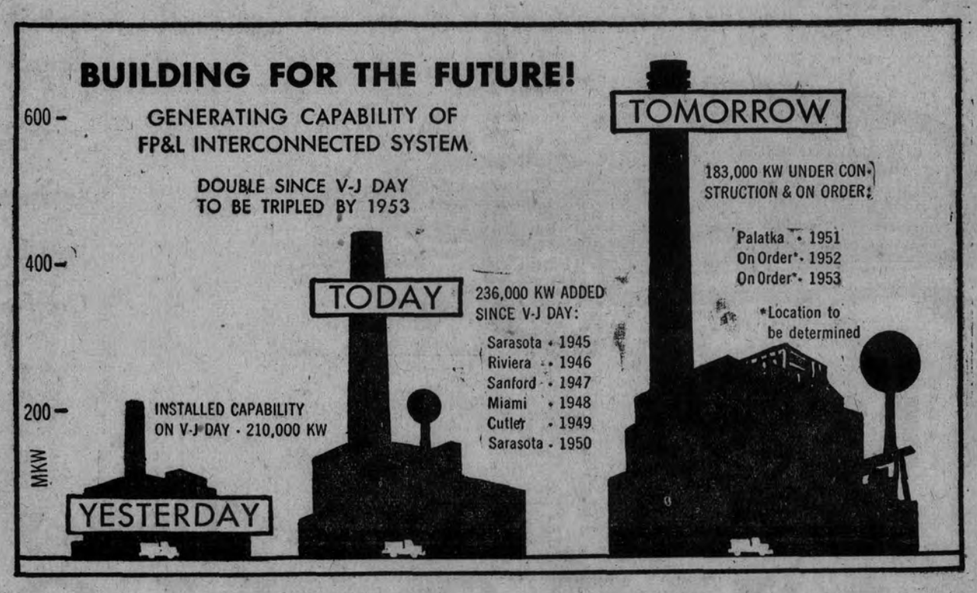
Sincerely,

JOHN LAW, Manager

GROWING WITH FLORIDA . . . HELPING FLORIDA GROW!

"REDDY" FOR TOMORROW:

Today the future is again uncertain. But this much is sure. Come peace or war . . . the cities, towns and rural areas served by Florida Power and Light Company are sure of plenty of "Reddy Kilowatt Power." Since V-J Day, we've doubled our generating capability . . . plan to triple it by 1953. We've added thousands of miles of city and rural lines . . . invested millions in new equipment and improvements. Yes, whatever the future holds—thanks to the confidence and foresight of private investors, we're "Reddy"!



HELPING BUILD FLORIDA SUNSHINE SERVICE

FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

PHONES MIRROR CITY'S GROWTH

Quantity Tripled in Last Decade: Southern Bell Bought Stuart Plant in '19

If you have any doubts about the growth of Stuart in the past 10 years, ask the Southern Bell Telephone people and they'll give you facts that will convince you in a hurry.

Based on the old adage "Figures Don't Lie," Stuart is definitely growing — and growing fast. This is clearly shown in the fact that the number of telephones increased from 380 in 1940 to more than 1,000 in 1950, approximately three times as many telephones in only 10 years.

And look at these other facts about Stuart, telephonewise:

1. The number of telephones has doubled in the last five years alone.
2. Stuart is increasing its number of telephones by approximately 100 each year.

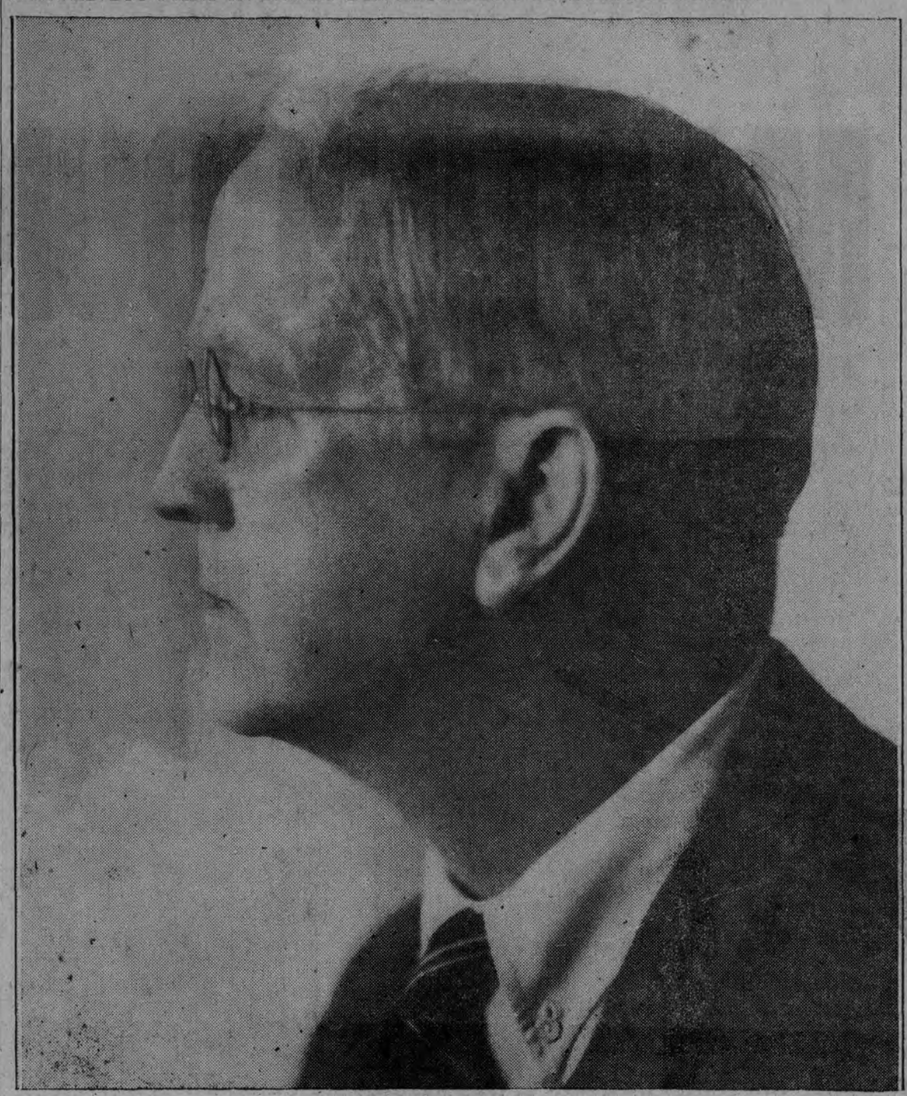
A. S. Dobbs, Southern Bell manager for this area, pointed out that the yearly increase of 100 telephones means that Stuart is getting a lot of new, permanent citizens. "If this rate of telephone increase is maintained during the next five years," he said, "it will mean that Stuart will have approximately 2,000 telephones in service by 1960."

The Stuart telephone exchange was purchased by Southern Bell Dec. 22, 1919, from the West Palm Beach Telephone Company. The exchanges at West Palm Beach and Stuart were purchased at the same time.

At the time of the purchase, Stuart had a total of 43 telephones in operation. A year later this number had been increased to 51. Subsequent growth was as follows: In 1925, 158 stations; 1930, 255; 1940, 380; 1945, 547; at the end of May 1950, 1,009.

Dobbs said Stuart's rapid growth since the war has made it necessary to add thousands of dollars worth of new central office equipment to care for the increased number of telephone subscribers. "We've also strung approximately 1,319 miles of new wire and cable during the past five years, and erected 250 poles," he said. "Since 1940, in order to expand and improve telephone service in Stuart, it has been necessary to increase the number of telephone employees here approximately 55 per cent."

PLAYED BIG PART IN EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF MARTIN COUNTY



ARTHUR BRISBANE

Brisbane, famed editorial writer for Hearst, played a conspicuous part in the early days of Martin County's development. Making several trips here, he rode horseback over much of the central half of the county, ended up by purchasing 6,000 acres astride Road 76 just west of Tropical Farms. If he ever had any plans for improving this acreage, he never revealed them. The land was paid for in advertising which was done by the Land Company of Florida (Seaboard subsidiary) in Hearst papers all over the United States, trying to sell Indiantown and environs as a farming country.

Brisbane took a fancy to Stuart, once offered to buy half interest in the local newspaper, later discovered that his contract with Hearst precluded such a move. In 1925 a real estate man in Stuart told Brisbane the building now occupied by the Stuart Feed Store could be bought for $13,000. Three months later Brisbane decided to buy, but discovered that in the meantime the building had been sold once at $13,000, again at $28,000 and the current price was $45,000. He lost interest.

In 1932 a Stuart News reporter told Brisbane on one of his visits here that he was now the biggest landowner in Martin County who was really paying his taxes. Brisbane observed: "Maybe I'm just the biggest fool."

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

MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY
℞ COMPOUNDING PRESCRIPTIONS

Congratulations, Martin County, on Your 25th Anniversary

A. S. Kerr has been a Registered Pharmacist for 51 years, which gives him the longest continuous background in pharmacy of any druggist in Martin County.

REGISTERED IN TEXAS SEPTEMBER 17, 1897 — REGISTERED IN FLORIDA JANUARY 10, 1926

A native of Texas, he has constantly kept pace with the progress of medicine through the years, and his shop carries the nation's finest — and most modern pharmaceuticals.

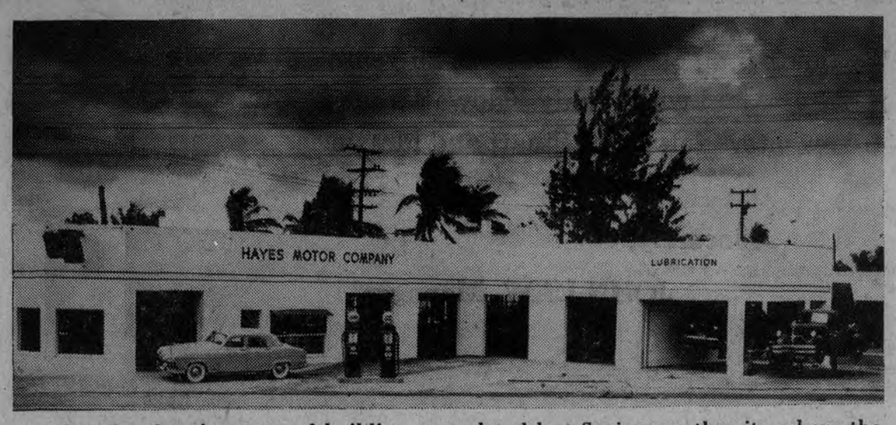
Precision in our profession means accurate compounding, precise measuring, and no margin for error.

KERR'S PRESCRIPTION SHOP

Florida REGISTERED Pharmacist

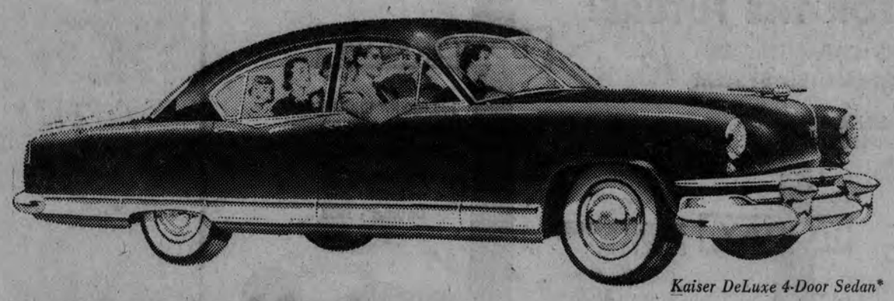
Post Office Arcade, Stuart — Phone 696 or 343R

24 Hour Service



Our new hurricane proof building, completed last Spring, on the site where the destructive blow of August, 1949, completely demolished our former garage. With modern showrooms, service and repair facilities, Hayes Motor Co. is "brand new with 1950."

See the New "Henry J."



Kaiser DeLuxe 4-Door Sedan

1951 Kaiser

CONGRATULATIONS, MARTIN COUNTY

On This 25th Anniversary

G. D. "Dewey" Hayes came to South Florida in 1918, locating first at Fort Pierce. He came to Stuart in 1933 as service manager for the Ford agency, Clements Motor Co., then located in this location, and started his own business in 1936.

Hayes Motor Co. was Plymouth-Dodge agency until 1947, at which time we took over America's Most Modern Motor agencies, the Kaiser-Fraser line, and in 1950 added the Willys Jeep.

You get the benefits of a lifetime training in mechanical service when you bring your car to Hayes Motor Co. for check-ups or repairs.

'Jeep' Station Wagon

-G. D. "Dewey" Hayes-

HAYES MOTOR CO.

Phone 18

MORE ABOUT

ELECTRIC POWER

(Continued from Page 4-E)

for months with day and night shifts working part-time, so it is with pride and satisfaction that the people of Palm City have at last realized their dream of having electricity which has been talked of for years. The City Commission and Chamber f Commerce have worked hard to secure current for Palm City and much credit should go to them." Palm City in 1926 had a population of approximately 150 people.

Rates Decrease

After the transmission line and sub-station had been completed on U. S. 1 distribution was extended to Salerno, involving the construction of approximately 6 miles of distribution system. Salerno at this time had a population of about 250 and prior to the completion of this extension had no electric service.

Statistical information compiled in the Stuart district relative to rates shows that, after the Stuart district became a part of the inter-connected system of the Florida Power and Light Company, citizens were benefited by the lowering of rates and each year the average rate per kilowatt hour of residential revenue derived by the company shows a decided decrease. In 1926 the average rate per kilowatt hour of residential revenue was 11.79 cents. In 1950 the average rate per kilowatt hour of residential revenue is 3.42 cents. Last January 533,695 kilowatts were sold through the Stuart office for $18,258.95.

The Stuart district ranges from 2 miles south of Salerno northward to the south side of the cross-State highway at Vero Beach and westward to the Arundel Shops on the Okeechobee Waterway. It is confined to the rural areas around Fort Pierce.

Present manager of the Stuart district is John M. Law, Jr., who came here from West Palm Beach to replace deMoya in 1939.

MORE ABOUT

ASHLEY GANG

(Continued from Page 1-E)

report, he actually served as a deputy sheriff.

In time the personnel of the Ashley Gang included not only a number of native crackers turned outlaw, but also hoodlums from other States who were lured to Florida by rumors of fantastic hauls in rum-running. Second only to John Ashley as leader of the bandits was John's nephew, young Hanford Mobley, whose particular delight was bank robberies. After his first jail break he left the lake region to become, according to report, a taxi driver in California; later he worked on a trans-Atlantic liner and made three trips to Germany.

Just before the Ashley Gang rounded out its decade of crime the flabby arm of the law grew muscular. A bank raid at Pompano in November 1923 aroused an unusual storm of public protest. Not only was a loot of $23,000 in cash and securities garnered in that reckless venture, but the Negro whose car was forcibly borrowed for that business was given a rifle bullet to be delivered to the former jailer, Sheriff Bob Baker, with an invitation to hunt the bandits in the Everglades.

Baker accepted the challenge with alacrity. Deputies scoured the woods in search of the gang's moonshine stills and camps where their bootleg wares were stored. On Jan. 9, 1924, they discovered one of the storage spots in the swamp about 2 miles from the Ashley home. According to report, Fred Baker, cousin of the sheriff, led the posse and stationed four men at the edge of the swamp while he and three others crawled close to the camp under cover of darkness. At daylight they were preparing to close in when a dog nosed them out and started to bark. They shot down Pa Joe Ashley, and the fight was on. Deputy Fred Baker was killed, supposedly by John Ashley, and several other members of the pursuing group were wounded. Infuriated over the murder of Fred Baker, angry citizens set fire to the Ashley and Mobley shanties and such members of the gang as could be found were rounded up and jailed, while a steadily growing posse fanned out over the countryside in search of John Ashley and the other criminals still at large.

In a few weeks members of the Ashley family against whom no specific crime was chalked up were released and the amateur supporters of the law decreased noticeably in number. But the deputies kept doggedly on, trying to bring to a climax the blood feud that had developed between Sheriff Bob Baker and John Ashley. The gang leader left Florida. but memories of his father's death drew him back **for revenge. Bob Baker's convictions** were equally strong, and Ma Ashley was no softie. According to one report, she kept saying to him, "Yuh know yer duty, now do it."

The final scene in this drama of crime was laid on the night of Nov. 1, 1924, at the Sebastian River Bridge, a few miles north of Vero Beach on the coastal highway running north from Miami. Sheriff J. R. Merritt of St. Lucie County had received word from Bob Baker that afternoon, warning him of an approaching invasion by the Ashleys, and shortly thereafter Merritt's forces were augmented by deputies from Palm Beach County. Details as to time of arrival, description of car and license **number were secretly relayed** to Merritt by a stool pigeon, brother-in-law of John Ashley, whose own safety and plans for the future depended on the elimination of John.

A chain holding a red lantern was drawn across the bridge. This seemed natural enough since the road leading to the bridge was being repaired. Headed north, a car stopped and out jumped John Ashley, Hanford Mobley, Ray Lynn and Bob Middleton. They had hardly alighted when they were surrounded by deputies. After lining up the captives between the headlights of two cars, the sheriff made ready for searching and handcuffing. The job was never completed. At a signal from John the bandits snatched out guns and the deputies fired. All four of the Ashley Gang fell dead. The still-warm corpses were piled in the Ashley car and taken to undertaker W. I. Fee at Fort Pierce.

"We've got the Ashleys here!" shouted Deputy Sheriff Wiggins through the still night.

"Alive?" queried the cagey Fee from an upper window.

"Dead as Hell!" came the reassuring reply. With a great sigh of relief, which would have been shared most willingly by thousands in Southern Florida, Fee faced the Ashley Gang for the first time and went to work.

After the bodies were embalmed, they were taken to the new Ashley home near Gomez. Here John, Hanford and Lynn (who pathetically enough had no kin to claim him) were made ready for burial. Bill Ashley, serving time for possessing moonshine, was given a twenty-four-hour parole to attend the funeral. None of the clan had stood well with the churches, but as Ma Ashley grieved for a Christian burial, Laura Upthegrove wired Maj. John Bouterse of the Salvation Army at Miami requesting him to conduct the service. He met her in West Palm Beach and together they drove to the open graves past sullen guards armed to shoot down any unwanted intruders who the press predicted would try to attend.

The service was short and simple. Major Bouterse reminisced many years later: "I didn't tell any lies to the Lord or any lies to them." After it was over, Ma Ashley sobbed, "There they are, the three of them," and then she added, "They killed them for not a thing in the world!"

In line with such a point of view some of the Ashleys tried to bring legal action against the authorities, charging that handcuffed men had been shot down without a trial. The deputies defended their position on the basis of self-defense and declared the bandits were not handcuffed, and in this contention the undertaker, who had seen the bodies shortly after death, agreed. Authorities threatened to have the "boys" exhumed for evidence, but the matter ended there. Even after 20 years some stray story revives speculation on what actually happened on the night of Nov. 1, 1924, at the Sebastian River Bridge. Was it self-defense or frontier justice which shaped events on that fateful night? The public was content with either explanation.

Just why John Ashley and his fellow plunderers of society started their journey toward Jacksonville has been variously explained. Sheriff Baker was convinced that John was in the process of maturing plans to remove Baker not only from the office of Sheriff of Palm Beach County but, as well, from this mortal life. Sheriff Merritt declared the bandits were en route to Kissimmee to help one of their pals escape from jail, after which they expected to stick up a bank or two in Central Florida before returning to safety in the swamps. Mrs. Mobley, mother of Hanford, virtuously explained that they were leaving Florida for their "hunted lives" for honest occupations elsewhere.

The Sebastian River tragedy broke the Ashley Gang, although there lingered for years fear of the group's resuscitation, probably because considerable time had to elapse before the entire gang was killed, jailed or scared out of Florida. An unpleasant association between them and banks in the lake region persisted in the public mind, however. Months after the death of John, Laura Upthegrove spent a Saturday morning in the bank at Okeechobee. Although she gave no trouble and eventually left, all who saw or heard of her presence experienced a pronounced tingling of the scalp, and payroll messengers, setting out with their rolls of cash, noticed that the lonely roads seemed unusually long while their knees bore a certain resemblance to wet spaghetti.

Laura settled in Okeechobee where she became a regular participant in the Monday-morning sessions of the municipal court until she was finally told to leave town. Just north of Canal Point she and her mother, Mrs. Tracy, ran a gas station as a vocation and sold bootleg wares as an avocation; at bootlegging Laura spared no pains or time. But escapades which had been deliciously thrilling in the past now had the habit of landing her uncomfortably in jail.

On Aug. 6, 1927, according to report, Laura sold some liquor and conveniently forgot to return change. As the day wore on and the contents of the bottle wore down, the customer's memory quickened. At evening he returned with officers of the law as companions. In the thick of the ensuing fight Laura ran for her gun. Her mother snatched it away, whereupon Laura grabbed up a bottle of Lysol and swallowed its contents. Shocked into sobriety, the men started to help in spite of the mother's advice, "She's better dead." Humanity won out, but too late. The local medico found a miserable, bruised, unconscious creature foaming at the mouth in great agony.

That the "Queen of the Everglades" chose thus to terminate her colorful career is not hard to understand. Possibly a former member of the Ashley Gang whose residence for 22 years has been the State penitentiary expressed it best. "Yuh know how it is," he confided to the authors, "yuh get kinda discouraged over too many arrests."

The Ashley holding of 60 acres was cleared and, in keeping with the real estate book practice of the middle 1920s, was offered for sale as a townsite adjoining Picture City near Fruita. Record of the gang's loot, supposed to **amount to some $150,000, was** never found. Neither the Ashleys nor the Mobleys gave any evidence of indecent opulence. Fred Cabot, storekeeper at Hobe Sound, declared that Pa Ashley was "slow pay." On the other hand, when Pa Ashley jumped a **$2,000 bail, John is reported to** have tossed it off with "what's a couple of grand for a bond; that's easy picking."

HOW MANY OF THESE DO YOU REMEMBER?

These names were found in business records of 1895, the year the name of Potsdam was changed to Stuart. Many are well remembered for one reason or another. Of some The News has found no available record. How many do you remember?

J. L. May, A. M. Chambers, George Wiley, C. W. Hosford, J. T. Cleveland, Andrew Haines, O. G. Kimball, Mrs. Grace Hatch, Mrs. E. J. Davis, Sam Washington, George Davis, E. M. Storer, Walter Moore, Albert Moore, Mrs. Pennie Lee, George Keller, J. W. Ogletree and Charles Fahlen.

FIRST BAKERY SUPPLIED EAST COAST

Stuart's first bakery, erected in 1908 by Herman Bentel, supplied bread for an area from Sebastian to Delray Beach. After Bentel's death in 1921 it was operated by his step-son, Lawson Ziegler, until 1928 when banks and many businesses were forced to close because of the depression. Mrs. Bentel, with her son, Lawton, still makes her home in this building. Bentel served three terms as County Commissioner from 1910 to 1916 when Stuart was in Palm Beach County.

Karl H. Bentel Opened First Bakery in 1915

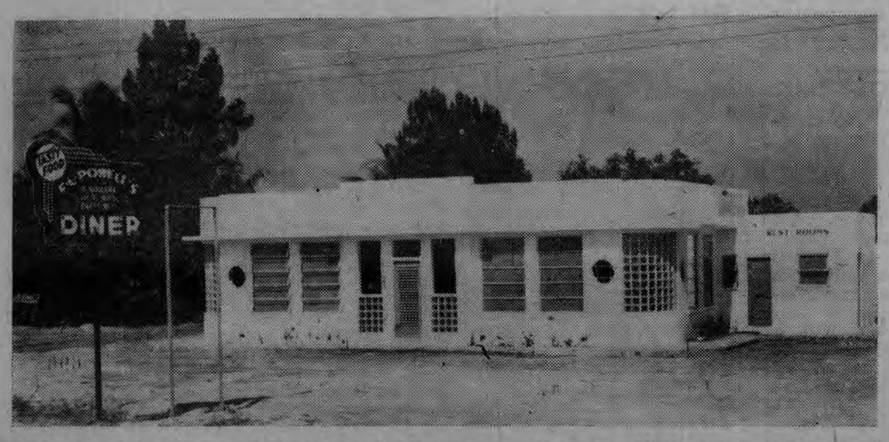
Karl Herman Bentel was one of Stuart's first and most enterprising young businessmen. He operated the first bakery here which served the east coast from Sebastian to Delray Beach. He came here in 1906 from Fort Pierce where he had been on the Faber Baking Company (now Bell bread) staff. For two years he operated in the W. D. Griffin building, later known as the Higginbothan Bldg. which stood where the bamboo room is now on 1st St. Purchasing a quarter block he then built the Akron Ave. building in which his wife and stepson still live.

While in Fort Pierce he married a young widow, Mrs. Emory Zeigler, who with her small son, Lawson, had come down from Lake Park, Ga., her native home. She was the former Alice Beville. To this union were born Karl, Arthur and Fred and Freda, twins, all of whom are living in Florida today. Their only daughter is now Mrs. Ralph Merritt of Salerno and she and Merritt have two small sons. Bentel served as county commission for three terms, 1910-16, when Stuart was in Palm Beach County.

Herman was born in Germany. At 15 he faced conscription in the German Army which was mandatory at that time for all boys when they reached 16. As several uncles had come to America it was decided he should join them in the new country instead of becoming a soldier. His grandfather was a baker and had taught the boy his trade and he was never without work for he was skilled in his profession. He lived in New York and then in Chicago with his Uncle John until John returned East and on down to Florida.

John was a horticulturist and established the first nursery here. His wife had died in New England before he came here and he first lived with his nephew and later purchased what is now the Fred Rue place on East 4th St. The many rare trees and shrubs on the place today are importations and experimentations of Uncle John Bentel as he was known here. Herman died in 1921.

Uncle John passed away in 1912 at Stuart's first hospital on the same day on which our first undertaker, G. S. Chesterman, and our first newspaper woman, Cyn[illegible] Burnett Har[illegible] died, all at the same hospital.



F. L. Powell's Diner was completed a year ago. Our new Motel, just to the rear of this building, will be finished by the first of the year.

Congratulations, Martin County on Your 25th Anniversary!

WE BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE OF STUART AND MARTIN COUNTY — AND ARE BACKING UP THAT BELIEF BY PROVIDING THE FINEST TYPE OF TOURIST ACCOMMODATIONS FOR OUR MANY VISITING FISHERMEN AND TOURISTS!

We came here from Pittsburgh, Pa., with a background of 38 years in the restaurant business, and were so convinced of the possibilities of this section that we built the F. L. Powell Diner on U. S. 1 in August, 1949, incorporating in the restaurant the finest features of modern restaurant practice. Your patronage has convinced us that our judgment was correct—and that Stuart wants good food, reasonably priced, served in modern surroundings.

In August, 1950, just one year later, we began construction of the F. L. Powell Motel which, too, will incorporate every modern feature for Stuart's sailfishing guests. We expect to complete these eight modern units before 1951—and you are invited then to inspect them.

WE ARE PROUD TO BE A PART OF THIS 25th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IN MARTIN COUNTY, AND TAKE THIS OCCASION TO THANK ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE ACCORDED US YOUR PATRONAGE IN THIS, OUR FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION IN STUART.

We Try At All Times To Live Up To Our Slogan

'A SQUARE DEAL WITH EVERY MEAL'

F. L. POWELL'S DINER
AND MOTEL

Federal Highway *North Stuart*

Congratulations, Martin County On Your 25th Anniversary

We opened for business on April 1, 1950—and intend to grow with Martin County for at least the next 25 years! The "Better Automobiles" being built then will still be Buicks.

Glenn Shepperd **BUICK**

Federal Highway, Stuart **Phone 674**

WRECKER SERVICE

McPhersons Arrived Here in 1890s

RESIDENTS HERE FOR 53 YEARS

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES W. McPHERSON

Now in their 83rd year, these pioneers are leading active lives at their home at Albany Ave. and West 3rd St. The former Bell Delany was a little girl in the "Covered Wagon Brigade" from Iowa to Nebraska in 1865 and as the wife of a Stuart pioneer came by sailboat to Stuart in 1897. His father, Robert McPherson, divided his property (the present Benjamin Fox estate) with his sons and daughters.

Coming from Douglas, Neb., in 1890 for his health, Robert McPherson spent the winter at the end of the railroad in Cocoa. Lured further by the tropics he purchased a sailboat and with Stanley Kitching, a 14-year-old lad as co-pilot, he started a southern cruise in search of a location for a future home. The banks of the St. Lucie were all he had dreamed of and here he bought 40 acres of land from O. K. Woods.

The following year he returned with his sons, Robert and George, and a baby girl, Ruth. He built the present home of Ben J. Fox which still stands although somewhat enlarged and remodeled during the 58 years.

Robert died of tuberculosis in his youth. George raised a family here and Ruth married a young pioneer, Larry Wright, and they moved in 1900 to New Smyrna where she still lives. In 1898 his married son, Charles, and family, and his married daughter's family, the Homer Withams, joined him here. To each of these and to George he gave 10 acres of land and all owned fine two-story homes along the river west of their father. Later they all moved to town.

Grandpa, as he was called by all, built the corner section of the present Stuart News building and also the large home across the street westward from The News. He was one of the most universally loved of all the pioneers, as was his wife, Marcia. They lived to see many grandchildren grow up around them and saw the virgin wilderness of their youth become a thriving community.

His Arrow was the first motorboat on the St. Lucie although Mr. Bessey had one over at the House of Refuge. It attracted widespread attention among the sail craft and soon other settlers turned to the newer mode of transportation.

"WHEN THE McPHERSONS CAME TO TOWN"

By Mrs. Edna Coutant
(A Pioneer's Granddaughter)

In eighteen hundred and ninety-one the McPhersons came
to Potsdam,
And this is how they came
Many, many weary miles over rail
Until at last they reached the town of Titusville.
From thence, of a sailboat did they themselves avail,
And down the Indian River came with a wili,
To look at the land which they had bought.
This deal was wrought
By a man named O. K. Wood,
Who sold real estate when he could.

Forty large acres of pine and oak,
And the soil had never been broke—
A house to be built, a hoe to be wielded;
But what was that with two strong sons,
As well as the help of the Sons of Ham!
Soon a house was rising
And men were busy with pineapple planting.
Those were the days when neighbors were few,
But by much boosting the place finally grew;
Each newcomer soon brought his brother,
And in a few years the town not only looked like another
But was, in very truth!

Potsdam was no longer, for Stuart had taken its place.
At first no train was there to bear the fruit away—
But who should worry, when the old St. Lucie lay, a broad
highway?

Stately steamers came each day
When the produce for the trip would pay.

Those were the days when a man traveled a hundred miles
or more
To go to the grocery store.
It wasn't as bad as one might think,
For quick as a wink
Grandfather Mack bought a large smack
On which no one could frown,
For it was the swiftest bark South of old Charlestown!
But a town must be built;
There were folks to be married
And—some to be buried.
The children should have a good start—
Their A-B-C's must be learned by heart.
Cooperation and community spirit are no new thing,
For it was thus that church and school came into being.
Such a wonderful tale of beauty and clime
Was sent through the mail
That the folks back home were soon on the trail,
And—would you believe it?—they soon rode into Stuart
by rail!

Son Charles and daughter Kate and theirs
Came to town in eighteen ninety-seven,
But that was not in time, even,
To be at the wedding of Sister Ruth,
Or comfort the sorrowing parents when a son was called
away.

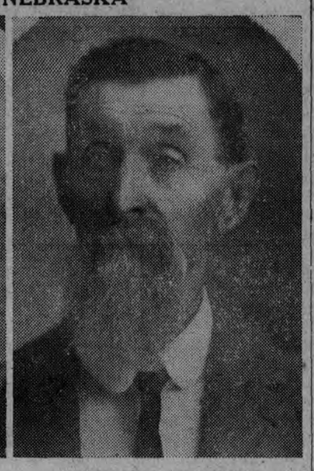
The forty large acres not one tract could stay,
For each must have a place of his own.
Next to the old homestead, Homer and Kate
Built them a home before it was too late.
Charlie and Belle built along beside,
And George, when he took to himself a bride,
Completed the row.
So it was that "Stringtown" began to grow!

By this time the grocery store
Had moved a hundred miles or more,
And life in many ways had been made o'er.
Still people had one another's burdens to bear—
When one fell ill, the neighbors did their share;
No nurse, and no undertaker, were there.
In time of rejoicing it was the same;
Everybody came.
No clique and no crowd to spoil the day,
And make the other fellow wish he'd stayed away.

Those days are gone,
But never will their memory fade from our heart,
And as we go on through these new days,
With their new problems and conditions,
We pray that, like the pioneer, we may always do our
part!

EARLY BUILDERS FROM NEBRASKA

MRS. MARCIA McPHERSON



ROBERT McPHERSON

COMMODORE KITCHING WAS FIRST ICEMAN

Stanley Kitching has among his souvenirs of bygone days the little record book he kept of the first ice customers in Stuart when he started the first retail ice business here May 5, 1902.

The commodore wholesaled the ice in here from West Palm Beach and instituted house-to-house delivery. Later a man came in from Welaka, built a 75-ft. long galvanized iron building on the present site of the Civic Center and manufactured ice for the residents.

To his motors he rigged up a dynamo which generated electricity for the few stores along the main street for a few hours each evening. As the population failed to support the ice business the plant was to be closed, but the pioneer businessmen, spoiled to the luxury of modern lighting, pooled their resources and six of them purchased the plant.

SWEET GIRL GRADUATE

MRS. LAWTON F. GEIGER

The former Irene McPherson, second daughter of the C. W. McPhersons, looked like this when she was graduated in 1914. She married the school principal, L. F. Geiger, and they have since made their home in Jacksonville. However, she has made regular visits back to visit her parents and her brother, R. B. McPherson.

Telegraphic Service Began In Martin County in 1894

The citizens of Stuart and Martin County today have all the benefits of the new ultra-modern era of telegraphy.

Lines from the Western Union office in Stuart are connected directly with the high speed switching center in Atlanta. By merely pressing push buttons in Atlanta telegrams to and from this area are automatically and swiftly transmitted to their destinations.

The Atlanta center is one of a nationwide network of Western Union switching centers which automatically flash telegrams to and from all parts of the country with great efficiency. When a telegram is transmitted by an operator in Stuart, it flashes throughout the network to its destination without manual retransmission at any point.

The present system replaced one in which telegrams were transmitted to relay points, sorted by routing clerks, carried to operators with typewriter-like keyboards and then manually retransmitted. All of these time-consuming steps have been eliminated now.

If a telegram is being sent from Stuart to Detroit, for example, the local operator merely types it on her machine with a typewriter-like keyboard and it flashes to Atlanta. There a switching clerk sees the destination, touches a button marked "Detroit" and an electrical brain connects the message with a trunk line to Detroit over which it passes at a speed of 186,000 miles a second. The telegram is received in Detroit automatically and in printed form ready for delivery. Telegrams coming to Stuart receive the same efficient and accurate service.

Stuart has been receiving telegraph service since 1894 when it first made its appearance on the Western Union list of offices. At that time Stuart was on the International Ocean Telegraph Company line which was leased to Western Union in 1881 for 100 years.

The telegraph business from its inception here until 1925 was handled in the FEC Railway office by railroad employes who doubled as Western Union operators. Then Western Union secured its present location in the Flamingo Hotel building and W. W. Mason was manager from Aug. 1, 1925 until Sept. 10, 1929.

Subsequent managers were James W. Pegram from Oct. 7, 1929 to July 14, 1937; A. H. Evans, June 15, 1938 to Jan. 29, 1942, Mrs. Nellie Caffee, Jan. 14, 1943 to Feb. 10, 1945, Mrs. Cora Slawson, Feb. 11, 1945 to Oct. 3, 1945, Mrs. Evelyn Felderman, Nov. 19, 1945 to May 25, 1946, Mrs. Josephine Williams, July 5, 1946 to Sept. 21, 1946, and Mrs. Myrtle P. Garrett from Sept. 21, 1946 to the present day.

Postal Telegraph, a competing telegraphic service, opened a Stuart office about 1932 on Flagler Ave. opposite the FEC station and remained there in business until that company was merged with Western Union Oct. 7, 1943.

HOW MANY OF THESE DO YOU REMEMBER?

These names were found in business records of Stuart in 1896. Some of them are here today, many are gone but well remembered and others have left little or no trace of themselves in the more than half a century that has elapsed since then. How many do YOU remember?

L. H. Toussaint, L. F. Kidner, D. L. Robinson, C. W. White, Hiram Keeler, F. H. Baldwin, T. J. Britt, Miss Almeda Michael, Edward N. Ryder, Ben Britt, E. F. Hatch, J. P. Lees, H. E. Hill, L. J. Lissimore, Thomas Taylor, Charles D. Sloan, R. M. Sparwath, Mrs. H. B. Fromberger, J. S. Padgett, J. C. Johnson, W. L. Murrell, J. L. Chandler, W. A. Bessey, F. G. Baldwin, B. P. Kinsey, Robert Griffin, E. J. Jordan, J. McNeil, James McNeil, James E. Bonnett, F. W. Miller, Charles Wesley, Miss G. M. Hardesty, Carl Haney, James Powell and John Kelley.

EARLY CIVIC LEADER

DR. F. B. EURIT

A resident of Stuart for 37 years, Dr. Eurit was active in civic affairs after coming here in 1913 from Ireland, W. Va. During his 55 years of medical practice he found time for his church, lodge, city, county and schools. He served as Stuart councilman, school board member and as chairman of the County Democratic Committee. He died this summer.

BUSINESS IS GOOD!

No TIME for History -- LET'S PLAN for TOMORROW!

DRINK MOORE MILK!

Moores' Dairy, Phone 237, Stuart