

PENNSYLVANIA MAN WHO KNEW LARGO IN 1903 CHERISHES MEMORY BUT GLAD OF TRANSFORMATION

Breeze Prints Valued Letter and Photos by Vincent Gilpin, Describing Scenes Typical of Island in Early Pre-Railway Days of the Florida Keys.

Only a comparatively few main-landers remember Key Largo as it was before the oversea extension of the Florida East Coast Railway brought it within two hours' train ride of Miami, Fla., and changed the centre of population from Planter, where supplies for the island were landed from ocean-going vessels to Rock Harbor and Tavernier.

Among the fortunate ones who knew Key Largo in the early days and are now witnessing its transformation into a winter paradise is Vincent Gilpin of 733 North Walnut St., West Chester, Pa. In a letter written to the Breeze soon after its first publication, Mr. Gilpin told of his trips to Key Largo and enclosed photographs of scenes taken by him on his visits to the island. The Breeze valued the letter and the pictures so highly that they were saved for just such a special edition as this issue.

a settlement on Key Largo, and eventually landed and scrambled across to Point Charles.

This was approaching the key by the back door, since all settlement and traffic were on the east side, but it gave me a wild and lonely picture which I like to remember.

In 1905 and 1906, still before the railroad, I saw a good deal more of the key. Angelfish Creek, not yet crowded with fishermen, was a lonely maze of channels, and we spent some time there. A few houses on Card Sound had interesting families, among them the first regular "winter visitors," and the whole front of the key was occupied by plantations, each marked by a grove of coconut trees. They were then devoted to pineapples as well as limes, with a few trees of other fruits. A visit to any of these homes was a privilege to both the lonely householder and to the stranger, who always returned laden with fruit.

Planter was the chief center, largely because of Johnson's store; I enclose some photographs, which may be of interest. We made several visits there, one in a skiff through Tavernier Creek, which was hard going for the Seminole. The winding forest-sheltered channel, the blue sweep of the sea and the brilliant day combined to leave a vivid memory. We bought food at the well-stocked store and lunched on the way home, opening a bottle of pickles which proved

to have a broken top, and bits of glass throughout its contents. Amid lamentations it was thrown overboard near the mouth of the creek, and the spot has since been known to us as the "Tavernier Pickle-mine."

Garden Cove was a favorite anchorage, and has been ever since, while Largo Sound, with its lovely entrances, was particularly attractive. The Sound should become a great fishing and boating center, especially since it is so near that part of the great reef which is richest, both in fish and in marvelous sea-gardens. That undersea fairyland will be nationally famous, and a great attraction to the keys.

Changes have been rapid on Largo since 1906, of course. The old days and the old ways have long been gone. Many plantations have been abandoned, as such, and are now "opportunities for investment."

Certainly a new day has dawned for the keys, suddenly and brilliantly. Those who have known them in their loneliness must feel a touch of regret for the passing of that charm, but cannot but be thrilled at the opening of a new and wonderful playground.

Very truly yours,
VINCENT GILPIN.



"BOSS" AND COOK on a Key Largo plantation. Photograph taken in 1905 by Mr. Gilpin.

NORTH RETAINS INTEREST HERE

Returned Key Developer Says Attacks Prove Ineffective

"New York, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and Pennsylvania are more interested in Florida today than they have been at any time in the last three years," said A. E. Bacon, developer of Atlantic View Estates on Key Largo, upon his return from the North last week.

"The natural reaction to 'Thou shalt not' is 'I will,' and I found in every city that I visited a keener determination to visit the Magic State than I have ever before encountered. There is no discounting the fact that northern bankers and commercial institutions are prosecuting a rather vigorous 'gas' attack; but the effect of such efforts is minimized in the minds of most

thinking people when they read that the heaviest investors in Florida are the northern bankers."

Mr. Bacon expressed amazement at the marked progress that has been made on Key Largo in the last two months and stated that he expected to have the development work on Atlantic View Estates under way just as fast as material and labor can be procured.

"Organization of a Key Largo Chamber of Commerce is probably the most forward step that has been taken in connection with the island. It permits of a co-ordination of effort among the various developers that will certainly bring about unified road-building plans, landscaping features, and other benefits. In my estimation, Key Largo is destined for great things, and the activity of the last few months indicates that the future will be exceedingly active this season."

Mr. Bacon visited the home of his parents, in Detroit, Mich., and spent considerable time in Chicago and New York.

Seaboard Extension Will Be Rushed, Warfield Says

Homestead, Fla., Nov. 6.—A telegram from S. J. Warfield, field, president of the Seaboard Air Line, in which he assured full co-operation with the Redland district in its effort to hasten the extension of that line to this section, was read at the regular meeting of the Redland District Realty Board on Wednesday night. The telegram was in reply to one sent by Miss Grace Hamilton, secretary of the board, urging that the railroad company begin construction work on the extension at this end as well as at Palm Beach.

The telegram from Mr. Warfield said he had received the realtor's message while making an inspection trip of the surveys of the new Seaboard construction. In it, he said that he was "pleased to see the survey work for the extension to Homestead and Florida City and that as soon as it is authorized by the Interstate Commerce Commission, the work is to be pushed as rapidly as possible."



THE OCEAN BEACH FOR A FRONT YARD—Ready for a frolic in the sand, amid date and coconut palms, at Planter. The kiddies in this picture are now grown-ups, for the scene was photographed by Mr. Gilpin in 1905—six years before the oversea extension of the Florida East Coast Railway through the keys was completed.



PLANTER AS SEEN FROM THE OCEAN IN 1905—In the days before the railroad, supplies for Key Largo were brought by boat to Planter, then the main settlement on the island. Tenders of the ocean-going ships brought Key Largo-bound passengers and freight to the dock shown in the picture, and the freight was transported to Johnson's store over the wooden trestle, also shown above.



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Since its establishment in 1896, the Miami Daily News and Metropolis has steadfastly served the people of south Florida. Always, it has aided and encouraged everything conducive toward the development of this section.

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A. E. BACON

Developer of

ATLANTIC VIEW ESTATES

On Key Largo

Announces that arrangements are being made to carry out all improvements promised in this subdivision, adjoining KEY LARGO CLUB PROPERTIES and KEY LARGO CITY PROPERTIES.

RESALES OFFICES

will be opened in temporary location at

212 CALUMET BUILDING MIAMI, FLORIDA

KUMQUAT SMALLEST CITRUS FRUIT IN U. S.; MANY HYBIDS DEVELOPED

Largest Growers and Shippers Found in Florida: Variations of Limes, Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, Extensive as Result of Inter-breeding. Fruit Used for Ornamental as Well as Eating Purposes, and Foliage and Flower Make Pretty Decorations.

(From the Tourist News)
Kumquat, sometimes spelled Comquat, Kum Quat, or Cumquat, is a Chinese word meaning "Golden Orange," the equivalent of that in the Japanese language is "Kin Kan."

The kumquat is the smallest of the citrus fruits in general cultivation in this country. It grows on a shrub or bush which reaches the height of 10 or 12 feet, and that height is considered very tall. The kumquat tree bears an abundant crop of round or egg-shaped fruit about the size of small plums. This tree is hardy and makes a popular ornamental in the door-yards of Florida. The dark green leaves and deep golden yellow fruit form a pleasing combination of color. As an ornamental it is not surpassed.

The flowers are small, sweet-scented, appearing in June on the shoots provided earlier in the season. The fruit ripens during the fall and winter months, beginning with November.

In point of hardness the kumquat ranks with the satsuma orange. In northern Florida and in all the Gulf Coast sections it grows exceedingly well, and really seems to be heartier than most other members of the citrus family.

In Florida are found the largest growers and shippers of this fruit in this country, who have had bushels of fruit annually for several years past. The crop has netted from \$2.50 to \$3.25 per bushel, sometimes selling for as high as \$6 to \$10 per bushel. It has been found to be a profitable fruit to cultivate, as the trees yield well and can be grown closely together. When the fruit is harvested it is cut from the trees with twigs and leaves attached. A goodly portion of the leaves are packed with it as the fruit seems to sell better with the foliage left on. The fruit is packed in quart baskets and shipped in strawberry crates. It is largely used for table decorations, and is in largest demand for Thanksgiving and holiday trade.

This fruit may be used in a raw state, and when used thus, the entire fruit is eaten except the seed. The spicy, aromatic rind and juicy pulp make a fruitful and tasty combination. Very appetizing and excellent jelly and preserves are made from it and the fruit

can also be crystallized. The Chinese export quantities put up in small stone jars. In the vicinity of Mobile and a few other sections the kumquats are grown for marmalades and other preserves.

For commercial purposes, or for use as an ornamental for home use only, kumquats are well worth planting. A demand must be created to this heavy fruit. It is not generally known as well as the orange, but as its qualities become better known, there will no doubt be a greater demand for it.

The kumquat is a hybrid of the common lime and the orange. Kumquat, says the Department of Agriculture, this tree shows well and bears from two to three crops a year. The fruit is oblong and about the size of a lime, thin-skinned, acid and may be used in place of lemons or limes. As it is hardy this fruit can be grown all over the state.

Homestead Schools Have Increase of 162 per Cent

Homestead, Fla., Nov. 7.—With an enrollment of 161 pupils so far this year, the Homestead High School shows an increase of 162 per cent over the enrollment for the corresponding period of last year, according to figures given out by L. E. Bennett, supervising principal of the Homestead and Florida City Schools. This time last year there were only 50 pupils in the high school.

With the inception of the winter season and the anticipated increase in newcomers, it is expected that the total enrollment of the Homestead schools will be about 800 by Jan. 1. Figures compiled at the close of the first month of this school year show a total enrollment of 624 pupils while the record for the first month in 1924 showed an enrollment of 463.

Crowded conditions are noted in some of the grades, particularly the first and second grades, and the high school. The teaching force was increased by three new faculty members this year in anticipation of the increased enrollment, and every bit of available space in the school buildings is being put to use for the comfortable and efficient handling of the large enrollment.

The civic clubs and church organizations are lending practical aid to the advanced step of providing a community playground, equipped with the latest apparatus for the development of the pupils.

It is the intention of each society to provide at least one piece of equipment, and Mr. Bennett says that the idea is meeting with an enthusiastic welcome by teachers as well as children.

Sports are given a prominent place in the all around development of the pupils, with basket ball, baseball, tennis, and horseshoe pitching included in the athletic schedule. C. H. Rice supervises the athletics for the boys. He is assisted by T. E. Dunn and R. A. Hickman. Mrs. Claude Aycock and Mr. Bennett are in charge of the girls' athletics.

The high school has two glee clubs, one for the girls, and one for the boys and there are similar clubs in the seventh and eighth grades. Mrs. Mary Webb of the Junior High faculty has charge of the glee club.

Embargo as Hard on Key West as on Homestead, Dealer Says on Return

Key Largo probably is getting a fair amount of building materials shipped locally from Key West, but the island is receiving practically nothing from northern mainland transportation. This opinion was expressed this week by F. L. Skill, manager for the W. D. Horne Lumber and Building Material Company of Homestead.

Mr. Skill was in Key West last week, and he had a permit from St. Augustine to load 15 cars to be shipped from Key West to Homestead. However, he found no building material for sale. In fact, he considered the situation more acute in Key West than in Homestead. Builders in the former city, however, are anticipating the arrival of two ship loads of material this month, which will be a straw of encouragement to the great building program which has been so crippled.

Homestead is receiving an average of three car loads of building material every 10 days, when under normal conditions there should be 10 cars daily. Out of 40 car loads of material shipped to this city since Sept. 23, only three of the cars have been received.

Elwyn McLain, division freight superintendent of the F. E. C. railroad, is scheduled to speak during the coming week in Homestead, when he will go into conditions affecting the transportation tie-up and will co-operate with local people in working out the difficulties of the embargo.

MORE COUNTIES IN STATE FAIR

Added Exhibits Require Increase in Space Allotment

Jacksonville, Fla., Nov. 7.—At a recent meeting of the Florida State Fair Association an expenditure of several thousand dollars was authorized to enlarge the size of the agricultural building sixty feet, in order to take care of the large number of counties wishing to exhibit at the state fair which will be held in Jacksonville from November 19 to 28.

More counties are clamoring for space at the state fair this year than ever before in the history of the state fair association, and all available space in the present agricultural building was allotted several weeks ago. The extension to the agricultural building, work on which will begin immediately, will take care of the counties desiring to exhibit that were unable to secure space in the present structure.

The plan to enlarge the agricultural building is but part of the improvement program that is now underway at the state fair grounds. Several of the main buildings are being equipped with new concrete floors, and modern and up-to-date lighting to Miss Christian, but persons

equipment for the care of the various exhibits is being installed.

Practically all space in the various industries building has been taken, and indications are that all possible space in this building will be taken long before the fair opens on November 19.

The poultry, livestock, cat, dog, art, culinary, educational and various other exhibits are coming in more rapidly this year than ever before, it is stated, and it is expected that every show and exhibit in connection with the forthcoming fair will be in larger numbers than ever before.

As a portrayal of Florida's possibilities in livestock production, and as a quickening power for the development of the industry in the state, Mr. Striplin states that the greatest collection of pure bred livestock that has ever been seen at a Florida state fair will be one of the major attractions at the forthcoming fair which runs for ten days.

Red Cross Fund Drive in Dade County This Month

Miami, Fla., Nov. 7.—Miss Maud Christian, secretary of the local chapter of the American Red Cross, announced this week that the annual call for Red Cross funds in Dade County would be made sometime between Armistice Day and Thanksgiving. This call will pertain only to the county, since Miami itself is considered in the Community Chest fund.

Those who have subscribed to the Community Chest fund will be given a membership card, according to Miss Christian, but persons

who have not made a donation through this source may enroll at the Red Cross headquarters. Funds donated for Red Cross work are used locally, except the 50 cents out of each subscription which is sent to national headquarters for relief work.

TIRES WHILE U WAIT



Photo by Underwood & Underwood

The invention of small fabric weaving machines, the originals of which have just been presented to the Smithsonian Institute, makes possible the setting up of small auto tire factories on street corners. One machine, a loom shaped to the form upon which the tire is built weaves the base. The others construct a three-ply rubberized fabric and make a continuous bias strip of rubber-coated cord fabric. Photograph of Fredrick L. Newton of the Smithsonian Institute with the "baby" tire maker.

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WOMAN ELEPHANT TRAINER WITH SPARKS CIRCUS



Babe Pope of the Sparks Circus has perhaps been justly called the most daring woman in the world—because she is the only woman who has ever successfully trained a large herd of elephants without the aid of man.

Added to this, she possesses all of the control of the masters of strange and curious art.

The Sparks Circus, which is to exhibit in Homestead on Friday, Nov. 20, has always boasted of possessing the most marvelously trained elephants on the face of the globe; and they are handled, educated, and introduced by this dainty little woman, who, as before stated, is in a class by herself in a small 40-foot ring with a half dozen of these tremendous animals

capering about and executing impossible stunts.

Of course, there are many other feminine animal trainers with the Sparks Circus, for this season Manager Sparks seems to have specialized in wild-animal acts. For instance—Mme. Dorothy puts the large and ferocious group of leopards through their paces as nonchalantly as the average women in every-day life caresses the house cat.

Both of these remarkable and fearless women will be seen at the performances in Miami on Nov. 16, 17, and 18; in Homestead on Nov. 20, and in Key West on Nov. 21.

Seats can be obtained on circus grounds.

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Transportation facilities equal to those of eastern seaboard ports. Rail and steamship connection with principal cities of the United States. Fine natural harbor, ample docking space, 26-foot channel into piers. Headquarters for marine supplies. Entrance port for imports from Cuba, West Indies, Central and South America, Panama Canal. Also export point for products to these countries. Volume of this business totals approximately \$4,000,000 annually.

To The Investor—

Key West and the Florida Keys are a land of golden opportunity. Property upon the Florida Keys is not yet beyond the attainment of those who possess modest resources. But the day is coming when it will be difficult to secure land here at any price. Thousands of acres are already owned by large developers who are putting elaborate winter colonies upon them, and those who buy acreage or city lots this year will find themselves in possession of a potential gold mine. With the growth of Key West and the Florida Keys, there are daily new opportunities for commercial investment, opportunities for new mercantile enterprises and new industries. Key West's prosperity is just dawning and now is the strategic moment to invest.

To The Winter Home Seeker—

Continual outdoor life in a year round climate unsurpassed for equability by any other section of the United States. The only frost-free climate in the country. Aquatic sports, golf, tennis, basketball, motoring over scenic highway crossing three islands, yachting, game fishing, dancing, and other attractions may be enjoyed twelve months in the year in Key West. Splendid schools, public library, theatres, easy access to nearby cities. Marine surroundings promote health in clean airy surroundings.

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Real Estate

614 Duval Street

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An Occasion for Rejoicing

As a firm that played a pioneer part in the development and advertising of Key Largo, we are exceedingly happy over the organization of the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce.

In July, 1924, when Miami was celebrating her 27th birthday anniversary, we remarked in our congratulatory advertisements how difficult it was to realize that Miami, with her towering structures, her substantial industries and metropolitan population, had seen only 27 winters. We said also, at that time, that we hoped it would not be very many years until Key Largo would have cause for celebrating some occasion resulting from the tremendous growth and development that we knew was in store for the island.

Our fondest dreams, however, did not anticipate the development that has come to Key Largo since July, 1924. In less than a year from that time, Key Largo had a modern weekly newspaper, the Key Largo Breeze, published by real journalists. And now—seven months after the first issue of this splendid Key Largo Breeze—has come the organization of the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce.

With the two most powerful factors of community progress—a newspaper and a chamber of commerce—to co-ordinate and concentrate our united effort for the future development of Key Largo, there is every reason to believe that the past record of the island's progress will be eclipsed by the next six month's achievements in the upbuilding of Key Largo.

KEY LARGO--- CONGRATULATIONS!

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