

Road Guide 3. Selections from “Florida: A Guide to the Southernmost State,” compiled and written by the Federal Writers’ Project of the Works Progress Administration for the State of Florida. Oxford University Press: New York, 1939. Fifth printing, April 1947. Newberry Library call number: G872.28

The following pages are excerpted from the Tours section of the 1939 WPA Guide to Florida. These excerpts are taken from parts of three tours (numbers 8, 2, and 20). When followed in the order given here they describe the a route running roughly southwest from Daytona Beach, through Orlando, to Tampa (the same route described in 1920 in Road Guide 2).

Tour 8

Daytona Beach—Deland—Eustis—Leesburg—Groveland—Lakeland; 129.9 *m.* State ar, State a.

Hard-surfaced roadbed throughout; watch for cattle along highway. Route paralleled by Atlantic Coast Line R. R. between Eustis and Okahumpka. Good accommodations.

This route links Daytona Beach, one of Florida’s popular winter and summer playgrounds, with several prosperous agricultural towns in the ridge section. From marshlands and tangled cypress hammocks the highway rises into a rolling prosperous countryside of citrus groves, truck gardens, poultry farms, and large vineyards. Between Leesburg and Lakeland the highway runs for many miles along the divide between Florida’s east and west watersheds, a region of cypress swamps and cut-over pine land, in which a few isolated sawmills still operate. Mounds of sawdust and ruins of shacks that once housed hundreds of workers mark the sites of forgotten lumber camps. Farther south, citrus groves blanket low round hills and crowd down to shores of innumerable lakes.

Section a. DAYTONA BEACH TO LEESBURG; 68.5 m. State 21.

This section of the highway cuts through a fastness of swamp and forest, and occasional stretches of cut-over pine lands, the northern section of a low area known as the South Florida flatwoods, which extends as far as the Everglades, into which it merges. Farms and signs of human life are few. Numerous waterfowl feed in roadside ditches, choked with ferns, bright in spring with blue iris and lavender hyacinth. Gray and white herons frequent the marshes, and flocks of red-winged blackbirds nest in the tall sawgrass. West of the St. Johns River are sparkling lakes fringed with orange and grapefruit trees, or with dark stands of pine, the foliage blending with the brilliant blue of the water.

DAYTONA BEACH, 0 *m.* (7 alt., 16,598 pop.) (*see Daytona Beach*).

Points of Interest: Ocean beach, Broadwalk, Pier, open-air Auditorium, Bethune-Cookman College (Negro), alligator and ostrich farms, and others.

State 21 follows Bellevue Ave. out of Daytona Beach and passes (R) the MUNICIPAL AIRPORT, 3.4 *m.*, a regular stop on the U.S. Mail and Eastern Air Lines.

At 20.1 *m.* is the junction with US 17 (*see Tour 2b*), which unites with State 21 for 3 miles (*see Tour 2b*).

DELAND, 23.1 *m.* (27 alt., 5,246 pop.) (*see Tour 2b*), is at the junction with US 17 (*see Tour 2b and c*).

DELAND, ... (27 alt., 5,246 pop.) seat of Volusia County and center of a fertile citrus area, it is also a college town. Many of its activities revolve about the campus of Stetson University. DeLand was founded in 1876 by Henry A. DeLand, baking powder manufacturer, who planted water oaks 50 feet apart along prospective streets. So determined were early settlers to make their community notable for shade trees that in 1886 the city council rules that property owners would be allowed a \$0.50 tax rebate for each tree two inches or more in diameter, planted by them along the streets. The response threatened to bankrupt the town, and the ordinance was repealed less than two years later.

Stetson University was established by DeLand in 1886, as DeLand University, with the financial assistance of John B. Stetson, hat manufacturer. Co-educational and non-sectarian, it was incorporated as a university under its present name in 1889. The school is sponsored by a conference of Baptist churches. Many of its 1,000 students are from northern states.

Tour 2

Section c. DELAND to HAINES CITY, 79.9 *m.* US 17

Between DELAND, 0 *m.*, and Haines City the route penetrates the heart of Florida's winter-celery region and traverses a rolling lake-studded area covered with large citrus groves. Large cypress swamps and stretches of pine forests, worked by turpentine and lumber interests, are interspersed among the farms.

ORANGE CITY, 5.6 *m.* (35 alt., 582 pop.), founded in the 1870's by three families from Eau Claire, Wisconsin, attracted by the possibilities of citrus culture, was originally known as Wisconsin Settlement.

Left from Orange City 4 *m.* on a paved road to CAMP CASSADAGA, conducted by the Cassadaga Spiritualist Association, which was founded by George B. Colby in 1893. The first meeting of the association was held here in that year. Within a fenced area of 25 acres, deeded to the association by the founder, are a stucco auditorium seating 2,000, a frame two-story hotel, apartment houses, and many one- and two-story cottages on shaded lanes along the shores of small lakes. The post office, general store, and other residences lie outside the enclosed tract.

The camp is the second largest of its kind in the United States, ranking just below Lily Dale, New York, described in its literature as 'the fountain head of modern spiritualism.' To Cassadaga come mediums, who charge for seances in their own residences, and followers of spiritualism, eager for spiritual advice, messages from the other world, and the opportunity of public worship in the auditorium. During the November-to-April season the program includes lectures, public and private stances, and demonstrations in spiritual healing. Camp literature advertises, 'Lectures and message words by the Highest Talent Obtainable.' Typical also are: 'Following the Lily Dale Triumph! Moon Trail. Through the Trance Intermediaryship of Horace S. Hambling, on his second visit to the United States from London, England. Will be in Cassadaga the entire season.' - 'P.L.O.A. Keeler, Noted Slate Writing Medium, will be in Cassadaga during February and March.'

The Cassadagan, published semi-monthly during January, February, and March, carries advertisements of mediums available for private appointments. 'Psychic power can be yours,' reads one, 'an amazing discovery enables anyone to develop psychic power . . . by means of the wonderful psychas . . . used with equal benefit by both ladies and gentlemen, singly or in groups.' An editorial declares that Cassadaga 'welcomes spiritualists, investigators, and all who are "thinkers" in the midst of a creed-bound world.'

The camp rules provide that 'all ordained spiritualist ministers may use the title of "reverend," and give spiritual advice and messages, and fulfill the duties and powers belonging to the pastorate of a recognized church. Certified mediums may exercise any and all phases of mediumship, trance, clairvoyance, clairaudience, trumpet, healing, etc., but not the duties of a pastor. The local board of directors shall specify the qualifications of their ministers, mediums, lecturers and healers, and shall duly certify the same when found satisfactory.'

At 7.4 *m.* on US 17 is the junction with a paved road.

Left on this road is ENTERPRISE, 3 *m.* (27 alt., 250 pop.), on Lake Monroe, formerly called Benson Springs, and once the southern terminus of St. Johns River shipping. The town was founded in 1841 by Cornelius Taylor, cousin of Zachary Taylor. Until 1888 it was the seat of Volusia County. Here is the FLORIDA METHODIST ORPHANAGE, in which approximately 400 children are cared for.

Right from Enterprise 1 *m.* on a paved road to GREEN SPRINGS, in a basin 50 feet wide and 100 feet deep. The near-by woodlands offer inviting spots for picnics. The rear yard of the old STARKE HOUSE, 1.8 *m.*, built in 1880 by Dr. James Starke, is the basin of a dried-up spring, the floor of which is carpeted with ferns. His gardener had been in the employ of Queen Victoria. An avenue of cedars leads from the house to a sink containing rare aquatic plants.

Along the St. Johns River the deer's tongue, a fragrant shrub, grows wild in the woods; its leaf is used in the preparation of smoking and chewing tobaccos.

The highway crosses the St. Johns River on a drawbridge, 13.6 *m.*; here the river is a narrow stream, its coffee-colored waters lined with thick woods. In spring and summer, water hyacinths become packed against the bridge underpinning, and often obstruct navigation, despite the efforts of government engineers to check its growth. The hyacinth, a native of Brazil, was introduced into America in 1884 when specimens were exhibited at the New Orleans' Cotton Exposition and carried from there to many parts of the lower South. A woman of San Mateo on the St. Johns River placed it in her garden pool where it multiplied so rapidly that she had to dump the excess into the river.

The highway swings (L) in a long sweeping curve along the shore of LAKE MONROE, which was lined with piers and warehouses in the 1880's. A large cypress swamp borders the road for nearly two miles—a gloomy, moss-draped mass of trees that seem dead in winter, but come to life again in the spring. Cypress, magnolias, gums, and occasional cabbage palms are unusually large here, and many of their trunks are swathed in ivy, woodbine, and wild grape vines. Clumps of willows, bright green in spring, and pools of water, covered with pale blue hyacinths and ivory white lilies, carpet the floor of the jungle swamp.

SANFORD, 17.9 *m.* (31 alt., 10,100 pop.), capital of the Florida celery belt, lies on a rich alluvial deposit 30 miles square. According to the report of the State Marketing Bureau for 1937, Florida shipped some 3,325,000 crates of celery to market, a large part of which were from this section. Land here is valued at \$1,000 an acre. In the spring even the yards of city houses are planted to celery and lettuce.

Subirrigation systems utilize the abundant supply of water from flowing wells. Tile is laid with open joints about 18 inches below the surface of the fields, and water running through it is turned on and off as needed. Seed beds are planted during November and December, and the seedlings transferred to the fields a month later. The crop is planted, dug, trimmed, washed, tied in three-stalk bunches, and packed for shipment by Negro workers.

Sanford is an outgrowth of Mellonville, a trading post established in 1837 in the shadow of a frontier fort. The SITE OF FORT MELLON is marked by a stone monument, Mellonville Ave. and 2nd St. This outpost was the scene of many encounters with the Indians.

In 1871 General Henry R. Sanford, former U.S. Minister to Belgium, bought 12,000 acres here, including the townsite, and brought in 60 Negroes from central Florida to clear the land and plant citrus groves. Whites in the vicinity protested, and one night, armed with shotguns, attacked the camp, and drove the Negroes off, killing one and wounding several.

Unable to obtain other labor, Sanford sent an agent to Sweden who recruited 100 workers, offering them passage and all expenses in return for a year's work. This also aroused opposition, particularly in Jacksonville, where a campaign was begun against what was termed a disguised form of slavery. The Swedes were encouraged to run away; agents sent after them were arrested; lawsuits and other difficulties followed. But the majority of Swedes remained and fulfilled their contract, and Sanford gave each of them a 5-acre grove. In 1881 more Swedes arrived and soon prospered. The freeze of 1894-95 struck the community a hard blow, and it turned from citrus culture to truck gardening. Many of Florida's groves,

however, benefited from the extensive and carefully conducted experiments that Sanford carried on here in the early years.

The MUNICIPAL PIER extends into Lake Monroe to a bandshell, 300 feet from shore; the approach to the pier is landscaped with coco plumosa palms and flowering shrubs. On Lake Shore Blvd. is a small Zoo with outdoor cages.

At 24.3 m. is the junction with two roads.

1. Right from this junction to a parking space, 2 m. where a marker indicates a foot trail leading to the BIG TREE, a cypress estimated to be more than 3,000 years old, 47 feet in circumference at the base and 125 feet high. The tree was named 'The Senator' for M. O. Overstreet, State Senator (1920-24), who donated the tree and the land surrounding it to Seminole County as a park.

2. Left from the junction to the SEMINOLE DRIVING PARK, 2 m., a club established by sportsmen as a training course for harness-racing horses. Every winter from 50 to 150 horses are trained here; Rosalind, the 1936 winner of the Hambletonian, a classic among harness races was put through her paces here. In the park are stables, a training track, and a grandstand seating 2,000.

FERN PARK, 28.6 m. (120 pop.), is inhabited largely by employees of a large fernery which borders both sides of the road. Asparagus plumosus, Boston, and maidenhair ferns are grown in slat houses, cut, packed in dry ice, and shipped to northern florists. Many of the scattered dwellings are interesting because of their steep roofs, round shingled towers, and mullioned windows, very different from the pseudo-Spanish architecture of the boom period.

MAITLAND, 33.2 m. (91 alt., 5 11 pop.), was settled before the War between the States on the site of Fort Maitland, built in 1838, and named for Captain William S. Maitland of the U.S. army. A group of Union veterans, including Louis F. Lawrence, Captain Josiah Eaton, and E. C. Hungerford, settled here in the early 1880's. When they decided in 1884 to incorporate the settlement and found that the law required 30 registered voters, they induced Negroes employed in the groves to become residents. The Negroes soon outnumbered the whites, and some were elected to office. Lawrence asked the Negro leaders to start a community of their own, and offered them a tract at a low price. They accepted and moved to a new settlement, Eatonville (*see below*). In the latter part of the same decade Maitland, then the terminus of the South Florida Railroad, became a popular resort.

Maitland was the center of Florida's fruit-fly campaign in 1929-30, when intensive and successful efforts to rid the State of the pest were led by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Infested fruit was first discovered on a grapefruit tree in Orlando (*see Orlando*), but the section about Maitland was hardest hit. All groves were inspected and sprayed, as were trucks leaving the area. Fruit stores and all freight cars and trucks passing through were screened. All fruit shipments were sterilized by steam. Crews of men cut, picked, or uprooted other plants harboring the destructive Mediterranean fruit fly, alias *ceratitis capitata*. This pest bores a hole in fruit and there lays its eggs in great numbers, for the fly is most prolific. The larvae consume the pulp, causing the fruit to drop. The larvae then burrow into the earth to emerge in time as flies and continue their life cycle. When the campaign closed, the pest had been eradicated.

Right from Maitland on a paved road to EATONVILLE, 1 m., (136 pop.), dating back to 1886, one of the first towns incorporated by Negroes in the United States. It was named for Captain Josiah Eaton of Maitland (*see above*), a friend of H.W. Lawrence, who built an Odd Fellows Hall and a church, and gave them to the community. Among early buildings still in use is the HUNGERFORD NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR NEGROES, erected and supported by E. C. Hungerford, of Maitland, in memory of his nephew, a physician, who died of smallpox contracted while treating Negroes during an epidemic. Eatonville is the birthplace and home of Zora Neale Hurston 1903 -), and the locale of her novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1939). This is Eatonville in her eyes:

'Maitland is Maitland until it gets to Hurst's corner, and then it is Eatonville. Right in front of Willie Sewell's yellow-painted house the hard road quits being the hard road for a generous mile and becomes the heart of Eatonville. Or from a stranger's point of view, you could say that the road just bursts through on its way from US 17 to US 441, scattering Eatonville right and left.

‘On the right, after you leave the Sewell place, you don’t meet a thing that people live in until you come to the Green Lantern on the main corner. That corner has always been the main corner, because that is where Joe Clarke, the founder and first mayor of Eatonville, built his store when he started the town nearly sixty years ago, so that people have gotten used to gathering there and talking. Only Joe Clarke sold groceries and general merchandise, while Lee Glenn sells drinks of all kinds and whatever goes with transient rooms. St. Lawrence Methodist church and parsonage are on that same side of the road between Sewell’s and “the shop” and perhaps claim the soul of the place, but the shop is the heart of it. After the shop you come to the Widow Dash’s orange grove, her screened porch, “double hips,” and her new husband. Way on down at the end of the road to the right is Claude Mann’s filling station and beyond that the last house in Eatonville, the big barn on the lake.

‘Take the left side of the road and except for Macedonia Baptist Church, people just live along that side and play croquet in Armetta Jones’ backyard behind the huge camphor tree. After the people quit living along that side of the road, the Hungerford Industrial School begins and runs along the road as far as the land goes. The inadequate buildings stop short in the cleared land on the fringe of Eatonville proper. And west of it all, beyond village and school, everybody knows that the sun makes his nest in some lonesome lake in the woods back there and gets his night’s rest.

‘But all of Eatonville is not on the hard road that becomes Apopka Avenue as it passes through town. There are back streets on both sides of the road. The two back streets on the right side are full of little houses squatting under hovering oaks. These houses are old and were made of the town’s first dreams. There is loved Lake Sabelia, with its small colony of very modern houses, lived in by successful villagers. Away in the woody rises beyond Sabelia is Eatonville’s Dogtown that looks as if it belonged on the African veldt. Off the road on the left is the brown-with-white-trim modern public school, with its well kept yards and playgrounds, which Howard Miller always looks after, though he can scarcely read and write. They call this part of town Mars Hill, as against Bones Valley to the right of the road. They call the tree-shaded land that runs past the schoolhouse West street, and it goes past several small groves until it passes Jim Steele’s fine orange grove and dips itself in Lake Belle, which is the home of Eatonville’s most celebrated resident, the world’s largest alligator.’

This legendary alligator, it is said, is no other than a slave who escaped from a Georgia plantation and joined the Indians during the Seminole War. When the Indians retreated, he did not follow but instead made ‘big medicine’ on the lake shore, for he had been a celebrated conjuring man in Africa. He transformed himself into an alligator, the god of his tribe, and slipped into the water. Now and then he resumes human form, so people say, and roams the country about Eatonville. At such times all the alligators in the surrounding lakes bellow loudly all night long. ‘The big one has gone back home,’ whisper the villagers.

WINTER PARK, 36.5 m. (96 alt., 3,686 pop.), a suburb of Orlando, built around Lakes Maitland, Osceola, Virginia, and Killarney, has been called ‘a town that has become a university,’ because of the part Rollins College, a progressive co-educational school, played in the life of the community. The town was founded as Lakeview in 1858, its name being changed to Osceola in 1870 and to Winter Park in 1881, when New Englanders laid out anew 600-acre townsite according to a city plan which has since been followed.

ROLLINS COLLEGE, established in 1885 by the General Congregational Association, was named for Alonzo W. Rollins, a wealthy dry-goods merchant of Chicago, who with his family gave much money to the institution. Denominational affiliations have now been relinquished. The 600-acre campus, on the shore of Lake Virginia, is shaded by live oaks and pines. The newest buildings are of, Spanish-Mediterranean style; the thick masonry and hollow-tile walls, window grilles, balconies, tile roofs, and walled gardens represent an adaptation of Spanish architecture of the Middle Ages.

The school’s experiments in educational techniques include a conference plan of teaching, allowing the student during his two-hour class periods either to study, to confer with his instructor, or to join in group discussion; an achievement plan of graduation permits more time for specialization; the annual tuition fee is computed by dividing the actual cost of operating the school by the number of students. The enrollment is limited to 500 students. Dr. Hamilton Holt, former editor of the *Independent*, is president (1938).

The KNOWLES MEMORIAL CHAPEL, Interlachen Ave., of modified Spanish Renaissance design, was erected in 1932 by Mrs. Frances Knowles Warren in memory of her father, F. Bangs Knowles, one of the founders of Rollins College. The entrance is a deeply recessed doorway under a paneled arch, and above is a stone carving picturing a Franciscan friar planting a cross in the earth between two palms, with

a group of *conquistadores* on one side and Florida Indians on the other; in the background are two Spanish caravels riding at anchor. The interior of the chapel reveals a wide lofty nave with narrow side aisles divided by massive piers with round arches. All interior structural stone is a warm-colored Florida travertine. The rear gallery, seating 110 is lighted by a large circular stained-glass window of Renaissance design.

The ANNIE RUSSELL THEATER, joined by a loggia to the chapel, harmonizes with the larger structure, both having been designed by Ralph A. Cram of Boston and Richard Kiehnel of Miami. Its facade is a triple-arched open loggia, above which is an arcaded porch reaching to the tile roof. Flanking loggias, polychromed rafters, and ornamental Florida travertine embellish the interior. The stage is flanked by a single box and crowned by a plain proscenium. Mrs. Edward W. Bok of Philadelphia gave the playhouse to Rollins.

The WALK OF FAME is constructed of more than 450 steppingstones taken from birthplaces or former homes of distinguished men and women, including Benjamin Franklin and Buffalo Bill.

During Founders' Week, celebrated annually in February, outstanding contemporaries talk on topics of the day in what is called the Animated Magazine. Among others who have contributed to these programs are former Attorney General Homer C. Cummings, Secretary of State Cordell Hull, Willa Cather, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, and the late Jane Addams.

An INDIAN MOUND, cor. Interlachen and Knowles Aves., stands in a small park among many trees with Indian markings. This is said to have been a favorite camping ground of Osceola, Seminole leader (*see History*).

ORLANDO, 38.2 *m.* (111 alt., 27,330 pop.) (*see Orlando*).

Points of Interest: Zoo, Eola Park, Sunshine Park, old residences, and others. Orlando is at the junction with State 22 (*see Tour 9*) and US 441 (*see Tour 21*).

At 42.6 *m.* is the junction with Gatlin Ave.

Left on Gatlin Ave. to the SITE OF FORT GATLIN, 1.5 *m.*, marked by a square granite column. The fort, established in 1837 and abandoned in 1848, was named for Dr. John S. Gatlin, Assistant Surgeon, U.S. Army, who lost his life in the Dade Massacre (*see Tour 22*).

PINECASTLE, 44.1 *m.* (421 pop.), on the shores of Lake Conway, was so named in the early 1870's when Will Wallace Harney, Orlando poet, built an octagonal house here and called it Pinecastle. Later settlers had their mail sent to Harney's, and when a post office was established it was named for his home.

At 46.3 *m.* is the junction with paved State 286.

Left on this highway to DAETWYLER'S NURSERY, 1.2 *m.*, a botanical park that contains more than 150,000 azaleas in 130 varieties, 75,000 palms, and many species of ornamental trees and plants, among them Australian tree ferns and Bird of Paradise plants.

TAFT, 47 *m.* (296 pop.), was called Smithville prior to 1909, when it was renamed in honor of President William Howard Taft, who was inaugurated that year. The land immediately south of the town is well adapted to cattle grazing, and during fall and winter stockmen burn over thousands of acres to furnish new pasturage for stock. Partridge peas and other vegetation bring quail and dove to the territory. The Florida Field Trial Association holds trials here annually for bird dogs.

KISSIMMEE, 57.7 *m.* (70 alt., 3,163 pop.), known colloquially as Cow Town, stands at the head of Lake Tohopekaliga in one of Florida's chief cattle areas. Its broad main street, lined with two- and three-story brick buildings, is divided by a parkway landscaped with cabbage palms. Many spacious old frame

houses with galleries and wide porches, built and occupied by wealthy cattlemen more than half a century ago, still stand. Some are surrounded by large lawns as open as the range; others, far back from the road, are almost concealed by towering moss-hung oaks and clumps of bamboos and oleanders. High-booted cowhands invade the shopping district on Saturday nights; stores display saddles, spurs, 16-foot cow whips, and broad-brimmed felt hats. The first bars in America built to enable horsemen to take a drink without dismounting were popular in Kissimmee about 1870, a decade before they were introduced into the West.

During the second Spanish occupation of Florida, particularly between 1813 and 1821, many settlers, impressed with the success of the Indians in raising cattle, made requests for Spanish grants of land, which they stocked with cattle brought from the Old World, together with herds driven down from Georgia and the Carolinas. Gradually the pasturage of the Kissimmee Valley attracted stockmen, and as fast as the Indians retreated, cattlemen moved in.

Before 1825 there existed as a recognized type the Florida woods cow, descendant of the original Spanish stock. Unprepossessing in appearance, of outstanding value for neither beef nor milk, ridiculously small, weighing much less than 500 pounds, she could survive here where blooded cattle perished. She was content with 10 to 20 acres of pasturage; in dry weather she knew how to live in swamps, and in wet weather she could do well on higher ground; she required no feed other than what she could find for herself; snakes did not harm her; sand spurs she relished as dessert. On a visit to the region in 1895, Frederic Remington, writer and painter renowned for his Western scenes, described the cattle range here as 'flat and sandy, with mile on mile of straight pine timber, each tree an exact duplicate of its neighbor tree, and underneath the scrub palmettoes, the twisted brakes and hammocks, and the gnarled water oaks. . . the land gives only a tough wiregrass, and the poor little cattle, no bigger than a donkey, wander half starved and horribly emaciated in search of it.'

In sharp lines Remington etched the portrait of the Cracker cowboy of the time: 'Two emaciated Texas ponies pattered down the street,' he wrote, 'bearing wild looking individuals whose hanging hair, drooping hats, and generally bedraggled appearance would remind you at once of the Spanish moss which hangs so quietly and helplessly to the limbs of the oaks out in the swamps . . . They had about four dollars' worth of clothes between them, rode McClellan saddles with saddlebags, and guns tied on before.' The cowboys, he added, did not use ropes but worked their cattle into strong log corrals about a day's march apart, assisted by large fierce curs trained to pursue cattle and 'even take them by the nose.' Cattle stealing was common, and cowmen shot and stabbed each other for possession of 'scrawny creatures not fit for a pointer-dog to mess on.' Owners of ranches never ventured into the woods alone or to their doors at night, and seldom kept a light burning in their houses. The almost unexplored Everglades lay close by and with a half-hour's start a man who knew the country was safe from pursuit. As one man cheerfully confided to Remington, 'A boat don't leave no trail, stranger.'

The railroads that early penetrated the open ranges had their troubles with claims made against them for maiming or killing livestock. A longhaired Cracker would drop into the nearest station, with his rifle and pistol, and ask the telegraph operator to pay immediately an extravagant sum for a lean cow killed on the tracks. If the railroads raised objections, cowboys lined up in the brush on dark nights and pumped their Winchesters into the trains, and 'it took some considerable "potting" at the more conservative superintendents,' according to Remington, 'before the latter could bestir themselves and invent a "cow-attorney," as the company adjuster was called.'

The dialect of the Kissimmee cow country today resembles that of the southern Appalachians; one frequently hears the mispronunciation of 'it' as 'hit.' Feed for livestock is shipped here in cotton bags which farm wives bleach and convert into dresses, table covers, bed sheets, and even underwear. The women of the family still boil clothes in the back yard in blackened kettles. Grits are served regularly for breakfast, not as a cereal, but as a sponge for gravy. There are many double cabins with roofs over the passageway, known as 'dog trot' cabins in the Piedmont States, but local cowmen call them 'breezeways.'

Before the extension of the railroad from Orlando in 1881, Kissimmee had been a trading post for settlers farther south. Small sailing vessels plied Lake Tohopekaliga, but had difficulty navigating the tortuous river channel. Not until the Disston land purchase in 1881 (*see Tour 10*), when drainage and

dredging projects made possible the establishment of sugarcane plantations and sugar mills, did the new settlement begin to flourish. Foundries, machine shops, and shipyards were built along the river; freight and passenger boat lines ran on regular schedule south through the river and chain of lakes as far as Lake Okeechobee, the Caloosahatchee River, and the Gulf of Mexico.

Kissimmee is at the junction with US 192 (*see Tour 10*).

South of Kissimmee the route follows a stretch of old brick highway, often inundated during heavy summer rains. During the construction of the road through the swamp in 1916-17, workmen supplemented their wages by catching baby alligators and selling them to curio shops.

INTERCESSION CITY, 64.9 *m.*, was named Interocean City when platted in 1924, because it was midway between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf. Apartments, office buildings, and houses begun here during the boom were never completed; and the boom's puncture left only a silhouette of crumbling pink and tan stucco structures. In 1934, Juvenile of Indianapolis gave 5,000 acres of land, including the townsite, to the House of Faith, a nondenominational Christian sect with tenets based on the original teachings of John Wesley. The group has built a small orphanage and a vocational school for young men and women; a canning plant and garment factory are under construction (1938). Lots and small farms are sold on a penny-a-day plan. During the winter a 100-day camp meeting is held here with the assistance of visiting evangelists and ministers of many denominations.

Gophers, the Florida land tortoise, are often seen crawling along the road in this region. Many are crushed by passing cars and their carcasses attract squadrons of ever-vigilant buzzards. Made into stews, gopher meat is relished by local people. A Negro legend thus explains the origin of the gopher and accounts for its name:

One day God was sitting on Tampa Bay making sea-things and throwing them into the water. He made a shark, tossed it in, and it swam off. He made a mullet, then a stingray, finally a turtle, and they all swam off. The Devil, watching Him, said he could make a turtle. But God shook His head. 'That's somethin' ain't been done before and nobody can't do no creatin' but Me, not even a simple lookin' thing like a turtle. But if you thinks you can do it, go ahead an' try,' said God.

So the Devil went away and came back presently to show God what he had made. 'This ain't no turtle what you done,' God told him; 'but just to show I'm fairminded I'll blow the breath of life into it for you.' God blew on it and threw it into the sea, and it swam ashore. He tossed it in again, then again, and each time it quickly crawled upon land.

'I told you you couldn't make no turtle,' said God. 'A turtle is a sea-thing an' lives in the water, an' this thing you made won't even stay no longer than he can swim out.' The Devil, realizing he couldn't out-argue God, said: 'Well, if it ain't no turtle it'll go fer one sure enough, and folks'll eat him for a turtle.' From the 'go fer' came the animal's name.

DAVENPORT, 75.2 *m.* (650 pop.), center of a prosperous citrus region, has several fruit-packing and canning plants. A CITRUS CANDY FACTORY (*open*) makes crystallized fruit peel. Workers wash, size, and slice grapefruit and oranges, and then boil the peels in syrup, color them with vegetable dyes, and cut them with machines. The pulp is returned to the grower as fertilizer. From 5,000 to 8,000 pounds of this candy are made weekly during the winter season.

HAINES CITY, 79.9 *m.* (166 alt., 3,037 pop.), surrounded by hills covered with orange and grapefruit groves, is dominated by a 10-story hotel of gray stucco. Early settlers in the vicinity planted tomatoes and grapes, but by 1900 the majority were engaged in citrus culture. Most of the fruit is shipped through two co-operative marketing associations. Springing from an early settlement called Clay Cut, the city adopted its present name in 1887. The name was changed to Haines City, according to local story, in the hope that in being so honored Henry Haines, South Florida Railroad official, might use his influence in having trains stop here. The point was well taken, for the railroad erected a station soon after.

The FLORIDA MILITARY INSTITUTE, offering college preparatory work to 100 cadets, is built around a 6-acre campus on the shores of LAKE EVA, on which also is the MUNICIPAL BATHING BEACH.

Haines City is at the junction with US 92 (*see Tour 20*) and State 8 (*see Tour 15*).

Tour 20

Haines City—Auburndale—Lakeland—Plant City—Tampa—Clearwater; 87.5 m. US 92, State 17.

Concrete-paved roadbed for the most part, with occasional short stretches of asphalt and brick; watch for cattle along highway. Route paralleled by Atlantic Coast Line R. R. Good accommodations.

This section of US 92 runs almost due west through mammoth citrus groves, many of them on terraced slopes overlooking diminutive lakes. In February and March both ripe yellow fruit and waxy blossoms cover the orange and grapefruit trees lining the road for miles. The fragrance is especially noticeable during a season of 'bouquet bloom,' or unusually heavy blossoming. Roadside stands offer orange juice and blossoms for sale. The route reaches elevations of more than 200 feet, and the hilltops offer good views of well-tended groves, blue lakes, and modern houses.

US 92 branches west from US 17 (*see Tour 2c and d*) at HAINES CITY, 0 m. (166 alt., 3,037 pop.) (*see Tour 2c*).

LAKE ALFRED, 6.5 m. (175 alt., 629 pop.), a residential community, owes its prosperity to the surrounding groves. The town has been known successively as Barton Junction, Chubb, and Fargo; the present name, also that of the near-by lake, was selected in honor of Alfred Parslow, who acquired a franchise for an early local railroad and built a house on the townsite. The MUNICIPAL BEACH on the lake provides bathing and boating.

A CITRUS EXPERIMENT STATION, established in 1921 by the State Agricultural Experiment Station at Gainesville, conducts research and study of fertilizers, citrus soils, insect and disease control, and packing house problems. The ridge section here is the approximate center of the most productive citrus area of Florida, which, all in all, produced more than 50,000,000 boxes of fruit in 1937-38.

After clearing their land, grove owners purchase budded nursery stock and plant it in rows from 16 to 20 feet apart; an acre on the average has 70 trees, and 10 acres are considered the smallest profitable unit. Cultivation is highly specialized, involving the use of expensive fertilizers, the planting of cover crops to retain moisture and reduce weed growth, pruning, and frequent spraying to reduce insect life. Trees bear by the sixth year. Most of the citrus trees in western and central Florida are budded to a rough lemon root stalk that matures quickly in the ridge soil and withstands low temperatures; along the east coast sour or wild orange stock is preferred. The early maturing varieties of orange are Satsuma, Parson Brown, and Hamlin; those picked during midseason are Pineapple, Enterprise, and Jaffa; late maturing fruits include the Valencia and Lue Gim Gong, often seen on trees as late as June.

The earliest marketable grapefruit is the Duncan, followed by Florida common, and the Walker; the only late variety is the Marsh seedless. The Foster, a pink-meat grapefruit, is becoming popular. The original pinkmeat fruit, the pomelo or shaddock, from which grapefruit was developed, is a rough-skinned, coarse, and bitter fruit, frequently 8 inches in diameter but of no commercial value. Grapefruit is said to have received its name because the fruit usually grows in clusters. The trees are long-lived and often grow to enormous size. The tangerine, of several varieties, ripens in midwinter. The tangelo, a relatively new fruit, is a cross between the tangerine and grapefruit.

Oranges are not actually picked, but cut with medium-sized curved clippers. The stem must be cut a short distance from the orange, or the fruit will rot. The oranges fall into bags strapped around the cutter's shoulders. When the bags are filled, they are dumped into field boxes of two bushels' capacity and loaded on trucks. Cutters are generally hired by the co-operative packing houses and transported by truck from grove to grove. In the field Negroes and whites, usually working in separate groups, receive about 6¢ a box for picking fruit. At other seasons cutters are employed in the care and cultivation of the groves and receive an average wage of \$1.50 a day. Most of the citrus workers are native Floridians; it is not unusual to find entire families working together in the groves.

AUBURNDALE, 11.5 m. (167 alt., 1,849 pop.), originally named Sanitaria by the group of health seekers who founded it, was later renamed by settlers from Auburndale, Mass. Large frame residences,

orderly groves, and two-story boxlike buildings line the principal thoroughfare. The houses and estates of fruit growers and packers border the shore of LAKE ARIANA (*good fishing*).

Groves become less numerous, replaced by stretches of pine woods and lowlands dotted with small lakes. Small farms off the main highway are on paved county roads kept in condition by white and Negro prisoners from near-by county jails. Many Negro workers are skilled woodsmen, expert with axes, crosscut saws, and grubbing hoes. In one of these gangs Daddy Mention (*see Tour 3b*) once worked, while serving time in a local jail.

‘Daddy Mention liked the Polk County jails all right,’ one of his associates relates, ‘except for the little “jug” outside of Lakeland. He told them when they put him there, he didn’t think he could stay with them too long. They’d locked him up for vagrancy, you see, and Daddy didn’t think so much of that, for just like he’d told them, he’d been picking oranges and just had too much money to work for a week or two. So they locked Daddy up. He fussed a little, made up his mind to go to Tampa. He knew he couldn’t just run away, though. You can’t do that down here.

‘We didn’t know nothin’ about his plan, ‘cause he didn’t talk much, but we begin seein’ him do more work than anybody else in his gang. He’d chop down a tree by himself and wouldn’t take more’n one man to help him lift it. And one day, when he was sure the cap’n seen him, he lifted a log all by himself and carried it a long ways. It wasn’t long before the cap’n and his friends was pickin’ up a little side money, bettin’ people Daddy could walk off with any tree they could cut. It got to be a regular sight to see Daddy walkin’ around the jail yard, luggin’ a tree-butt in his arms.

‘One afternoon we come in from the woods and Daddy brings in a big tree-butt with him. After dinner he picks up the butt and starts clownin’ around, with the cap’n watchin’ him and laughin’. When he started for the gate with the butt on his shoulder, none of the guards bothered him, ‘cause who ever seen a man tryin’ to escape with a pine-butt on his shoulders? The guards figured somebody was makin’ a bet or somethin’. Right out of the gate Daddy went, onto the road goin’ to Hillsborough County, and he still had the log on his shoulder. I never seen him again till a long time after in Tampa.

“‘I didn’t have no trouble,” he told me later. “I jus’ kep’ that log on my shoulder an’ everybody I passed thought it’d fallen off’n a truck an’ I was carryin’ it back. Soon’s I got to Plant City, I sold the log for enough to ride to Tampa, and they ain’t goin’ to catch me again in Polk County.”

LAKELAND, 22 *m.* (206 alt., 18,554 pop.), the State’s second largest inland city, is in the highland region of central Florida, with 14 natural lakes within or near its limits. Between business buildings and throughout the residential districts, modern houses intermingle with older frame dwellings of Colonial style. Almost all are surrounded by flowering subtropical gardens. On the northern limits of the city are the Negro sections, Teaspoon Hill and Morehead, most of whose residents work in local citrus groves, fruit-packing plants and truck gardens. They have their own schools, hospitals, churches, and theater; such unofficial names as Voodoo Corner, Jonk Street, and Careless Avenue add color to the neighborhoods.

The metropolis of a region growing one-third of Florida’s citrus fruit, Lakeland is executive headquarters of large producing and shipping companies, and of the Florida Citrus Commission, instituted to enforce green fruit regulations, govern marketing, and control advertising. The region ranks second in the State as a strawberry-growing area, and stands high in the production of winter vegetables. Many of the larger farms employ overhead irrigation, a system of elevated pipes equipped with sprinklers which produce a man-made rain at the turn of a valve.

For berry and truck growers, the city operates an auction platform where these products are sold to local and northern buyers. Cold storage facilities and carload refrigeration are provided by a plant capable of icing 500 cars every 24 hours. A Federal Frost Warning Service is maintained for the benefit of growers throughout the State; It broadcasts bulletins daily on climatic conditions at principal markets.

Lakeland’s history began with the coming of the South Florida Railroad in 1884; the town was incorporated the following year. At the same time a group of Englishmen established the town of Acton, two miles to the east, named for Lord Acton, British historian. During this settlement’s brief existence it became in atmosphere, dress, and custom, a transplanted bit of England, with polo, fox hunting, and

cricket as part of its daily life. When the founders scattered to other parts of the State after the 'freeze' of 1894, the town was absorbed by Lakeland.

The mid-State position of the city early made it an important railroad center. Many railroad employees bought houses and settled here. The large pay roll helped stabilize the development of the town, and discovery of near-by phosphate deposits in the early 1890's gave further impetus to its growth. Its relatively high altitude and plentiful supply of pure water induced the Federal Government to select Lakeland as an encampment ground for troops during the Spanish-American War, and these natural advantages later brought to the city the National Home of the United Carpenters and Joiners of America (*see below*). The removal of large railroad shops in 1926-27 struck the city an economic blow, but road building and the rapid development of citrus culture have sustained the city's growth.

LAKE MIRROR, in the heart of the city, encircled by a decorative retaining wall with lofty colonnades, forms a CIVIC CENTER, which includes a chain of parks with many recreational facilities. Vine-covered municipal buildings and churches, and several tall stucco hotels occupy terraced lawns sloping to the water. MUNN PARK, with bandstand, benches, and horseshoe pitching lanes, occupies a square block in the center of the shopping district.

LAKE WIRE, also in the city, is encircled by a landscaped drive; originally known as Israel's Dish, the lake received its present name when a telegraph line to the Havana-Punta Rassa cable was built along the shore. When encamped here in 1898, the Tenth U.S. Cavalry had as its quartermaster John L. Pershing, then a lieutenant, who was here dubbed 'Black Jack,' because the Tenth Cavalry was a Negro unit.

LAKE HOLLINGSWORTH, on Lake Hollingsworth Drive, is bordered with oaks, magnolias, orange groves, and many large estates. On the western shore is the pink stucco CLEVELAND HEIGHTS YACHT AND COUNTRY CLUB (*open*), with mooring floats and piers.

On the eastern shore of Lake Hollingsworth, in the center of a 63-acre orange grove, stands the two- and three-story buildings of FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE, a coeducational institution established at Leesburg by the Florida Methodist Conference in 1885, removed to Sutherland in 1902, reestablished at Clearwater Beach after a disastrous fire in 1921, and finally removed to its present location where permanent buildings were erected and formally dedicated in September, 1922. The college has an average enrollment of 800 students, representing 20 states and 12 denominations.

In striking contrast to the college buildings, of red brick with limestone trim, is a white HINDU TEMPLE, its 239 stones brought from Benares, holy city of the Hindus, by Frederick B. Fisher, Methodist bishop. As the Hindu worship singly and not in groups, the temple is small, being 5 feet wide, 8 feet long, and 25 feet high, topped with a Christian cross. On the small altar within stands a brass cross and two brass candelabra. Candles burn through the night in memory of Dr. Fisher.

In front of the temple is a reflecting pool, known as the WISHING Pool to students, who toss in pennies with a prayer that their wishes may come true. The superintendent of grounds retrieves the pennies, which are used to buy more candles for the altar. Around the pool and temple is the GARDEN OF MEDITATION, with marble benches and the statues of a sacred cow and two elephants, also from India and reputedly 500 years old. An extensive building program has been laid out by the college, and designs for twelve units, connected by gardens and courts, have been made by Frank Lloyd Wright, one of the most individual of American architects.

The ROSE KELLAR HOME, corner Riggins St. and Pennsylvania Ave., a two-story brown frame house with large screened porches, formerly a private sanatorium, was bequeathed by Dr. and Mrs. F. B. Kellar to the Children's Home Society of Florida. It serves as the Polk County branch of the Society and as a receiving home for the parent institution.

LAKE MORTON, encircled by Lake Morton Drive, is a feeding place for waterfowl during winter and is open for fishing at stated periods each year. The LAKELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY (*open 9-9*), on Lake Morton Drive between Iowa and Massachusetts Aves., a one-story cream stucco building with red tile roof, occupies terraced grounds landscaped with date, cabbage, and Washingtonian palms, and a profusion of pink and white oleanders. The library contains 11,000 volumes and is one of the 5 State depositories for Government publications.

CITY PARK, on 19th St. in the northern part of the city, is for the most part unimproved, but contains the municipal tennis courts, swimming pool, Adair Athletic Field, Morell Memorial Hospital, and the Armory.

Lakeland is at the junction with State 2 (*see Tour 8b*).

Right from Lakeland on Florida Ave. to the NATIONAL HOME of THE UNITED CARPENTERS AND JOINERS of AMERICA (open 2-5), 3.6 m., established for aged and disabled members over 65 years old and of 30 or more years' standing in the union. More than half of the 1,950 acres in the grounds have been planted with orange groves. The cream-colored stucco buildings with red tile roofs are of Spanish Mission style; the main structure has three large wings containing a lounge, a dining room with a capacity of 800, an auditorium seating 900, an infirmary, the administration offices, and guest rooms. Scattered through the landscaped grounds bordering Lake Gibson are tables and benches, toque and shuffleboard courts, lawns for bowling, and horseshoe pitching lanes. On the lake are docks and bathing pavilions; an 18-hole golf course (*open; greens fee 75¢*) lies on both sides of the main drive leading to the administration building. The institution has its own light, power, and water plants, and maintains a farm and dairy herd. The home represents an investment of \$3,000,000.

A STATE WEIGHING DIVISION STATION (L), 28 m., halts and checks occasional trucks to see that their weight conforms to State laws governing commercial vehicles.

Long stretches of second-growth pine, most of it large enough to be tapped for turpentine, border the highway. Occasional stump-filled clearings, many with small unpainted frame dwellings and sheds, are planted to garden truck; strawberries are cultivated in patches of muck land.

PLANT CITY, 33.1 m. (737 alt., 6,800 pop.), is a busy commercial center, with large warehouses, cold-storage plants, and long loading platforms on a web of railroad tracks for the shipment of agricultural produce. In the residential sections, landscaped with oaks and a variety of palms, subtropical vines, and shrubs, are comfortable old frame houses and many stucco dwellings of Florida-Mediterranean style, built during the boom.

The town occupies the site of the Indian village of Ichepucksassa (Ind., tobacco blossoms or fields), a name retained for several years. So much confusion arose over the spelling and pronunciation of the name that an Irish postmaster rechristened it Cork, for his home city. At the time of its incorporation in 1885 it was renamed for Henry B. Plant (*see Transportation*), who in 1884 had extended his South Florida Railroad into this section. In 1887 a yellow fever epidemic brought death to many citizens, and the entire southern half of the town was destroyed by fire in 1908.

Once a cotton center, Plant City now ships almost three-fourths of the Nation's midwinter strawberries. Modern refrigeration and express transportation bring the berries to northern markets within 48 hours of picking. The season lasts from early December to late in March, and during this period Plant City warehouses are scenes of excitement and great activity. Sample pints of berries are auctioned to clamoring Northern buyers, and consignments are immediately loaded into refrigerator cars. With high priced early berries, the 'pony express' method is used: berries are packed in small iced units and shipped with other express not requiring refrigeration. The climax comes with the Strawberry Festival in February. The crop brings an average annual return of \$1,000,000.

Many families in Plant City have a strawberry patch, varying in size from a backyard bed to several acres. Boxes of the berries and strawberry shortcake are sold at roadside stands. Public schools are in session all year, so that children who help the harvesters during the winter can attend summer classes.

Strawberry culture has been termed a 'thirteen-months-in-the-year job.' In January and February farmers order nursery plants and set out runner beds for the next season. Runners are pulled from parent plants from July to September; those set out last are the first to bear, but develop into smaller plants. On small plots pine needles and meadow hay are often heaped up between the rows and raked over the plants to protect them from weeds and freezes.

In the KRUSE STRAWBERRY CANNING PLANT, 302 Reynolds St., berries are frozen and shipped to firms making preserves and syrups. GILCHRIST PARK, in the eastern part of the city, offers recreational facilities.

Left from Plant City on a paved road is CORONET, 3 m. (120 alt., 400 pop.), an industrial village built by a phosphate-mining company, which has erected attractive modern cottages for its employees. Known as the 'Spotless Town' because of its cleanliness, the community has a country club, library, and park system.

The Florida pebble-phosphate area lies within a 20-mile radius of Coronet. Small operators have practically disappeared large corporations continue operations and produce 2,000,000 tons annually (*see Industry and Commerce*). The phosphate bash, or 'matrix,' varies in thickness from 1 foot to 40 feet, but nothing under 6 feet can be profitably worked. In early operations the overburden, ranging from 15 to 25 feet, was removed by Negroes with wheelbarrows and mule-drawn scrapers; later, steam shovels were used; today, electrically operated draglines are employed. The matrix is mined with hydraulic 'giants,' or 'guns,' which throw streams of water with a pressure strong enough to break up and wash the 'slurry' into basins, from which it is pumped to the washer or recovery plant. The limit of efficient pumping is about one mile, after which the pumps are moved forward along the mining cut. Approximately 85 per cent of raw phosphate is acidulated with sulfuric acid to make 'super-phosphate,' a necessary plant food in commercial fertilizers. Some 10 per cent is manufactured into disodium and trisodium phosphates for silk weighting and baking powder; the remainder goes into other phosphate compounds used in industrial chemistry, photography, and medicine.

The CORONET GOLF COURSE (*greens fee* \$1) and RECREATIONAL GROUNDS (L), 34.5 m., are patronized by Plant City residents.

Between Plant City and Tampa the route by-passes all towns, providing an express highway through fertile, rolling, truck-farming country. Small patches of bright green sugar cane appear frequently, and many farmers offer cane juice at 5¢ a glass; the grayish beverage is a refreshing drink. Along low stretches State highway signs have been erected to warn motorists that fog and smoke hang low over the roads, particularly at night and in the early morning, necessitating caution in driving. In many places tall elderberry bushes flank the highway. Near Tampa citrus groves again predominate. Colonies of bees in the groves and open fields produce a clear fragrant orange-blossom honey during spring months when citrus trees are in bloom. A dark heavy-bodied variety is obtained from palmetto blossoms and wild flowers. Honey in glasses and 5-pound tins is for sale at roadside stands.

At 47.8 m. is the junction (L) with US 47 (*see Tour 4c*), which unites with US 92 into Tampa.

At 50.9 m. is the junction with a paved road.

Right on this road to HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY HOME AND HOSPITAL (*open 2-3 and 7-8 p.m.*), 0.5 m., a one-story brick building, with 14 lateral wings, built in 1936. The institution has 242 beds for the care of the aged and indigent sick.

The TAMPA WHOLESALE PRODUCE MARKET, 51.4 m., a U-shaped frame building with an open court, contains stalls for the display and sale of fruits, vegetables, poultry, and other local produce. Traders from northern states bring in apples, grapes, peaches, pecans, and cheese, and return with truckloads of Florida fruit, watermelons, and winter vegetables. The busiest hours are from 2 to 4 a.m., when Tampa merchants arrive to purchase their day's supply of farm products. The clamor and tumult of buyers and sellers blend with the music and sound of revelry from near-by jooks, patronized by truck drivers and growers. The highway here is a popular gathering place for hitch-hikers seeking rides on northbound trucks.

TAMPA, 56.9 m. (15 alt., 101,161 pop.) (*see Tampa*).

Points of Interest: Ybor City Latin Quarter, Cigar Factories, Docks, Plant Park, Tampa Bay Hotel, Davis Islands.

KEY TO FLORIDA HIGHWAY TOURS

SEE INDEX

