

Florida—Land Of Opportunity, Rich Loafers, Alligators, Citrus Tycoons

By HAL BOYLE

SOMEWHERE IN FLORIDA (AP) — Some vacation notes scribbled on an old palm leaf:

Florida is expanding so fast that most cities now have caught up with the sidewalks built far out into the palmetto thickets 25 years ago.

New businesses have been started here at a higher rate than anywhere else in the nation. Many of the new pioneers are young veterans, stationed here during the war, who fell in love with the climate and came back to launch their civilian careers. Their home-building and industry-creating activities have given a fresh impetus to "the Peninsula State."

Florida is a land of reward now for almost any fresh talent. For example, anyone who likes to turn his hand to new jobs might find a real opportunity in a recent newspaper ad offering \$75 a week for an alligator wrestler.

When I remarked the pay didn't seem too attractive, an oldtimer remarked:

"Well, the hours are shot—and it's more than the alligators get."

Draining swamps and tourists are standard sources of wealth.

Great herds of cattle—Florida now raises more beef than any state east of the Mississippi—graze on acres where only rattlesnakes and cockleburs thrived a generation ago.

The tourists graze in shiny pastel million-dollar beachfront hotels that still pop up like giant jack-in-the-boxes.

Citrus Crops' Mushroom

The citrus groves range in wider and wider waves of living green. Airplane passengers flying over the groves when they are in bloom say they can smell their fragrance.

The mushrooming citrus crops, speeded by the national popularity of frozen breakfast juice, have created a new wealthy class.

In Orlando, which has a metropolitan area of about 100,000 people, a resident was asked how many citrus millionaires had retired there since the war.

"About 50," he replied.

"That ain't hay they squeeze out of oranges—it's raw gold."

The recent wave of Florida bombings, anti-racial in origin, has really angered and alarmed the citizenry. They feel it has hurt the area.

"The state is swarming right now with FBI Agents," said one newspaperman, "and we want the perpetrators caught and punished."

"Ninety-five per cent of our folks are fine, decent-minded people. The other five per cent are trash. And it is the trash that causes that kind of trouble. I suppose they do what they do because they feel they have to have somebody to look down on."

Lot Dealing Pays Off

In the past 25 years Florida has become one of the most cosmopolitan states in the union. An odd fact: Southerners settle in the northern part, Northerners in the south.

The present growth is solid. Real estate dealers no longer hire jazz bands and serve free meals to lure customers.

Thousands of small homeowners, banking on a bright future, invest their savings by buying extra lots suitable as building sites. As one resident said, laughing:

"We sell a lot back and forth to



THE NEW STYLING of the 1952 Mercury, above, has enabled engineers to incorporate design features that greatly add to the comfort and safety of driving. The car has large curved one-piece windshield, rear window and deeper side window panels. All doors on the '52 cars are hinged from the front, permitting easier entry. The car pictured is a custom four-door sedan.



ON DISPLAY — The all-new 1952 Ford Customline Fordor Sedan, now on display at Lockwood Motors, Inc., features a completely new Ford Coachcraft body with curved one-piece windshield and rear window, triple-spinner grille arrangement and body highlights sweeping backward from the extended headlights along the hood and fender to the jet-tube taillight sections. Added styling features of the Customline Fordor are the chrome capped rear fender profiles.

each other, raising the price each time, until some newcomer comes along, buys it, and builds a house on it and takes it out of circulation. Then we buy a new lot farther out, and start the whole thing all over again."

It is a formula that has worked well ever since the war. Anybody who stays more than two weeks in Florida without buying a piece of property is regarded as slow-witted—or broke.

Woman, 103, Thinks Of Spring Plowing

WHITESBURG, Ky. (AP) — In the spring, 103-year old "Aunt Jane" Adams' thoughts turn to plowing. And as spring and her 104th birthday approached, those were her thoughts Wednesday—following the old plow and the family mule around the hillsides just like

I used to do in the long ago."

"Aunt Jane" comes from a long-living family. Her 86-year old brother, "Uncle Eli" Lucas, recently became the father of his 18th child. Her father, Aaron Lucas, died at the age of 103. Her grandfather lived to be 105.

"Here I am close around that, and years yet to live," she said. "I'll outgo any of them. I never felt better in all my life, and there is no reason why I won't go on."

Her birthday is Feb. 10.

Hiccup Victim Down To 78 Lbs.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jack O'Leary, who weighed 135 pounds before he was seized with the world's longest hiccuping attack more than three and a half years ago, is now down to 78.

The former market manager has been hiccuping at least once a second, except for two brief respites, since June 13, 1948. An appendix rupture brought them on.

O'Leary, 26, is losing weight because of his restricted diet and the fact that he can retain food only 20 minutes. He thus receives little nourishment from the little he can eat.

His diet: Toast and hot water for breakfast; peas or carrots and hot water for lunch; peas, carrots and toast for dinner.

Two hundred doctors and 20,000 letters suggesting remedies have failed to help him.

Ex-Legislator Would Head Oregon Democrats

MONMOUTH (AP) — Howard Morgan, Monmouth farmer and former state legislator, announced Wednesday night that he is a candidate for state chairman of the Democratic Party.

The Democrats' State Committee will meet in Portland Saturday to name a successor to Chairman William Josselin, who announced his resignation recently.

Some Umatilla County Democrats previously had announced they would support Morgan for the position.

Teletypesetter Service Of AP Now Spans U. S.

NEW YORK (AP) — The Associated Press Teletypesetter wire Thursday became a transcontinental circuit, another first in the rapid expansion of communication.

With the addition of 12 Southern California newspapers, the circuit now spans the nation from coast to coast and from Canada to Mexico.

TTS, as the service is called, originates in New York and goes to members in 26 states.

There are three national circuits. One is for afternoon papers, another is for morning papers and the third is a market wire which carries, among other market material, a complete New York stock list in tabular form. All three types of service are first with the Associated Press.

The Associated Press also operates state circuits apart from the national wires.

TTS delivers actual type automatically, ready to print, from perforated tape which is simultaneously received in newspapers.

It is completely automatic and replaces the former system of delivering copy which had to be edited and then composed after receipt.

the government contended, was \$48,000. His wife, Ethel, was indicted because the government said she helped prepare the tax returns.

Charge Of Tax Fraud Faces Eugene Couple

PORTLAND (AP) — A Eugene couple, arrested on income tax violation indictments, were released on \$1,500 bail each Tuesday.

Wade F. Palmer, 37, was accused of showing an income of \$25,147 for 1946 and 1947, while his income

U. S. Casualties In Korea Totaled

WASHINGTON (AP) — Announced U.S. battle casualties in Korea reached 105,001 Wednesday an increase of 357 since last week.

The Defense Department's weekly summary based on notifications to families through last Friday reported these figures for last week and new totals.

Killed in action 16,151, 16,270. Wounded 75,819, 76,112. Total 104,644, 105,001.

Battle deaths (X) 18,049, 18,177. Current missing (Y) 10,919, 10,862. (X) Includes killed in action, 1-

716 fatally wounded and 191 dead, originally reported missing.

(Y) After deducting from gross total 1,391 returned, 175 known captured and 191 known dead.

Following is a breakdown of the casualties by services giving last week first, then new total.

Army 85,835, 86,138. Navy 1,203, 1,204. Air Force 984, 989. Marine Corps 16,822, 16,670. Missing 12,674, 12,619.

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