

# STATE OFFICIALS PRAISE CONNERS FOR HIGHWAY

### Publisher Is Compared With Flagler for Foresight and Daring in Building Road; Martin Pledges Self to State's Constructive Development Along Practical Lines.

By C. CLINTON PAGE  
OF THE HERALD STAFF.

OSKECHOBBE CITY, Fla., July 5. (Herald Service).—Following the tremendous dual celebration of yesterday of the Fourth of July and the formal opening of the Conners Highway, the citizens and business men of Okechobee City are anticipating for the first time the potential possibilities of the city as the great industrial and trade center which the illustrious Henry M. Flagler had in mind when he built the branch of his Florida East Coast into that town and set aside a strip of land 300 feet wide and 12 blocks long through the center of the city, with a population of 30,000 or more people.

Not only the people of Okechobee City but many of its distinguished visitors from all parts of the state, including many big business men of the state, appreciate for the first time the strategic location of this town as a great trade center and distributing point. The completion of the Conners Highway is easily comparable to the building of the Florida East Coast from Jacksonville down the Atlantic coast a quarter of a century ago in importance from both an industrial development standpoint and that of wonderful vision.

The Conners Highway at once makes accessible a considerable portion of the eastern half of the great empire of the Florida West and Northern from Coloman to West Palm Beach during the same period will hasten actual development of the east half of the Everglades fully 25 years.

Yesterday's dual demonstration at Okechobee City was a significant coming of a new epoch in the history of central, eastern and southern Florida's development. It was the largest gathering of the kind ever held in the state and the splendid manner in which it was carried out in every detail was a great credit to the citizenship of the town and community.

DESPITE a heavy downpour and drizzling rain Thursday night, which threatened to continue over yesterday, the remnant clouds lifted early yesterday morning leaving an ideal day for the most thrilling and largely attended Fourth of July celebration ever staged in the history of the state. Automobiles began pouring into the city over the new Conners highway from Miami, West Palm Beach, Fort Pierce and other East Coast cities at daybreak, and soon the streets of the town were a sea of moving humanity and automobiles.

The crowd near noon was variously estimated at from 7,000 to 10,000 people. It is estimated that about 30,000 persons visited the city during the day.

As is usual the program was late in getting under way. In fact the motorcade did not start until 11:30 a. m., headed by W. J. Conners and party, did not reach the toll-gate at the southeastern border of Okechobee City until 12:30 o'clock. This gate, which is a frame arch spanning the Conners highway at the point mentioned, was closed by a red, white and blue silken cord, at which the motorcade halted while W. J. Conners, famous New York politician, newspaper owner and shipping magnate, who built the highway, alighted from his car and with a pair of scissors deftly severed the silken cord, exclaiming as he did so, "I hereby officially declare the Conners highway open at this hour."

Mrs. Conners and W. J. Conners, Jr., who were in the magnate's motor car, were the first to drive through the gate, when Mr. Conners resumed a seat in the automobile and the motorcade proceeded into the city, arriving in time to meet Governor Cary A. Hardee and party, consisting of Governor-elect John W. Martin, Attorney General Rivers T. Buford, Chief Drainage Engineer F. C. Elliott and others, and join a second section of the motorcade consisting of 20 or more beautiful floats and more than 100 automobiles.

Mr. Conners was warmly greeted by the immense crowds along the parade route. He was enthusiastically lifted his hat and exemplified his humble smile. It was clear to the throngs that this occasion was one of the magnate's happiest hours, for despite his many and varied interests, his bearing during the parade clearly indicated that all of the more serious matters of business were effectually crowded from his constructive mind by the extreme felicity of the present hour.

Though the speaking program had been set for 12 o'clock noon, it was not until 1:30 that the orchestra in the speakers' stand had finished the opening musical number and Mayor T. Conely, of Okechobee City, who presided, delivered his address of hearty welcome. On the speakers' stand were W. J. Conners, the guest of honor; Mrs. Conners, W. J. Conners, Jr., and John J. Moagan, private secretary of Mr. Conners; Governor-elect A. Hardee; Attorney General Rivers T. Buford, Chief Drainage Engineer F. C. Elliott, Governor-elect John W. Martin, L. F. Reardon, of Dade county, and others.

MAYOR CONELY'S address of welcome was brief but most hearty. He said the people of the state had been asked by Okechobee City to come and assist in the celebration of not only Independence Day, but the formal opening and dedication of the Conners highway as well. The latter, he felt, was scarcely secondary in importance because of what this new link in a cross-state highway meant to the state's future development as well as that of Okechobee City and the Lake Okechobee region. He likened Mr. Conners' daring in the construction of this road to that of Flagler's building of the East Coast railroad.

## TO GO NORTH



Mrs. Willard Clay, a recent bride of Egan Galle, who prior to her marriage was Miss Alann Snell. Mrs. Clay is leaving soon for Charleston, W. Va., to join her husband.

## MAN IS FATALLY SHOT AT OKECHOBBEE FETE

### Bullet Fired at Ground Rebounds and Wounds Farmer; Two Are Held.

OSKECHOBBE, Fla., July 5.—(Herald Service).—William J. Cross, a farmer about 65 years old, of Kramer Island in Lake Okechobee, was fatally shot about 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon while standing near the scene of the barbecue at the Fourth of July celebration.

Jack Davis, assistant transportation manager of the Coral Gables Company, and two other employees of the Coral Gables Company, were immediately arrested by Policeman W. N. Collins as responsible for the killing, and turned over to Sheriff J. C. Platt, who placed them in jail without bond pending the outcome of an inquest which began yesterday afternoon and was continued to noon Monday. One of the men was released.

The bullet which caused Cross' almost instant death is alleged to have come from a revolver in the hands of Jack Davis, to whom it is said to have been handed by one of the other men. Davis is said to have begun firing the revolver at the ground in celebration spirit, but that the ball ricocheted and struck Mr. Cross.

## AT MIMS

MIMS, Fla., July 5.—(Herald Service).—W. B. Kyser, real estate broker, has a party of home-seekers from Georgia and several pieces of property are likely to change hands during their stay here, as all are enthusiastic over Florida and especially this locality.

W. P. Hermlinghaus is having some interior painting and oiling done in his home.

Higdon Devlin's new bungalow will soon be ready for occupancy, the plastering is done and the carpenters will soon finish.

Judson Myrick will soon begin to erect a three-story building on his lot east of the Mims store. The first floor will be for stores and the upper stories apartments.

A. C. Terwilliger has just completed the erection of a neat cottage on his grove, formerly known as the Gaudin grove. George Gibbs and family are occupying this nice new home.

The free barbecue was a grand feature of the noon hour, and at the close the 23 heaves, 61 hogs and 2,000 pounds of fish were well disposed of by the immense crowd in attendance. On account of rain in the evening the fireworks feature was postponed to Sunday night.

## ACREAGE

The most conservative investors are putting their money into acreage, that is, acreage located in the line of development.

I have for sale NINETY ACRES, fronting on N. W. Seventh Ave. extension. This promises to double in value in another year. N. W. Seventh Ave. is destined to be the main artery into Miami. It eliminates railroad crossing, and shortens the distance; besides it leads into the heart of the city.

Priced at \$200 per acre, on terms of \$5,000 cash, balance in 1-2-3-4-5 years.

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## FORT PIERCE DOUBLING CAPACITY OF HOTELS

### New Unit of Colonial Hotel and Other Projects Under Way.

FORT PIERCE, Fla., July 5.—(Herald Service).—Fort Pierce next winter season will have by far greater hotel accommodations than ever before, and nearly double the number of last season if the several projects that are under way and authorized materials, as contemplated.

Two important projects are now under way, and two others have been authorized by the city and state authorities and are planned for construction during the summer and fall seasons.

Work is now under way on a new 26-room unit to the Colonial Hotel, which will double its present accommodations. The old Atlantic Hotel is being extensively remodeled and improved. A ground story of concrete blocks have been built under the two-story frame structure, and the whole building is to be stuccoed and refinished and refurbished. This will provide about fifty rooms that were not available last season.

Permits have been issued to Dr. E. L. Denison for the construction of a three-story modern hotel to be located on the present site of the Riverside Motor Sales garage, Second street. Although definite plans are not yet made, it is expected that work on this structure will begin some time within the next few weeks. As planned, it would be a beautiful structure of Spanish architecture, tile and concrete construction, providing 40 hotel rooms and two stores. Permits also have been issued to Mrs. M. L. Almond for construction of a two-story brick structure, to be used for a hotel on Second street, for hotel purposes. As planned, this would provide about 70 rooms and would be modern in all respects. An announcement has not been made as to when work is to be started, but it is expected that the project will be ready for use next season.

In addition, there are several other important projects are being planned, including apartment houses. So that altogether the outlook for the coming winter season is quite promising insofar as the city's ability to accommodate a considerably larger number of visitors than it has ever been able to do in the past.

## AT VERO

VERO, Fla., July 5.—(Herald Service).—Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Koffer are parents of a baby daughter, born to them Wednesday night, July 2, at their home on Seminole avenue.

The B. Y. P. U. of the Vero church elected the following officers at the meeting of last Sunday: President, W. A. Virmay; vice president, Miss Elizabeth Vann; recording secretary, Miss Nellie Baker; corresponding secretary, Miss Elizabeth Mayfield; treasurer, V. E. Stensel; pianist and chorister, Miss Juanita DuBoise; quiz leader, P. H. Nelson; group captains, L. L. Nelson, C. W. Crews, Halsey Vann.

Albert Helseth has been appointed assistant cashier of the Vero bank and trust company, and last Tuesday assumed the duties of his new position.

Next Tuesday afternoon, July 8, the Thimble Workers of the Vero Woman's Club will meet at the home of Mrs. G. C. Bartlett, president of the club, at 2 o'clock.

Mrs. T. W. Hewitt and children arrived home Thursday after a visit of several weeks with friends and relatives in Georgia.

Miss Margaret Lane arrived at her Vero home Thursday night after an absence of a couple of months, visiting friends in New York. Miss Lane is librarian of the Vero library and while in New York superintended the packing and shipping of the 1,300 books presented through her to the Vero library. The books have already been catalogued and placed on the shelves. Many of the books are absolutely new and all are of a high standard of excellence.

## MRS. THOMAS HOSTESS TO FLORIDA CITY GIRLS

FLORIDA CITY, Fla., July 5.—(Herald Service).—Mrs. J. B. Thomas was the hostess of the Better Girls' Club Tuesday afternoon.

The following members were present: Misses Marcia Moore, Olive Kennedy, Mable Robertson, Irene Rohrer, Marion Robertson, Mary Treasurer, Sara Elder, Evelyn Tracy, Lillian Rhodes, Ada Jones, Lillian Kling, Margaret Cook, Elinor Kling and Mrs. Bryant Bowden and Mrs. J. E. Thomas. Mrs. Thomas gave the club a talk on "The Three Main Duties of Life."

The club had an election of officers with the following new officers elected: Miss Marcia Moore, treasurer, and the Misses Olive Kennedy, Lillian Rhodes, Marcia Moore and Evelyn Tracy as flower girls, to carry flowers to the sick in the community.

The Misses Irene Bohrer, Evelyn Tracy and Lillian Rhodes served delicious refreshments of sandwiches and root beer.

## CLASS VISITS MRS. COOKE

MIMS, Fla., July 5.—(Herald Service).—Mrs. J. G. Cooke was pleasantly surprised at her home Tuesday night by the Phi Kappa girls of the Sunday School, and their teacher, Mrs. W. A. Green. After a season of games and contests dainty refreshments brought by the "surprises" were brought forth and enjoyed.

## NEW POSTMASTER



Shelly L. Hines, who a few weeks ago assumed his duties as filling postmaster of New Smyrna, was the third person to fill this position here within a month, two previous officials having resigned during that time. He is a member of the firm of W. A. Hines & Sons, lumber mill operators. He had the endorsement of leading citizens for the appointment and was successful in the civil service test.

## MRS. LEHMAN HOSTESS TO FLORIDA CITY BRIDGE CLUB

FLORIDA CITY, Fla., July 5.—(Herald Service).—Mrs. Leo Lehman was the hostess for the Monday Bridge Club at her home Monday afternoon. Those present were: Mrs. Charles Fuchs, Mrs. William Geromino, Mrs. J. A. Smith, Mrs. M. C. Alford, Mrs. Carl Deden, Mrs. J. T. Lechworth, and Mrs. O. J. Hackler.

Mrs. Alford won the prize, and Mrs. Geromino the guests' award for the day. Delicious refreshments of a salad course and fruit punch were served by the charming hostess.

## FORT PIERCE EXPECTS REALTY VALUE RAISE

### Approval by Voters of \$500,000 Bond Issue Is Contemplated.

FORT PIERCE, Fla., July 5.—(Herald Service).—That the authorization of a half million dollar bond issue for municipal improvements is the biggest thing Fort Pierce ever did to advance itself and capitalize on the opportunities at hand is the consensus of opinion of many local people, according to frequent expressions in discussing the election which carried by a vote of two and a half to one.

Properly values are certain to increase measurably within the immediate future, they declare, and the provision of the improvements included in the bond issue is sure to bring in new capital, new industry and new population. These improvements will enable Fort Pierce to offer to the prospective citizen or business man the facilities that are demanded and which are necessary to the development and growth of any modern town or city.

The items included in the bond issue are: Million-gallon water filtration plant and pumping station to be located five miles west of the city; extension of sanitary sewerage system, storm sewers, streets and conduits over or under railroad tracks; concrete bridges over canal, street intersection paving in property-owner projects, public parks, seawall, fire station and jail, city hall, incinerator and wharves.

The bond issue is one of the largest ever put over by any Florida town of the size of Fort Pierce. It is expected that validation proceedings will be instituted in the courts at once, and that the issue will be ready to be sold within the next six or seven weeks. The validation proceedings will be handled by City Attorney Elwyn Thomas, and will be conducted in Circuit Court before Judge C. B. Chillingworth.

It is believed that a good price can be obtained for the bonds, and that the proceeds should be in hand to enable commencement of work on some of the projects some time within the next few months.

## AT LAKE WORTH

LAKE WORTH, Fla., July 5.—(Herald Service).—Mrs. J. L. McKinnock has gone to Jacksonville for a two weeks' visit with her sister.

Mrs. J. C. Engram and son Bobby left for Daytona for a short visit. From there they will go to Enterprise, Ala., to visit Mr. Engram's relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Clifford moved to their new home in Stuart Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rhinehart left Thursday evening for a week-end trip to Miami.

Max Greenburg and wife, proprietors of the Pioneer Hardware Company, have left for New York to buy their fall shipment of hardware and furniture.

Mrs. Ed Bennett and daughter, Miss Unelda, and sister, Mrs. Charles Reed and son Charles, Jr., left Thursday morning for a trip to New Smyrna for a week's stay.

The Young People's Union of the Baptist Church will hold an ice cream social at 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon on the city auditorium porch.

## LAKE WORTH CLUB HOLDS A MEETING

LAKE WORTH, Fla., July 5.—(Herald Service).—The Needlecraft department of the Woman's Club met Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Charles Senior on Lake avenue.

Mrs. H. F. Barr instructed them in bead-bag making. Refreshments of fruit salad, wafers and punch were served to Mrs. Roy Goodman, Mrs. V. L. McCoy, Mrs. J. I. Wilson, Mrs. H. A. Barr, Mrs. H. M. Stokes, Mrs. D. K. Carter, Mrs. J. P. Parks, Mrs. John Fance, Mrs. H. T. Mennan, Mrs. C. Van Horn, and the hostess.

## LAKE WORTH WOMAN IS CLAIMED BY DEATH

LAKE WORTH, Fla., July 5.—(Herald Service).—Mrs. Rachel Lyman, of Lanians district here Wednesday afternoon at the home of her son, M. B. Lyman.

She was 83 years of age. She was born in Canada, but came to Florida 40 years ago. She leaves two sons and one daughter, and five grandchildren of which one is Arthur Lyman, prominent merchant here. The Lyman store was closed Thursday afternoon during the funeral hour.

## ST. LUCIE PINEAPPLES ARE MOVING RAPIDLY

### County Increases Crop by 50 Per Cent; 30 Cars Are Shipped.

FORT PIERCE, Fla., July 5.—(Herald Service).—Thirty carloads of pineapples have been shipped from St. Lucie county thus far this season, and about 20 more will go forward. Shipment is now being made at the rate of four cars a week and the movement will keep up at a lively rate the balance of this month.

Most of the shipments from this county are being handled by the Pineapple Growers' Association, a co-operative organization formed a few months ago. The association ships to its own representatives in the different markets. Good prices have been received thus far this season as a general rule. Fruit is of good size and excellent quality, and altogether the deal so far has been quite satisfactory in every respect.

The output of 50 cars for the county this season marks an increase of approximately 50 per cent over that of last season. There are new fields which will come into bearing next season, totaling approximately 100 acres. These will very materially boost the production if all goes well.

## TO HOLD HEARINGS ON EQUALIZATION

FORT PIERCE, Fla., July 5.—(Herald Service).—Tax equalization meetings are to be held Monday by both the board of county commissioners and the city commission. These meetings are for the purpose of hearing complaints and receiving testimony as to the value of any property as fixed by the tax assessor for the current fiscal year.

The county commissioners will meet at the court house, the city commission in the city offices. The meetings are public and property owners who desire to make complaint or offer testimony should do so at this time or forever thereafter hold their peace.

It is expected that both the county and city tax assessment rolls will show a large increase this year, although the totals have not yet been announced.

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