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(Continued from Page 1)



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TAMPA

The Highlands Pilot

Published in the interests of its owners, the Town of Avon Park, County Division, the Scenic Highlands and the Best State in the Union

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AVON PARK, FLORIDA, FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1920

\$2.00 A YEAR

MINSTRELS CLOSE THE WINTER AMUSEMENTS

The "Lay of the Last Minstrel" has not yet been heard in Avon Park.

Minstrelsy trod the board last Thursday night and quips and quirk and merry jest, with flying feet and tuneful song, delighted the large audience that filled the auditorium.

It was the last number of the most successful series of winter amusements Avon Park has ever held and the minstrel was a fitting climax.

The program was of the usual minstrel variety, liberally sprinkled with local hits that brought down the house, and some of our prominent citizens are being belabored for explanations.

One of the beauties of minstrelsy is that it respects neither age nor sex in its kindly shafts of genial humor, while as mediums of transportation it uses all ages. There were those buds of promise, the Misses Helen Farrington, Dorothy VanKleek, Winifred Reck, Annie Ginn and Henrietta Farrington, and gay young sprouts like Edison Jaeger and Melville Bass. That seasoned campaigner, W. M. Reck, kept pace with those stout-hearted medium young warriors, T. H. Lander, John R. VanKleek, J. V. Chapman, Herbert F. R. Reck and Harvey Wiggins. Altogether it was a delightful combination, albeit the blackface and wig, that caricatured (Concluded on Page 6)

CASTOR BEAN GROWERS GETTING THEIR MONEY

Wednesday night we received the following telegram from Washington, which will be read with interest by those who lost money by their loyalty to the government in an endeavor to grow castor beans:

"Washington, D. C., April 21. 'Highlands Pilot,'

"Avon Park, Fla.

"Am informed by Colonel Kendrick, chief of the claims board, that rapid settlement of claims for losses sustained during war by castor bean growers of Florida is being made. During this week many checks have actually been mailed to claimants who filed claims with E. L. Hamner, Jacksonville. The prime contractor, and have been assured that payment of claims filed with T. S. Evans will commence Friday, the 23d. It is expected that payment of Mr. Gillette's claim will start on or before June 1. Twenty-five checks were mailed to Florida Tuesday and others are rapidly following.

"H. J. DRANE, M. G."

THE RECITAL TUESDAY EVENING

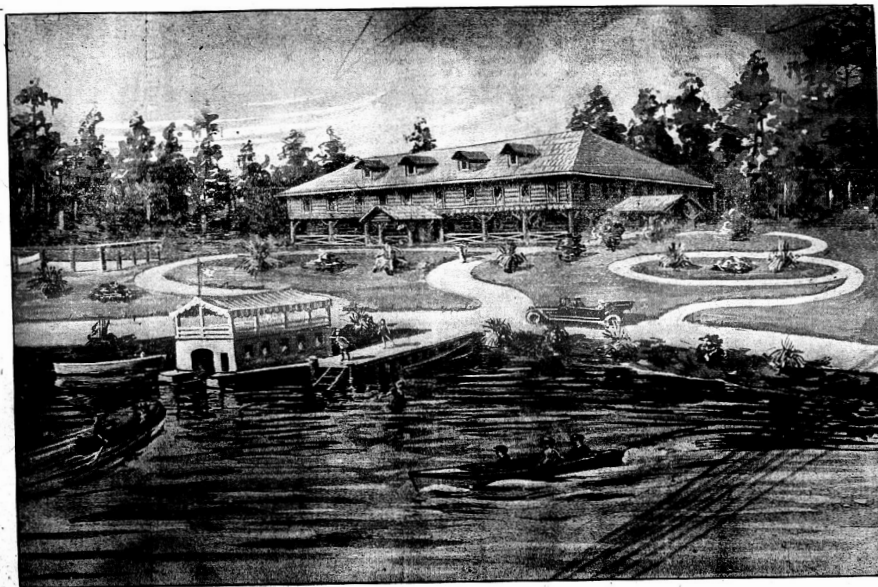
At the auditorium last Tuesday evening Miss Helen Farrington presented Miss Winifred Reck and Miss Elizabeth Andrews in recital. The young ladies are pupils of Miss Farrington and showed an unusual proficiency and accomplishment for the year's work, reflecting great credit on their teacher.

Miss Reck appeared in an interpretative reading, "Miss Penelope." In well-modulated voice and graceful gesture the young lady gave an exceedingly fine rendition, taking the different parts with an ease that showed a high degree of proficiency and training.

Miss Andrews' number was an original arrangement of "Madame Butterfly." This is a difficult subject and, handled without careful study and talent, would be a failure. But Miss Andrews was more than equal to the part. With real genius she portrayed the joys and sorrows of Cho San, and her rendition of the tragic suicide of the heroine was a masterpiece.

The large audience was more than pleased and is indebted to Miss Farrington and her pupils for a delightful evening.

HANDSOME AND CONVENIENT CLUB HOUSE BEING ERECTED ON LAKE BYRD TO ACCOMMODATE PITTSBURGH-FLORIDA GROVE OWNERS



LAKE BYRD CLUB HOUSE

Now being erected by the Pittsburgh-Florida Fruit Growers Association for the use of its grove purchasers. To be operated on a co-operative and non-profit basis.

The Pittsburgh-Florida Fruit Growers Association, ever mindful of the welfare of its purchasers and grove owners, has begun the erection of a beautiful club house on Lake Byrd, which is located amidst the wonderful citrus groves being developed by that company, and which represent the best care and culture to be found in Florida.

The erection of the club house is the outcome of a popular demand, for there is an increasing

number of owners visiting Avon Park from year to year who can be entertained together under co-operative environment to better advantage. It is the company's idea to operate the club at cost, thereby giving its members the advantage of a material reduction in rates. A board of governors from among the grove owners will confer with the company on all matters pertaining to the welfare of the organization and the entertain-

ment of visitors. Tennis and croquet grounds and boats of all kinds will be provided for the use of the guests without extra charge, and an automobile bus will make regular trips between the club house and Avon Park to meet all trains for the convenience of the members.

The company will operate a small dairy, chicken and vegetable farm, providing fresh edibles daily and at cost to the

club, as well as to those who own bungalows located around the lake. In addition to the club house, there will be several cottages built this fall, so that by next winter Lake Byrd will be an ideal beauty spot in which to spend the winter months. A great deal of work has already been done toward beautifying the lots and driveway around the lake. A large number of palms, California peppers, azaleas (Concluded on Page 2)

FISHERMEN CATCH 64 LARGE TROUT

Coast towns and those towns and cities situated upon streams emptying into the gulf and Atlantic may "have it on" this section when it comes to catching big fish, but for the angler who delights in fresh-water fishing and matching his skill against members of the finny tribe that are shy and hard to land after being hooked, the numerous lakes near Avon Park are more attractive than salt-water fishing.

In this township there are nearly thirty fresh-water lakes, every one of which is teeming with what is commonly called trout in this section, but better known in other sections as big-mouth bass. The waters of these lakes also abound with perch and bream, and when the "sign is right" an abundance of healthy outdoor sport is to be found here by the disciples of Isaac Walton.

Tuesday a fishing party composed of J. M. Simmons, Kyle Williams, Olen Clarke and John Luke spent the day at Arbuckle lake. They returned in the evening with sixty-four fine specimens of trout, or bass, caught with hook and line. The smallest fish in the bunch would weigh not less than a pound, while there were a number that weighed as much as five pounds each. It was a fine string of fish, but not an unusual catch, especially if you know how to fish scientifically and are a real fisherman.

SWEET POTATO WEIGHING NEARLY 100 POUNDS GROWN AT AVON PARK

We often see in our exchanges stories of big sweet potatoes that have been raised in various parts of the state, but when it comes to real, honest-to-goodness potatoes we believe Avon Park has every other locality in the state beaten by a large majority. When one of our business men asked us last Tuesday if we had seen the 100-pound potato brought in from Palmetto creek by G. L. Bryant, we merely shook our head and smiled, for we thought some kind of a joke was about to be pulled off on us. (We were caught a few days ago with a sample of "red raspberry jam.") The merchant insisted, however, that his in-

tentions were good and that a sweet potato weighing 100 pounds had been brought to town by Mr. Bryant and that it could be seen at the Village Inn, H. B. Smith, the proprietor, having purchased it. We immediately called upon Mr. Smith and lo and behold, there at his kitchen door lay the biggest sweet potato we ever saw or heard of. It was of the white yam variety and grew on Mr. Bryant's truck farm in just thirteen months. The potato was weighed in the presence of a number of our business men, who are willing to make affidavit that it tipped the scales at (Concluded on Page 6)

GOOD ROADS MEETING AT SEBRING MONDAY

On Monday a generally attended good roads meeting was held in the Board of Trade rooms at Sebring. Representative men and large property owners of the Scenic Highlands from Avon Park, Sebring, DeSoto City, Lake Stearns and Lake Childs were present. The meeting was called to meet Hon. M. M. Smith of Orlando, chairman of the state highway commission; Mr. Ed Scott of Arcadia, former chairman and now a member of the commission, and Major Brown, chief engineer. The meeting was a most enthusiastic one and very earnest as well. Chairman Smith stated positively that the road from Haines City to Lake Anne, eighty-five miles in length and covering the length of the Scenic Highlands, had been taken over as a state road; that a sixteen-foot road would be the result of this action, and the road must be of a permanent character. Through parts of Polk and DeSoto counties the road is already built, but the section from Frostproof to the county line would be improved at once and the state engineer would immediately go over the right of way from Sebring to Lake Anne with a survey showing the requirements in this thirty-five-mile stretch.

Various plans were discussed, the consensus of opinion being that a good roads district should be formed in the territory to be covered and bonded for the large amount necessary to bring up (Concluded on Page 3)

NEW BOTTLING WORKS SOON BEGIN BUSINESS

Avon Park is to have another new industry, which will be in operation about May 15.

The Avon Park Products Company, composed of R. I. Harris, C. D. Noland, C. C. Edwards, A. E. West and A. C. West, which will be incorporated and is now applying for a charter, is building a 20x30-foot addition to the R. I. Harris warehouse, west of the railroad, and remodeling the old building, where they will engage in the business of bottling soft drinks just as soon as the building is completed and the machinery here and installed. The machinery for bottling is expected to arrive this week.

The new corporation will begin business in a modest way, bottling all kinds of soft drinks, which will be distributed from Crooked Lake to Moore Haven. However, the bottling of soft drinks will really be a side issue, as it is the intention of this corporation to engage in the manufacture of by-products from citrus fruits, such as grapefruit juice, orange and grapefruit marmalade, candied peel, etc. This latter part of the business they hope to develop into a business of considerable magnitude.

The business management of the concern will be in charge of A. E. West, while Messrs. C. D. Noland and C. C. Edwards will have charge of the manufacturing and bottling part of the business. Mr. Noland has had twelve years' experience in Florida (Concluded on Page 6)

COMMITTEE MAKES FINANCIAL REPORT

Two seasons ago the governors of the Board of Trade took the matter of winter amusements seriously in hand. The basic principle was that there should be a profit to no one—thus each course must be made a business success and that all money made must go toward a better course the next season.

The 1919 season left a balance in the treasury of \$101. With this as a working capital the committee has given a much better course in 1920 and the financial report speaks for itself.

The public has been pleased, and that is the main thing. The support has been most liberal. Local talent has been most generous with time and service. It is not too much to say that, while the three professional numbers were excellent, the home-talent numbers—the school entertainment, "The Arrival of Kitty," and the minstrel—were most highly appreciated.

The Pilot feels that our public owes much to the governors of the Board of Trade for their (Concluded on Page 6)

Mark Master Class Highlands Chapter, U. D., Royal Arch Masons, held a convocation last Monday night, at which time a class of seven was advanced to the honorary degree of Mark Master and inducted into the oriental chair of King Solomon. The degree work was most creditably done, considering the length of time the chapter has been working and the fact that no rehearsals had been held. This new chapter of Royal Arch Masons has an immense amount of work ahead and beyond question will be one of the strongest chapters to be found in places of this size anywhere in the state. Those taking the degree Monday night were: E. O. Williams, D. F. Canfield, L. A. Marsh, D. V. Rouse, Mark Lance, John Hood and Clinton Skipper.

Given "Third Degree" At a stated communication of Poinciana Lodge, No. 227, F. A. M., held last Friday night, Col. D. V. Rouse was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Poinciana Lodge is doing a considerable amount of work and making a splendid growth.



Rest House built on Lake Byrd this year by the company