

From

FLORIDA SAND

TO

"THE CITY BEAUTIFUL"

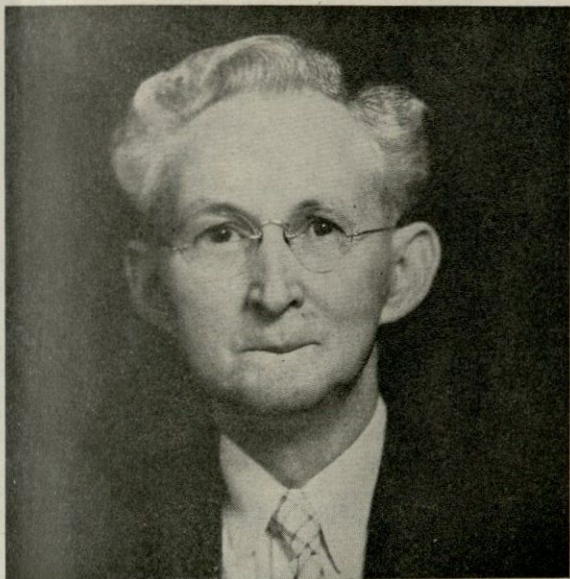
A

Historical Record

of

Orlando, Florida

E. Idon
E. H. Gore
Hendenburg



E. H. Gore

Eldon H. Gore

FOREWORD

The author did not write this book to make money but as a help to some student that wanted to write a thesis on the early history of Orlando and did not have time for research. It took two years to gather the data for the book and especial attention was given to get correct dates.

Citizens and tourists will find it an interesting and instructive history of the early days of Orlando.

It also stands as a monument to the early pioneers who came here to seek fortune and health among the forest infested with wild beasts and Indians. From this little nucleus of people the village of Orlando has grown into a great metropolitan city.

THE AUTHOR



The Old Fire Engine

About 1900 the city fathers made the fire ladies happy by purchasing a large steam fire engine which could pump water from the lakes or fire hydrants. This engine was drawn by two horses. It is still in running order and is at fire station No. 3.

Thus from a small beginning the Orlando Fire Department has grown to 47 members. It has all modern equipment for the fire fighting, plus an F & M 4-way radio equipment.

The old fire house on Oak St. was abandoned in 1918 when the new station on Main St. was completed.

Station No. 2 is located on the corner of West Central Ave. and Parramore St. which was opened in 1925. Station No. 3 is at the corner of Orlando and Dade Sts. It was opened in 1927 but closed in 1932 and re-opened again in 1936.

Chief Maxie Bennett has made a request for two new stations to protect the fast growing city. One to be located in the south part of the city at the junction of Euclid Ave and Delaney St. The other near Colonialtown at the corner of Fern Creek Ave. and Marks St.

NEWSPAPERS IN ORLANDO

Orange County Reporter

In 1876 there were no daily papers in Florida and few weeklies. Orlando had 200 population and wanted a paper, so the Orange County Reporter was started by Mr. Rufus Russell. It did not pay, so in 1877 he sold out to Chas. H. Munger and Arthur Harrington but in 1878 they sold it to Mr. Harrington's brother, Mr. S. B. Harrington, owner of the Lake House. In May 1880 he sold out to Mr. Mahlon Gore who ran it for 11 years. The name "Re

porter" continued at the masthead of some weekly or daily paper for 70 years until it was dropped from the masthead of the "Reporter-Star" April 10, 1946. The name was changed to The Orlando Star but on April 24, 1947, changed again to Orlando Evening Star.

These were the pioneer newspaper men of Orlando.

Mr. Mahlon Gore bought the paper of Mr. S. B. Harrington in May, 1880, and the paper in June came out with his name as editor and proprietor. Mr. Gore was born on a farm near Climax, Mich., Feb. 4, 1837 and moved to Marshall, Mich., when 15 years old and entered the employ of the Marshall Statesman where he learned the printer's trade. He married in 1860 and moved to Yanktown, Dakota in 1862. In 1864 Mr. Gore moved to Sioux City, Iowa and took charge of the Sioux City Journal. In 1874 he established the Sioux City Tribune, but in 1880 sold out his business and came to Florida.

It took him two days to walk from Melonville (now Sanford) to Orlando. He arrived in Orlando in May, 1880, and stopped at the Lake House on Lake Eola which was owned and run by Mr. Harrington. Finding that Mr. Gore was a newspaperman Mr. Harrington proceeded to sell him the Orange County Reporter. There were no daily papers in the State at that time, but around 40 weeklies. The Reporter had a circulation of about 200. There was no railroad to Orlando. The city had a population of about 200. There were three stores, a saloon, and a livery stable. A small court house served for courts, religious services, and other public gatherings.

Mr. Gore moved the paper from a one-story frame building on the southwest corner of Central Ave. and Main St. to a two-story building located on the north side of the lot where now stands the Angebilt Hotel. In 1884 a fire destroyed the first building and Mr. Gore was out of business, but a group of citizens came to his support and raised money enough to equip a new plant.

Mr. Gore loved young men and took many of them into his printing plant and taught them the trade. Among them were Charles and George Munger, Frank Barnes, Joe and Ed Rice, Arthur and Edward Harrington and others. Most of these left Orlando as soon as they learned the trade and went to large plants in other cities. In 1887 there came a young man from Sanford, Mr. Josiah Ferris, who continued with Mr. Gore as long as he was in business. This young man remained in Orlando and at various times was owner of virtually every newspaper published in the city. The Ferris printing plant in Carolina Court, operated by his wife, still bears his name. Mr. Ferris died a few years ago.

The Orange County Reporter was printed on a Washington hand press. Press day was always the hardest day of the week. It took two men to print the paper. Back of the press was a stand upon which revolved two wooden rollers. Between these was run the inking roller. The ink was taken from a keg and daubed upon this roller. The roller man had to roll the form twice and then get out of the way before the man who ran the press rolled



Volunteer Hose Company, 1890

back the press "bed" and pulled a heavy lever that made the impression.

Everything was done by hand and it took about a hour to print 200 papers.

They had to make their own rollers and that was another red letter day. They were made of glue and molasses. This mixture was put in a big tin can and placed upon the stove. It required a hot fire to melt the composition. When it was just right it was poured into a well greased iron mold. When it was taken out it was the center of all interest, for if it had a flaw the whole process had to be done over again.

This old press and roller mold would have made a good asset to the many relics in the museum at the old court house.

South Florida Sentinel

On March 4, 1885, the South Florida Sentinel, a weekly newspaper, was started in opposition to the Orange County Reporter. It was owned and edited by Mr. Latimer C. Vaughn.

The plant was located in a one-story building, south of the old court house on Central Ave. Later it was moved to a two-story building, 113 E. Pine St., just east of the old English Club building. It was sold around 1894 to A. T. LaSalle and Frank Stoneman who discontinued publication in 1903 and moved to Miami.

The Daily Record

The records show that in 1887 a daily paper was published in Orlando called "The Orlando Daily Record" and was owned by Messrs Cousins, Ridell and Weimer. They conducted it a short time and then sold out to James Irving Crabb who, old timers claim, was one of the best newspaper editors Orlando had in its early days.

But there was no money in the newspaper business in those days, so he sold the paper to Messrs. Vance, Adams and Beebe. But they discontinued publication after a short time. The plant was located in the Lartigue Bldg., corner of E. Church and Court Sts.

The Orange County Reporter Sold

Samuel R. Hudson who was a member of the staff of the Kansas City Star, came to Orlando in 1891 and purchased the Orange County Reporter of Mahlon Gore. He thought Orlando needed a daily so started one in connection with the weekly, but soon found it was a losing proposition. He discontinued the daily and moved the office of the Weekly Reporter to the east end of the English Club Bldg. on Pine St. He began here a general newspaper and commercial printing business.

Tri-Weekly Star

In 1896 the Orlando Star, a tri-weekly, made its appearance. The Star was owned by Messrs. T. P. Warlow, W. F. Barnes and Gen. W. H. Jewell. The editors were Gen. Jewell and C. A. Weimer while the business was managed by Barnes. The plant was located in a two-story building on W. Pine St. near the location of what now is the Hand Funeral Home parking lot. The paper ceased publication in August, 1898.

Around 1900 Walter D. Yowell bought this plant and resumed the publication of the Tri-Weekly Star. He moved the plant to the building on the northeast corner of E. Pine and Court Sts.

The Evening Star

In August 1903 Walter D. Yowell started "The Evening Star" in connection with the Tri-Weekly Star. Capt. Baily Tucker was office manager and bookkeeper but later resigned to go back to railroad work. He was succeeded by E. H. Gore who held the position of reporter, circulation manager and bookkeeper at the salary of \$50 per month and there were no unions or restrictions of hours. He resigned on Jan. 28, 1905 to go into the postal service. Bob Holly worked for Mr. Yowell for a time then bought the paper in Sanford and moved to that city.

In October 1905 The Daily Reporter, an evening paper, appeared with S. R. Hudson, proprietor; C. E. Howard, editor, and Josiah Ferris, local editor. In February 1906 Mr. Hudson sold this paper and the weekly Orange County Reporter to Mr. Ferris who formed a partnership with Walter D. Yowell and combined the two papers and changed the name of the Evening Star to the Orlando Daily Reporter-Star with Mr. Howard, editor. Ferris and Yowell conducted a commercial printing shop in connection with the newspaper. Their business grew and capital was needed, so in June, 1906, a stock company was formed and on July 13, 1906 the Secretary of State was requested to issue a charter for a corporation to be known as The Reporter-Star Publishing Co. with a capital stock of \$10,000. This was granted on Aug. 15, 1906.

W. R. O'Neal was president; M. O. Overstreet, vice president; N. P. Yowell, secretary and treasurer. The board of directors were O'Neal, Overstreet and Yowell. Plant managers, Josiah Ferris and W. D. Yowell.

This company brought the first linotype to Orlando and the old process of setting type by hand was replaced by this new, modern machine.

In April 1907 Mr. Ferris sold his interest in the Reporter-Star Publishing Co. and resumed publication of the South Florida Sentinel at the former location, 113 E. Pine St.

In October 1907 Ferris formed a partnership with S. R. Hudson and the Sentinel was moved into the Hudson office in the English Club Building. The firm name was the South Florida Sentinel and conducted by Hudson and Ferris, proprietors. They did a regular commercial and publishing business.

They published The Palm Branch, The Baptist Witness, The Orange County Record and the Winter Garden Ricochet. Ferris and Hudson also bought the Sanford Journal which was later owned by Bob Holly.

In March 1910 Ferris bought out Mr. Hudson and in October 1912 moved the South Florida Sentinel plant to the Magruder Arcade on Court St. Here on Feb. 11, 1913 was published Orlando's first morning daily paper known as The Daily Sentinel. Mr. Ferris was editor and proprietor and J. F. Schumann was the associate editor. The old press that had printed the Weekly Sentinel proved too slow for a daily paper, so Mr. Ferris bought a new modern Miehle press run by electricity instead of steam power.

Reporter-Star and Sentinel

In 1912, G. H. Walton of Stanford, Ky., purchased the Reporter-Star Publishing Co. He was later joined by his brother E. C. Walton, also of Stanford.

George H. Keller, prominent Orlandoan, was editor and later purchased the papers from the Walton Brothers. E. C. Walton later repurchased the papers from Keller, and in the early part of 1914 sold a half interest to Joe Hugh Reese, then editor of the Orlando Morning Sentinel.

In November of that year the Brossier Brothers, R. B. and J. C. of Miami, brothers-in-law of Reese, purchased Mr. Walton's remaining half interest and in 1916 bought Mr. Reese's interest. In 1924 J. F. Schumann, who was associate editor of the Reporter-Star became associated with the Brossiers in the business. In 1925, the Reporter-Star began the issuance of a Sunday issue, known as the Sunday Reporter-Star, giving the paper a seven-day publication.

The office of the Reporter-Star was moved from the Yowell Building on the northeast corner of Pine and Court Sts. to the southwest corner of Pine and Main Sts. The newspaper obtained a 99-year lease, on the property from Mrs. Eula Overstreet Wells of Eustis and erected the two-story building now standing on the cor-

ner. This with the three-story structure housed the firm until January, 1931, when the newspaper was sold to General Newspapers, Inc., of which Mr. Charles E. Marsh of Austin, Texas was president.

This organization purchased at the same time the Orlando Morning Sentinel, owned by William Glenn, who with Walter Essington had purchased the newspaper from Mr. Josiah Ferris early in 1914, when it was published in the Magruder Arcade Building. In 1916 Essington and Glenn stopped publication of the Weekly South Florida Sentinel. The plant was later moved to the Fraternal Building at 214 S. Orange.

In 1925 Glenn purchased the half interest of Essington and continued as owner-publisher until January of 1931 when he sold to General Newspapers, Inc. The Sentinel and Orlando Evening Reporter-Star were then combined, the Star continuing as the afternoon publication and the Sentinel as the morning paper, with the Sentinel-Star the combined Sunday issue.

Mr. Marsh sent Mr. Martin Andersen to represent him as publisher of the combined publication. Glenn remained on as editor of the Sentinel, Schumann as editor of the Evening Reporter-Star, R. B. Brossier as business manager, and J. C. Brossier as general manager of the combination.

In 1932 Glenn went to the Tampa Times, and Mr. Andersen assumed the editorship of the Sentinel. R. B. Brossier also resigned his position at the close of that year, and in 1936 Mr. Schumann left the company and J. C. Brossier became editor of the Star. In 1940 W. H. Roberts became editor of the Sentinel and in 1945 Mr. Andersen purchased the papers from Mr. Marsh and became owner as well as publisher.

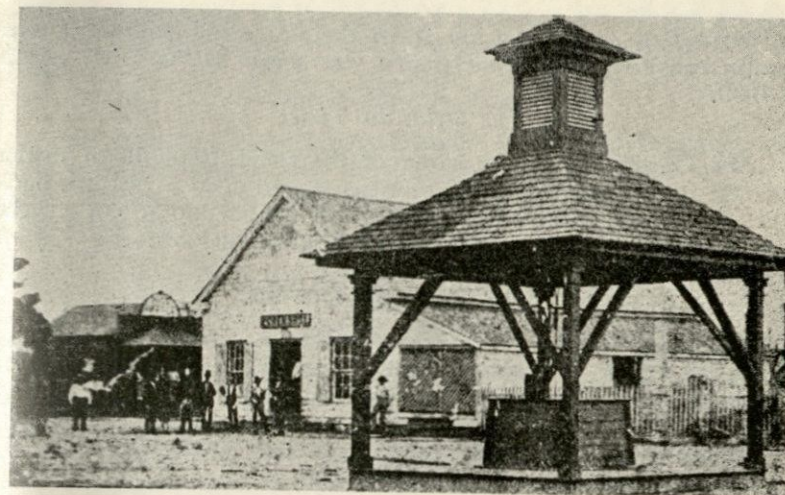
In 1946, Henry Balch assumed the editorship of the Sentinel and was named editorial director of the combined publications. During that year also the "Reporter" was dropped from the evening paper's name and it became the "Orlando Evening Star."

The Democrat

Mr. J. Holland Starbuck, an Orlando boy, who had a desire to be a newspaper man started a weekly paper on August 2, 1906. It was called *The Democrat* and was devoted to the political interests of Orange County. It was published every Thursday. Mr. Starbuck obtained a place on a western paper so left Orlando and his paper was short-lived.

The Orange County Citizen

This paper was published by Hon. A. B. Newton in Winter Garden but was purchased by C. E. Howard and moved to Orlando. It came out every Tuesday and was printed by the Hudson Printing Co. at 107 E. Pine St. Howard was a good photographer and on Jan. 16, 1912 issued a souvenir edition of the Lake Lucerne district and on May 12, 1912 published another special illustrated edition of Lakes Eola, Concord, Ivanhoe and Highlands. These had pictures and descriptions of many of the homes in the city. When



First Home Orange County Reporter. Old Well, 1876

you look it over in 1948 you see many changes in the homes and owners. Mr. Howard published the *Citizen* for more than five years.

The Florida Cracker

J. Fred DeBerry blew into Orlando in 1917 and on Sept. 15 of that year came out with the smallest paper on earth. It was a political sheet and seemed to be published in the interest of Gov. Gilchrist's campaign. It only lasted a short time and then DeBerry left as mysteriously as he came.

The Florida Sun Publishing Company

In 1932 the Florida Sun Publishing Company was organized with H. M. Alexander, general manager. They published a weekly paper known as *The Florida Sun* and did commercial printing. Their plant was located at 32 E. Church St., but after about two years closed out the business and suspended publication of the *Sun*.

The Independent and The Orlando Daily News

After World War I Josiah Ferris Jr., returned home and went into the real estate business but in 1926 decided he wanted to follow the newspaper business as his father had done. He bought a paper in Apopka and published the *Winter Garden Grower* and also the *Weekly Independent* for Orlando. Later he started the *Orlando Daily News*, a morning paper. The newspaper business did not prove profitable so he gave it up. In 1933 he was called to Washington as secretary to Hon. Park Trammell.

The Florida Republican

On Aug. 15, 1927, W. C. Lawson, a good Republican supporter, started a political publication devoted to the Republican party. It

was located on Court St. across from the old Federal Building. Mr. Lawson moved away and the paper was bought by Wm. M. Glenn in 1939.

The Orlando Times

Mr. Glenn changed the name of the Florida Republican to the Orlando Times and for several months seemed to do a rushing business. After two years he decided the city did not appreciate a good weekly newspaper so discontinued publication and left the city to go into war work.

Orlando Shopping News

In 1931 appeared the Orlando Shopping News owned and edited by Frank L. Ferguson with offices at 204 S. Main St. At first it was an advertising sheet but Mr. Ferguson soon put in an editorial column and took a decided stand in politics. The Shopping News was delivered by carriers in and around Orlando. It was given up when World War II began.

The Spectator

Leslie Saunders started a small paper in 1932 which he called The Spectator. It was short lived and soon closed up and he departed for Washington, D. C.

Orlando Free Press

The Orlando Free Press is a weekly paper appearing in Orlando on every Thursday. It began publication on Oct. 4, 1945. C. B. Buchanan is the publisher and owner and has offices at 104 W. Central Ave.

Other Publications

There have been many smaller publications in Orlando gotten out in the interest of different lodges, schools, churches, unions and other organization. Such as Tung Oil, Temple News, Orangeland Business Magazine, Orange Echoes, Florida Realty Journal, Palm Branch, The Florida Earth, Picturesque Florida, Industrial Florida, Beautiful Florida, Orange County Tribune and many others that I do not remember.

Orlando Post

The Orlando Post, a weekly pictorial, made its appearance on April 4, 1948. It is published every Thursday. Office at 37 East Mark Street. Mr. Thomas B. Casey, editor; Don Morris, managing editor; Zelda Newhart, society editor; Ted Swalm, staff photographer; George Newhart, advertising manager; Fred Wegant, assistant advertising manager; Mary Lyon Casey, business manager.

Papers Devoted to Negro People

Florida Christian Recorder

In 1900 G. C. Henderson started the Florida Christian Recorder for the Negro people of Orlando and vicinity. This was a weekly

publication and gave all the news of interest to the Negro population. It continued 15 years but was given up on the death of its editor.

Central Florida Times

The Central Florida Times, another weekly for Negro people, made its appearance on Nov. 2, 1945 and has as its editor and publisher Benjamin C. Hubert. It is published every Friday at 130 S. Division St.

FIRST CHURCHES IN ORLANDO

Baptist Church

A few early settlers of the Baptist faith around 1856 met in private homes for worship but in 1858 the Rev. Miller of Apopka came and organized a church of 12 members.

During the Civil War this church was given up, but on March 5, 1871 Brother G. C. Powell of Oviedo organized the Bethel Baptist Church of Orlando with nine men and nine women as members. Their first meetings were held in the old court house, but after the free school building was built in 1873 meetings were held there once each month.

The minutes from 1871 to 1884 are written up under the name of "The Bethel Baptist Church of Orlando." From 1884 to April 22, 1894, it was called the Missionary Baptist Church but after that date the name was changed to the First Baptist Church. In 1880 a lot was purchased on the northwest corner of Garland and West Pine Sts. and two years later a small wooden church was erected. This was sold in 1893.

In 1894 the lot at the corner of Main and E. Pine Sts. was purchased and plans drawn for a \$6,000 frame building which was dedicated in September 1897. In 1907 a parsonage was built east of the church facing Pine St. This church was torn down and the present brick church was dedicated on May 30, 1915. The parsonage was torn down in 1922 to make room for the large three-story Bible school plant. Now they have outgrown this and in 1946 and 1948 purchased the Duke Hall property with 2 three-story hotel buildings thereon. As soon as building material is available the Baptists plan to tear down this hotel building and build a combined Bible school building and Educational Hall.

Methodist Church

The year 1859 found circuit riders of the Methodist Church coming to Orlando and holding meetings in the court house. Later they were held in the free school building.

The Rev. T. Bishop arrived in 1880 and organized the First Methodist Church. In 1881 the lot at the corner of Main and Jackson Sts. was purchased and a \$1,000 wooden building erected. In 1882 the parsonage was built facing Jackson St. west of the church. In 1888 the church proved too small and had to be en-