

Did You Know...

A look back at some of the news reported by the first newspaper of Palm Beach County: *The Tropical Sun*

The first newspaper in Dade County was *The Tropical Sun*, established by Guy I. Metcalf at Juno, Florida, the seat of Dade County (Juno was located at the head of Lake Worth when the present Palm Beach County was part of Dade County). Originally called the *Indian River News* (1887), Metcalf moved the newspaper to Juno in 1891. A few years later, Metcalf relocated the paper to the West Palm Beach. *The Tropical Sun* billed itself the “Official paper of Dade County.” After Metcalf sold the paper, it changed hands several times before it folded in 1956.

The following are excerpts from “Notes from Files of Tropical Sun,” from the Archives of the Historical Society of Palm Beach County and various issues of the newspaper. On the front page of the newspaper under section headings such as, “Here and There,” “Lake Worth Winkles,” “Personal Pickings,” “Jupiter Jottings,” “Palm Beach Breezes,” among others, the reader was able to find out what was happening along Lake Worth and other areas of southeast Florida. The paper also reported the comings and goings of locals and winter visitors.

March 25, 1891: Tomatoes are being shipped by every steamer. The crop is a good one, so the growers say.

There seems to be no lessening of the amount of travel, our hotel and boarding houses are still filled.

The family of alligators at Mr. David Brown’s excites the interest of nearly all passers. The mother has become almost quite tame and the baby ‘gators are fully domesticated.

December 17, 1891: Dr. Potter’s new office at West Palm Beach is nearing completion. The carpenters were obliged to suspend work for want of lumber, otherwise the building would have been completed. [Editor’s note: Is this the first use of “West Palm Beach” when discussing the community on the west side of Lake Worth?]

December 24, 1891: The gallant little steamer “Lake Worth,” has just commenced her winter’s work. With new boilers and a general overhauling, she presents a neat and inviting appearance. Under the command of her owner, Capt. U.D. Hendrickson, with his gentlemanly crew she will doubtless render satisfactory service to the traveling public as well as to our gardeners and other shippers.

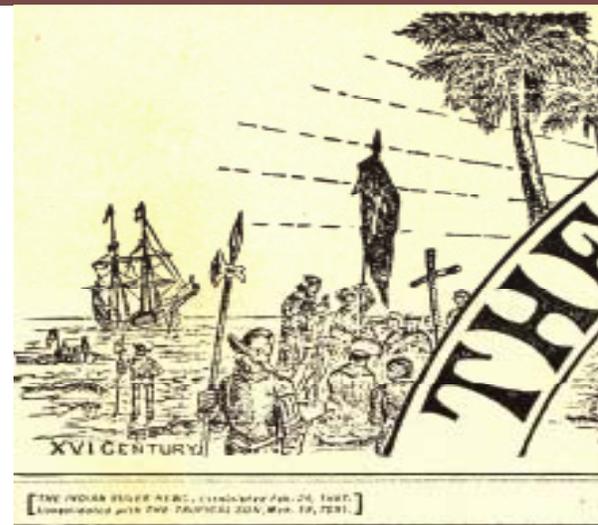
By a unanimous vote of the assembly it was decided that the West Side people, join in with “Lake Worth,” “Palm Beach,” Hypoluxo,” “Juno,” “Lotus Cove,” and all other outlying suburbs in holding the usual Christmas picnic.

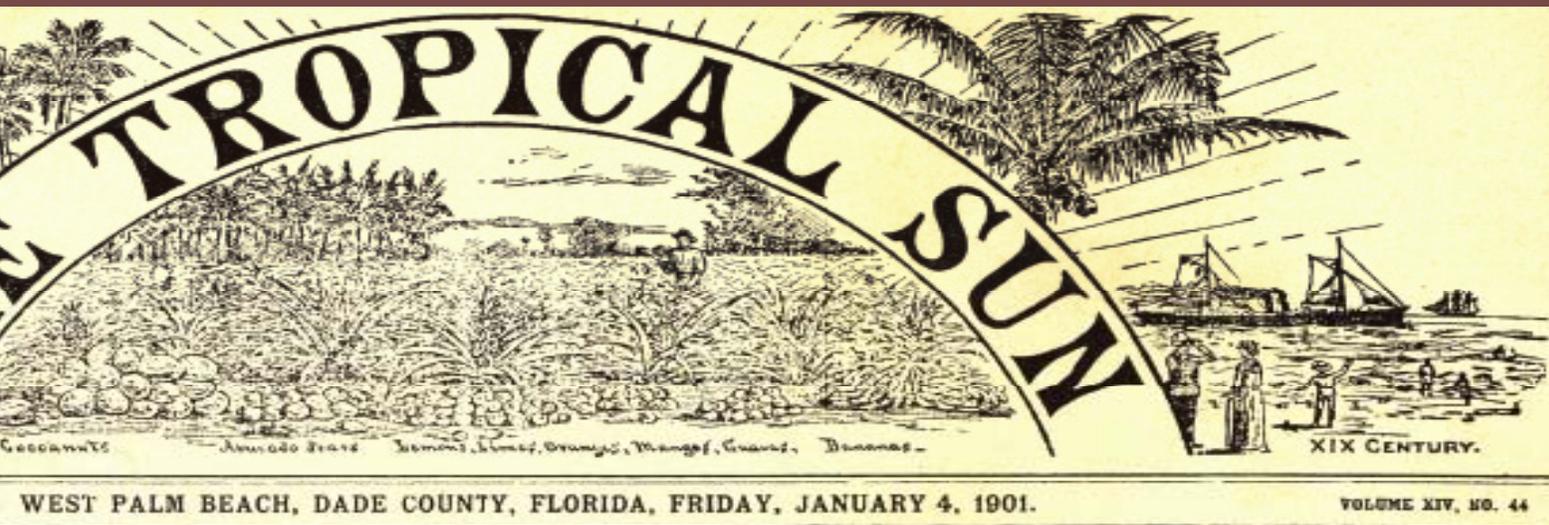
G.W. Lainhart has the contract for building Mr. Samuel Barton’s new residence. We understand that seventy-five thousand feet of lumber will be used in its construction.

Capt. E.E. Vail, of the “floating hotel” fame, has arrived at Jupiter, and is putting his inn in readiness for a rush of business.

January 7, 1892: Mr. N.W. Pitts, on his island home has cross budded and now raises a beautiful new lime. It is a small lime, and formed like the navel orange, and possessing its peculiarity of growth, and the peel is removed as that of a tangerine orange. In fact, it might be well called the “tangerine lime.” It is of a delightful odor, fine flavor and very delicate pulp. The peel is soft and of the usual color.

June 16, 1892: Capt. O.S. Porter has shipped over 5,000 of his choice pineapples already. One of them—a fine 8-pound Porto Rico—did not get farther than the THE SUN sanctum, thanks to the generous Captain’s thoughtfulness. As we write, the odor of this delicious





fruit fills the air in our den.

The sloop "Oliver," from Titusville, came down last week, having aboard 17,000 feet of lumber and 20,000 shingles for the improvements that are shortly to be begun on the Clarke place at Palm Beach. The Messrs. Clarke were down last week, preparing the contract and giving directions for the work. After finishing this up, they left on Thursday.

April 6, 1893: Mr. and Mrs. R.R. McCormick gave up possession of their beautiful home to Mr. Flagler, the new purchaser, this week, and left for a visit in other parts of the State, accompanied by their son Will and his wife.

April 13, 1893: The suggestion to name the new West Side town "Flagler" meets with popular approval at Palm Beach. Visitors to the Lake next winter at the end of journey on the splendid East Coast Line will hear the cry of "Flagler!" All out for the "Royal Poinciana" and all points on "Lake Worth!"

April 20, 1893: Florida's Income-The tourist travel to Florida is not to be made light of. There is no industry in the State that yields as much money (excepting oranges), as the tourists leave in Florida each year. Not less than 100,000 people come here during the season. They average at least \$40 a head, and that foots up to \$4,000,000 put in circulation here that, but for our wonderful climate, would never touch us. In view of these facts, ought we not to encourage this travel? Ought we not to throw every inducement out to these people to have them come here and enjoy the delights of our God-given climate?-*Florida Hotel News*.

October 11, 1894: Isaac Paynter, of Jupiter, has the record of being the first man to make the trip from Jupiter to Lake Worth, inside route, by water all the way. He entered the Lake by the magnificent stream originated and put in motion by Messers Dimick, Pitts, Lainhart, Haley *et al*, to drain their muck lands to the west to the Lake.

December 20, 1894: One of the guests of the Riviera Hotel enjoyed the satisfaction of landing an 8 ½ foot shark from the hotel wharf one day this week.

November 18, 1897: Dade County has 19 white schools; 4 colored; no. of pupils enrolled 714; 29 teachers at \$40 per month; principals, \$50; Av. length of term 133 days.

July 7, 1898: Most of the merchants of West Palm Beach open stores in Miami to get the trade of soldiers stationed there. Lieut. J.P. McKenna appointed to 8th N.Y. Volunteers and resigns from Home Guards, of which he is now captain. [The Home Guards were formed in West Palm Beach by Enoch Root on April 4, 1898.]

November 1, 1898: Beach Club and Grill Room being built by Edw. and J.R. Bradley, under direction of T.T. Reese. First season, 1898-99.

April 25, 1902: The number of people who walked across the FEC Railroad Bridge Toll across Lake Worth from West Palm Beach to Palm Beach shows that 552,630 people used bridge between March 1, 1901 and March 2, 1902.