

GAS TAX SHOWS GROWTH

GAS GALLONS For	Mar., 1940	Mar., 1939	Mar., 1938	Mar., 1937	Mar., 1936	Mar., 1935
DADE (Miami)	6,954,616	6,162,457	5,903,158	5,616,579	5,041,956	4,693,583
DUVAL (Jacksonville)	3,648,963	3,397,421	3,208,032	3,139,495	2,642,982	2,479,996
HILLSBORO (Tampa)	2,943,718	2,842,437	2,701,753	2,552,890	2,316,834	2,246,081
PINELLAS (St Petersburg)	2,251,407	2,116,419	1,988,613	1,862,748	1,670,721	1,668,839
PALM BEACH (West Palm Beach)	2,052,202	1,860,035	1,812,438	1,661,598	1,497,703	1,418,967
POLK (Lakeland)	1,763,266	1,729,387	1,636,755	1,491,049	1,324,829	1,328,368
ORANGE (Orlando)	1,602,536	1,499,376	1,506,099	1,344,771	1,222,575	1,086,281
BROWARD (Lauderdale)	1,290,065	1,051,952	1,034,630	881,341	740,483	661,416
VOLUSIA (Daytona)	1,271,472	1,272,797	1,210,573	1,174,294	1,074,581	985,610
ESCAMBIA (Pensacola)	894,636	753,634	757,085	626,070	557,596	531,038
TOP TEN COUNTIES	24,672,881	22,689,915	21,759,136	20,350,835	18,090,260	17,100,180
OTHER 57 COUNTIES	11,790,500	11,641,870	11,209,783	10,456,403	9,242,873	8,611,196
GRAND TOTAL FOR STATE (67 Counties)	36,363,381	34,327,785	32,968,979	30,807,238	27,333,133	25,711,376

DADE'S TOTAL MORE THAN NEXT TWO COMBINED

DADE County can do some more crowing over its growing strength. Both the gasoline tax receipts for March and the voters' registration figures this spring confirm all of MIAMI LIFE's predictions.

On this page we show Dade county pre-eminence among the state's top ten counties (more than the next two counties combined!) so far as gasoline consumption for the month of March this year was concerned. Now comes completion of political registration for the spring primary elections showing how Dade dominates the Democratic party of Florida.

Dade county was one-fifth of the state in gasoline consumption—and at the height of season between a fourth and a third of all the gasoline sold in the state's ten biggest counties was sold right in our county! . . . Note how our political population this year so closely follows our gasoline consumption: Democratic registration for the Top Ten counties is 375,361—and Dade county's is 86,600—or 23 percent . . . Dade, you must remember, never registers its complete strength as do the other counties of Florida!

And we therefore find that although we are pretty sure to be found having fully a fourth of the Floridians of voting age, our spring registration shows only one-eighth of the state's registered Democrats (697,985).

In five years time the state's Top Ten counties gained 44 percent in gasoline consumption at height of season, the March reports show. Dade county's gain was 48 percent . . . Don't forget that!—Broward county may be fastest-growing of the ten counties—but Dade county is growing almost as fast, with a dozen times Broward's population!

MIAMI LIFE asks its readers to save this comparative record of gasoline consumption at height of season, to settle plenty of arguments that come up every season when people try to disparage Dade county's leadership. (Or the standing of some of the other progressive counties, for that matter.)

For it shows that Florida's top ten counties are growing rapidly—and the other 57 counties—the majority of them—aren't.

In their favor, by their work?
Sent to sections we have dread of,
Where the soulless gangsters lurk;
Braving weather; wind and rain storms
Through the darkest hours of night;
In the blazing sun of summer;
In the gun-fire of the fight.

They are fathers, brothers, lovers;
They have heart-aches, sorrows, care,
Daily vexations and worries
We can never know nor share.
Have we no appreciation
For the sacrifice they make?
Can't we realize the privations
They endure for our sake?

Constituting spokes and hub, that
Forms and holds the Wheel of Law;
Priceless in their worth and purpose,
Then, why magnify each law?
For the finest, cleanest manhood
Promptly waits your need and call,
May God shield these men from danger
And protect them, one and all!

—Nellie Mae Conroy Black

nesday to representatives and senators at Tallahassee. All that remains to make our county similar in this respect to those of Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Louisiana and others is the passing of the bill by the various solons now in session at the State Capitol.

Of course, we, like a majority of Dade County citizens, hope the bill will go through with flying colors. Our own particular representatives, Youngs, Chappell and Robinaus, and Senator Watson, who introduced the measure to the Senate, have a leg up in the mount and report plenty of reserve to off-tand serious contention. Whether they will be able to convince our neighbors at the north end of Florida remains to be seen.

We are heartily in favor of legalized pari-mutuels. With this method of betting instituted, Dade county in general and Miami in particular, need take no back seat to any of the spots in the Union now boasting a similar method of play. But, somehow or other, we can't see the bill, as introduced, getting favor among other than a few counties. There are several provisions incorporated that look foolish and inexplicable to us. For instance, we quote the following verbatim from the Miami Herald of Thursday, May 2:

"That a racing commission of three citizens of Dade County be appointed to supervise any meetings that might be held. * * *

That commission would supervise licensing of persons or corporations applying for permission to hold a race meeting under the measure. Provision was made, however, that no license should be issued for any track which is not already in existence, and which had not held race meetings at least once during 1929, or during one of the two years immediately prior to passage of the act."

Gentle reader, if you failed to get the import of that provision, glance over it again.

It seems to us, after careful consideration, that this proviso is hardly fair. In no uncertain terms, it breaks down and confesses that the pari-mutuel bill is a selfish one and designed to protect the interests of the only horse and dog tracks in Dade county. Maybe Dade County can't support more tracks But if others were built this issue soon would be decided.

The last paragraph of the Herald's story is, to our mind, even more important. In brief it states that "no reference was made in the bill to levying for the benefit of the state on pari-mutuel machines." Now we ask you: Would any state legislator be so blind as to approve something for Dade County which would not directly or indirectly benefit Florida?

MIAMI LIFE believes that a pari-mutuel bill, properly composed, would pass the House and Senate. After all, neighboring states do not resent the fact that pari-mutuel machines are legal in Kentucky, Illinois, Maryland, Louisiana, and several others.

Florida, with her 60-odd counties, is similar to the United States. If Dade County, as a section, pari-mutuels, we believe that she has an even break of obtaining them. Love thy neighbor as thyself.

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— LOOKING BACK — Over Files of MIAMI LIFE

Our "FINEST"

(Dedicated to the Miami Police)

(Saturday, April 27, 1929)
The Hall of Fame commends great heroes—
For their valorous deeds of worth;
But withholds its praise and honor
From the bravest men on earth—
Men whose vigilance protects us
Through the hours of day and night,
Men whose fearless courage shields us;
Crushing wrong, defending right.

Men who need no band nor bugle,
Nor a flag to urge them on—
Men who realize Death is holding
Their frail heart beats as a pawn.
Shall it claim them now or later?
Braver men were never born.
Yet, the population quickly
Judges with contemptuous scorn

Any trivial human misstep,
Thoughtlessly, these men may make;
Yet, how seldom are they honored
For the dangerous risks they take!—
Traffic cops and night patrolmen,
Chancing death for you and me;
Shrewd detectives and the speed cops,
Cursed and hated. Can't you see

How the scales are overbalanced
(6) 45

Love Thy Neighbor As Thyself

(May 4, 1929)
LEGALIZED PARI-MUTUELS for race tracks in Dade county were accorded recognition yesterday when the House Committee returned a favorable vote of ten to three on the bill introduced Wed-

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