

TAM-AMI---TAMPA---MIAMI---TRAIL

The Tamiami Trail is a hard surfaced road from Miami on the East or Atlantic Coast of Florida to Tampa on the West or Gulf Coast of the State.

It was started or commenced in 1915, Dade, Monroe and Lee Counties taking the great responsibility of its construction through over a hundred and forty miles of practically uninhabited and undeveloped territory.

In 1915 Hobart Crabtree, County Engineer of Dade County, with a survey party of eight assisted by Audley Frederick, now County Engineer of Collier County, accompanied by Mr. L. T. Highleyman and J. F. Jaudon in Indian canoes and "glade-boats" surveyed and "blazed" the line from Miami west across the Everglades, taking soundings of depth and character of soil every hundred feet, and made a profile of the entire line; in 1918 Hobart Crabtree amended this survey and made a similar "blazing of the line" to the Monroe County line upon which line Dade County has constructed her portion on the Tamiami Trail.

In 1916 Engineer Jenkins (with a complete survey party) of Lee County "blazed" and surveyed the Lee County portion of the Tamiami Trail from Marco Junction to or about the northeast corner of Monroe County.

- In 1917 John W. King, with his son, John III and Gilbert Catlow "blazed" the Trail through northern Monroe County--for three weeks they were supposed to have been "lost", searching parties, airplanes, Indians, scoured the Everglades for them---they showed up at the headwaters of Shark River after establishing a line through Monroe County.

Ross L. Clark of New York and J. F. Jaudon of Miami conducted a "Trail blazing expedition" west from Miami in autos almost across the Everglades many miles beyond the construction work then being done by Dade County, and then they went to Fort Myers, organized a "Trail Blazing" party consisting of F. E. Harrison (a newspaper writer, now dead), Sam Thompson (then Game Warden of Lee County), Tom Hand (then Sheriff of Lee County), and with two Fords penetrated Central Lee County via of Immokalee

almost to Turner River on the Trail, and finished their "Trail-blazing" with Brown Tiger's ox-wagon to a point only a few miles distant from the point they had reached from Miami.

Mr. A. R. McLane accompanied by J. E. McCrary and J. F. Jaudon with Jimmie Tommie, a Seminole Indian, in 1918 when the Trail was only constructed twenty-eight miles west from Miami "Blazed the Trail" west to the Gulf of Mexico.

In the spring of 1919 the Chevelier Corporation carried a large truck and a Ford from a point on the Trail about thirty-two miles west of Miami to the Gulf of Mexico, and during 1920, 1921, 1922, their engineering parties used these motors on the line of the Trail, tying in the line of survey with what is now Collier County, Hobart Crabtree again being the Engineer in charge of the work from Turner River east to the line of the Trail in Monroe County; Captain Billy Roberts in 1921 and 1922 and Spring 1923 using the autos to carry on and supply (from the Dade County end of the Trail) his extensive surveys in Monroe County.

Captain George W. Storter, J. F. Jaudon, with Abraham Lincoln, a Seminole Indian, in July 1922 started from Turner River in Lee County (then) and in three days made the trip over the Trail to Miami.

Thus it will be seen that the number of surveys and parties crossing the Everglades, the work done by Dade County on the Trail to a point three miles from Monroe County (really across the Everglades) and the work in Monroe County made possible in an automobile trip by a party from Fort Myers in 1923 who consumed about three weeks in covering the "gap" from the then constructed Lee County Trail seventy miles south of Fort Myers through southern Lee and northern Monroe counties to the constructed end of the Trail (forty miles west of Miami), thus these autoists carried their cars or they were towed by tractors a distance of about forty miles.

"Became lost"-----" secured some very undesirable publicity for the project but they desire to now pose as the "Tamiami Trail Blazers", some of these gentlemen are sincere in their belief of being "Trail Blazers",