

FORT MYERS BOARD OF TRADE

THE OPERATING MEDIUM OF  
PROGRESSIVE PUBLIC SENTIMENT IN  
FORT MYERS AND LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

B. E. TINSTMAN, PRESIDENT WM. JEFFCOTT, TREASURER  
L. G. BIGGERS, SECRETARY

June 5 18  
Capt J F Gaudon  
Miami

Dear Sir: I have your kind  
favor and regret to hear that  
you're unwell. That's what you  
get for taking a vacation or at  
least for telling me that you were  
on a pleasure trip. This last trip  
your letter will appear in  
the Evening Press. It reads good  
and will help considerably.

To start a movement like ~~this~~  
the Seminole Trail on a shoestring  
is no cinch. I have given it nearly  
3 months careful consideration

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but it would not have taken me  
3 days to have sprung it had I  
had the finances necessary.

With the exception of \$35.00 I  
have stowed the cost and done  
the investigation and brought the  
project to the attention of people  
at Marco, Naples, Estero Bontus  
Spr. Alva, La Belle and believe me  
I've done some evangelizing in this  
City.

You know that Ft Myers  
has been a slacker throughout  
in road making.

The Mc Gregor Boulevard  
was a private donation

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The road from Ft Myers to  
Naples Marco & on represent not  
one cent of this City's Coin neither  
does the road from here to La Belle  
and on to the Palm Beach Coline  
Sam Thompson went to the  
Seminole Grove Corn dance to  
which he was invited and will  
arrange for seminole labor which  
would otherwise take a week or  
two to locate and ~~get~~ make  
arrangements with.

Automobiles Cost \$20<sup>00</sup> a day  
groceries Cost money and some  
body must take chances and  
the risk of making certain  
guarantees and so far I have

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stood for that part of it.

I have had a number of promises which cannot be made "come across" till Sam has finished the blazing of the trail between Billy Conapatches Camp and the Sam trail at the Lee & Dade Co line about 18-20 - rough guess. But from what we know and from Engineers and Semole Indians I understand it will be a simple proposition to make connections so I am not worried the least about that.

I have arranged with several parties from La Belle, Alva Olga Naples, Marco Bontate Spr. & Estero and Ft Myers

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to join in a little motorcade  
to Billy Conapatches Camp,  
nearly one hundred of the possible  
120 miles of the Seminole Trail  
route for next work. On their  
return I shall publish their  
expressions of opinions regarding  
the practicability and necessity  
of the immediate completion  
of the trail, call a mass meeting  
and make a drive for funds  
for which I have a number of  
volunteers.

Even H. E. Neuteman on the Longford  
heads of both banks have expressed  
themselves in favor of it and I'll  
give them a chance to come across

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when the time comes, I shall not  
solicit them.

The Election is over, Perry won  
~~2 to 1~~ 2 - to 1 for which I am  
very glad. While he could not  
come out actively during the  
Campaign he came in handy  
when I called the meeting to  
organize the Sem. Trail Assn

The project ~~has been~~ was  
originated in your humble  
servants account and through  
the state wide publicity I have  
given it other nuts have been  
favorably impressed and  
with proper assistance I'll  
put over in a surprisingly

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Short time. I mailed 50  
marked copies to the leading  
land owners in this Co of last  
Sat. Press with the same article  
that appeared in the Miami  
Herald. I want to follow  
that up with a strong letter  
to each of them for funds to  
complete the trail and that  
needs some ready cash.

I am perfectly willing to be  
the Chief Cook and battle washer  
for a while, but that does not  
buy the baby shoes.

You know the situation  
and the necessity for the Sem Trail  
and as far as I can see know

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it will act as a great  
stimulant in the advancement  
of the completion of the  
permanent road the Tam. Trail  
I have already certain assurances  
of that.

When the Tam Trail is about  
10 miles further east in Lee Co  
there is a possibility of making  
a cordoned connection with  
the Dade Co part of via a short  
part of the Seminole Trail by  
early next season. I have instructed  
Sum to look the ground over  
with that end in view and also  
see what can be done for an  
auto trail towards Chokoloskee for  
the next season.



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All of which needs some of the  
stuff that makes the mare go.

It's a Heluva note to invade a  
hospital and ask one of its  
patients to dig down for a  
Cross State road proposition  
but the situation is such that  
necessity Campels, besides it  
seems that "Borkis is willin'.

I want to make the above mentioned  
motorcade to Billy Conapatchee's  
Camp while Sam Thompson  
is still there to show us over the  
ground and "prove" my case,  
and after proving the practicability.

If you will mail me a check  
for \$100<sup>00</sup> or \$150<sup>00</sup> would go  
further yet I'll guarantee you

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Satisfactory work and results.  
We expect to leave on the trip  
Monday and be gone two days  
or more. The party I will carry  
are representative people from  
the different towns mentioned who  
are in favor of the Lem - trail  
which so far has been nothing  
but work and expense.

But

Hoping for your speedy  
recovery and with best  
wishes I am yours very truly  
F. E. Harrison

P.S. I didn't hear from you in so long  
a time that I began to think that you  
had gone to blaze the way over the Yukiama  
trail I mentioned in the Post & Eagle some time  
ago