

Mr. Chairman etc. etc.

The Tamiami Trail - so natural now - so unreal from 1915 to its completion a few days ago.

Do you know that Senate Document #379 - 63rd Congress, 2nd Session, carried a profile map made by the late J. S. Frederick, being Profile #17, Page 12 of a Report of the Florida Everglades Engineering Commission? This profile shows the line and levels directly west from Miami forty miles. It was made in 1908. It was the real beginning of the Tamiami Trail, although the Trail itself was not suggested by me until the early part of 1915.

Much has been said of Hobert Crabtree's, mine and other pioneer trips. My trip across the Everglades in 1918 with Ross L. Clark, another trip in 1919 with A. R. McLaine of the American Sugar Refining Company and J. B. McCrary, Trail contractors, upon which trip we followed almost the exact line of the south branch of the Tamiami Trail. In 1921 Capt. George W. Storter and I walked from Everglades, Florida to Miami on the approximate line of the north line of the Tamiami Trail.

It was always my desire to be the first man to cross the Tamiami Trail all the way by automobile, but you Trail Blazers in 1923 made this trip while I was at Tallahassee. It was my pleasure, however, to keep in touch with you and the situation through N. C. Torstenson, who advised me daily after he got in touch with your motorcade, and you will recall that he afterwards supplied you by airplane. It was my opportunity a few years ago to ride over Spirit Lake and Lake Okaboji in the Northwestern part of Iowa with Mr. Torstenson, and I can imagine how you gentlemen who flew with him from Monroe County to Miami over the Tamiami Trail and across the Everglades felt.

88

But anyway the job is now done. Started in 1915, progressed slowly but surely all these years, and you gentlemen, who, in 1923 made the trip from Fort Myers to Miami must have realized when you reached the Tamiami Trail nearly forty miles west of Miami, and as you rode over that forty miles of work,- you must have realized some of the difficulties that we earlier pioneers from 1915 to 1923 had in even laying off the line of the Tamiami Trail, to say nothing of the gigantic engineering and construction difficulties which we had encountered, but to you gentlemen belongs the credit of being the first ones to bring your automobiles from Fort Myers to Miami, and I am glad to be with you today.