

March 8, 1929.

PEPPER & COFFRIN'S TRIP TO CAPE SABLE WITH J.W. HOFFMAN AND MR. FARNAM.

Four men left Miami in the Nash at 8:00 A.M. today and drove south to Coulds Canal and went East on south side of canal to bay to show Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Farnam the South Allapattah Gardens and the bananas and truck raised thereon. Mr. Farnam seemed impressed with the bananas as an indication that we had had no killing frosts for the last year or two. We tried to find some sugar cane growing on the marl in this section but failed to find any.

We then stopped at Homestead and Mr. Pepper talked to Callaher Secy. of the Chamber of Commerce but he thought there had been some, saying they had some exhibited at the recent Fruit Festival, but he could not tell him where to find any. We then made a stop at a grocery store at Florida City and the lady in charge told Mr. Pepper that there had been some grown on the marl south of there and several stocks of it had been taken to the Fruit Festival. She said it ratooned out in good shape.

Mrs. Sarah R. W. Palmer recently told me that sugar cane had been planted down here on the marl as early as 1838 which ratooned in 18 months.

We then drove on down to Cape Sable finding the road in splendid shape down to the old Dewhurst Tract in Township 59-35. From there on to the Monroe County line ~~xxx~~ we had a rock road but it had not been widened and worked over recently like the road had from the Royal Palm State Park to the Dewhurst Tract. From the County line we traveled a marl road, which was dry and hard but full of holes and ruts and it took us about an hour and a half to drive the 15 miles down to Roberts' place. When we reached the NE corner of Sec. 32-60-34 we turned south on the west side of a small canal that had been constructed several years ago by the Model Land Company, and we followed this road to Florida Bay. We got back in the car and drove west along the Bay Front to the Roberts' house, about a quarter of a mile, and there we happened to find Uncle Steve Roberts, 79 years old, who has lived there for 27 years, and three other men, who had just returned from a fishing trip.

Mr. Farnam was very much interested in a sugar cane proposition and Uncle Steve told him of cane he had raised on marl there at the Cape from which he made syrup, which cane he said was sweeter and had a larger sugar content than any cane ever raised in Florida. He suggested that a large area of the hammock land if properly ~~xxxxx~~ dyked and ditched could not be beat for sugar cane or any other crops, and said he had never seen any frost at the Cape. He said for the first nine years he was at the Cape the Hurricane Tides did not come over the land, but since that time they had come over about once in every two years. We arrived there about 12:30 at noon, our speedometer showing we had traveled 83 miles, but we had gone about ten miles out of our way by going down to the bay at Coulds Canal and south to Mowry Street and then east to Homestead, had we gone right down the railroad we would have probably driven about 73 miles to Roberts' House.

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We returned to Florida City and then drove down the Key Largo Road nearly to the bridge and back and then drove east on the North side of the Florida City canal about two miles to convince Mr. Farnam that the marl did not have any growth on it in its natural state except prairie grass and a little saw grass where it had some muck in it.

We then drove to Homestead and North on Krome Avenue to Krome's Corner, west one mile to Redland Road, north to Hainlin Drive through the Grove section, east past Bonita Groves to the old Dixie Highway, thence north past Quail Roost to Peters, thence over the newly constructed Walker Avenue west of the Railroad in Perrine to Perrine and thence up the East side of the Railroad to Douglas Road, north on Douglas to Tamiami Trail, East to 17th Avenue, north to S. W. 2nd Street, east to Coffrin's house, where he left the party. Mr. Pepper took Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Farnam to their hotels.

I believe Mr. Farnam was much impressed with the sugar possibilities in the Cape Sable Section, particularly on the hammock lands, as he seemed to think they would do better than the open marl prairies, but he figured it would cost about a \$100.00 an acre to clear the hammocks.

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