

### THEGAZETTE

McIntosh, Florida

Souvenir Edition

October 20, 2001

# WELCOME TO VICTORIAN MCINTOSH

The Friends of McIntosh
Present
Our 28<sup>th</sup> Annual 1890's Festival



Slip back in time to the days of early Florida and celebrate the 1890's Day Festival in a town that was built beside the tracks of the Florida Southern Railroad. Come and walk under the moss hung oaks that are abundant in this once rural agriculture town. Enjoy the old homes that were built in this period by people who were seeking a better life soon after the Civil War.

Pause and listen for the ghost whistles of a railroad that brought many people to this area to settle or to enjoy the rural settings along the shores of Orange Lake. Though the railroad is gone, McIntosh still has reminders of an era when the railroads were beginning to open Florida to settlement.

The "spirit" of the era is still present even though we have grown down through the years. Celebrate this "spirit" with us as we recall a special time. Enjoy your stay in McIntosh and carry away a memory.

## GOD BLESS AMERICA!

#### **Entertainment Schedule**

Main Stage

Civic Center in the Park

9:00 A.M. Gainesville Suzuki Players

10:00 A.M. Santa Fe Brass

11:00 A.M. Tammy Murray & Jamie Walker

(fiddle, banjo, dulcimer, vocals)

11:45 A.M. Sonshine Quartet (Southern Gospel)

12:30 P.M. The Stephanie Ann Show

(Country, fiddle, vocal)

1:30 P.M. Big Sun Chorus (Barbershop)

2:30 P.M. Silver River Cloggers

3:00 P.M. The Stephanie Ann Show

#### Around the Town

10:30 A.M. Rally Style Dog Obedience

by Jim Glenney at Ave F at the

Carriage House

11:30 A.M. Silver River Cloggers

at Ave F in front of the Post Office

12:00-2:00 Dunedin City Pipers

various locations on Ave F & G

#### McIntosh Café (Ave G east of Post Office)

10:00 A.M. Ajamu Mutima (African)

11:00 A.M. Barry Sides (Blues Guitar)

12:00 P.M. Sno Rogers (Bluegrass with attitude)

01:00 P.M. Grassland Express (Sawgrass Bluegrass)

02:00 P.M. Keltara (Scottish/Irish)

03:00 P.M. Buck and Maggie (Bittersweet Love Songs)

04:00 P.M. Sidney Bertisch (Piano Favorites)

05:00 P.M. Unsafe Sax (Latin Jazz)

06:00 P.M. Keith Peters (Music of the Heart)

08:00 P.M. Lonsome Fugitives (100% Merle Haggard)

# The Friends



#### The McIntosh Gazette

#### Souvenir Edition 2001

The McIntosh Gazette-Souvenir Edition is published annually as a service to the visitors of McIntosh's 1890's Festival presented by the Friends of McIntosh, P.O.Box 1890, McIntosh Florida, 32664. Free distribution. Copyright 2001 by Friends of McIntosh. Material may not be reproduced in whole or in part in any form except by written consent of the editor and publisher.

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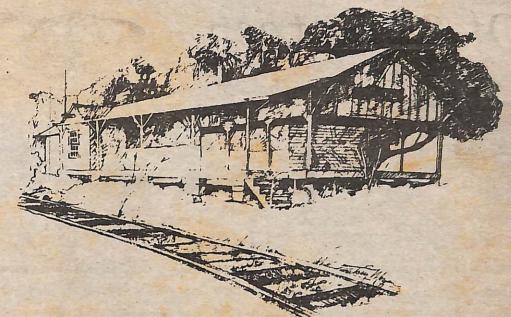
To advertise in next year's edition contact:
Friends of McIntosh
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McIntosh, Florida 32664

### Up Coming Event

#### Light Up McIntosh

Light Up McIntosh will take place on December 8 2001

Come out and enjoy the light displays of homes, businesses, and town decorations!



#### The Friends of McIntosh

The annual 1890's Festival is sponsored by *The Friends of McIntosh*, *Inc.*, a nonprofit, benevolent organization dedicated to the following purposes:

\*to preserve and enhance the natural and historic beauty of McIntosh.

\*to promote and sponsor cultural and recreational activities

\*to assist the town of McIntosh and its people, especially its senior citizens

\*to encourage friendship, community spirit, and understanding among people of all ages in our town.

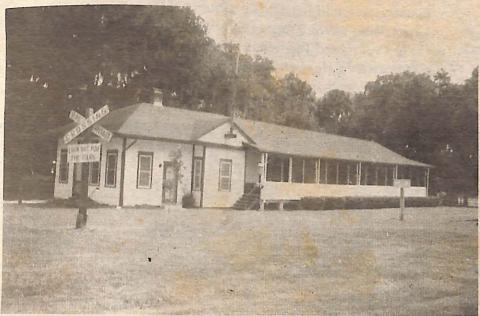
Many months are spent each year planning the annual 1890's Festival. Special thanks go to all those members of the Friends and to all of our churches and civic organizations who work so diligently to make this day a success. Since its chartered status in 1973, 28 years ago, Festival attendance has grown form 4,000 to over 25,000.

The monies the Friends raise from this annual event purchased, moved, and continues the ongoing restoration of our historic Depot. The establishment and maintenance of the Mini Park, the purchase and restoration of the J. K. Christian Warehouse along with the addition of picket fences. Victorian-style street lamps around Van Ness Park, and the lovely porch addition to the community center are among the club's many restoration and preservation projects. The group has established an annual scholarship program commending the academic excellence of our area youth. On August 12, 1981, the committed efforts of the Friends resulted in placing the McIntosh Historic District on the National Register of Historic sites. Thus, McIntosh was recognized as a landmark preservation town in Florida. Future projects under consideration include a gazebo in the main park as well as an historic museum and library in the Depot for which the club has purchased artifacts and memorabilia.



# Of McIntosh





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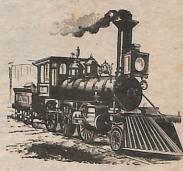
\*Fred Ward

\*Alice & Howard Warrington

\* Deceased







### SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS FOR 2001

Katherine Ashton Burnett is the daughter of Robert Burnett of Gainesville, Florida and Mary Lutes of McIntosh, Florida. Katy Graduated from Vanguard High School where she undertook the International Baccalaureate Program. She had a 3.9+ GPA. She plans to attend New College of the University of South Florida and major in biology, ecology, and environmental studies. She was a member of Impact Science Club, Amnesty International, National Honor Society, Junior Classic League, Key Club, and Mu Alpha Theta.

DADES!

Stephanie Marie Spence is the daughter of John R. Spence, Jr. and Patricia Cook. She graduated from Gainesville High School with a 4.0 GPA. Her activities included soccer, band and Spanish Club. She was an ardent volunteer. She was a member of Spanish National Honor Society, National Honor Society, and Honor Roll for 6 years. She received awards for volunteering at the Veteran's Hospital, and Outstanding Soccer player for the Lady Canes. She plans to attend the University of Florida and become a pediatrician to improve people's lives.

Annies Maria

Chris Lee Kniedler is the son of Mark and Linda Kniedler of McIntosh. Chris attended North Marion High School with a 4.0 GPA. His activities included baseball, football, soccer, crosscountry, weightlifting. He is a member of the Methodist Youth Choir, Who's Who Among High School Students, 4 years; Honor Roll, 4 years; and Top Ten in class, 4 years. He received several sports awards. He is a National Merit Scholarship recipient, and Horatio Alger Scholarship recipient. He plans to attend the University of Florida and major in computer engineering.



Monica Villardefrancos is the daughter of Nestor and Elizabeth Villardefrancos. She attended North Marion High School. Her activities included Drama Club, Future Business Leaders of America, French Club, soccer manager, Student Government, and Sign Language Club. She received first place in a competition for FBLA, and as top interpreter in sign language. She plans to attend Santa Fe Community College and then the University of Florida and major in Occupational Therapy or Cardiopulmonary Technician.



# VICTORIAN HOME & GARDEN TOUR

'Mid pleasures and palaces Though we may roam, Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home,

J. Howard Payne - Home Sweet Home.

Visitors to the lovely Victorian home and garden of Merrily Bed & Breakfast are always in for a delightful time when they stroll the charming home and garden of Marion County native, Margie Karow. Miss Margie, as she is affectionately known to neighbors and guests, is an energetic greatgrandmother with a zest for history, gardening, preservation and comfortable conversation from her front porch swing unless the weather's contrary—then everyone gathers in the sitting room for a cup of tea and a slice of sour cream pound cake as Miss Margie tells of the never-ending restoration of her two-story Victorian Bed and Breakfast built in 1888, by W. E. Allen, our first post master.

Last summer 22 pairs of black shutters were unhinged and taken down and the clapboard siding of Southern heart pine thoroughly scraped and freshly painted Miss Margie's favorite buttercup yellow as the high-pitched tin roof got a new coat of gleaming silver paint. The year before that the front porch was jacked up and the upended foundations reset after an uninvited family of armadillos unearthed the cement pillars. This past winter an extensive fire detection and alarm system was installed throughout the 13-room house and the wicker furniture replaced on her back screen porch when her Great Pyrenees puppy Duke chewed the legs from the chairs and settee while Captain, an aged Golden Retriever, snoozed on the remains of the straw rug.

Throughout her 30-year residence, Miss Margie has sewed enough curtain and valance sets to supply a catalog outlet. She has stitched up pillow shams, coverlets and dust ruffles for the guest bedrooms. She has upholstered and slipcovered wing chairs, love seats and foot stools. She has painted cupboards, baseboards, crown moldings, window frames, mullions and door jams both upstairs and down as well as the bannister spokes of the lovely, entrance-hall staircase. She has herself wall papered every room in the house with the exception of the original bead board kitchen presently serving as a store room for a little of this and a whole lot more of that, a room into which polite guests may not peek until Miss Margie gets around to these future projects.

When Miss Margie and her husband Davenport Jackson Karow of Savannah bought the two-story home in 1971, it had been converted into apartments and was in overall disrepair. Major structural work was immediately undertaken in the early years — replacing sills, foundations and siding in addition to repairing the roof and double-





#### MISS MARGIE & "MERRILY"

flue chimneys while insulating the attic and rewiring the entire house. When Mr. Karow died in 1973, Miss Margie considered selling the house, but she had already opened a new gallon of paint and ordered wallpaper for the dining room.

While there is always something to occupy Miss Margie within the house, it is in the garden where she is usually found separating daylilies and amaryllis or relocating an azalea overcrowded with camellias, hydrangeas, bridal wreath, Rose of Sharon, tea olive, ginger lilies and every other blooming, sweet-scented plant adapted to a north central Florida garden that could be seeded or rooted from cuttings and "slips" gathered in neighboring gardens.

When Miss Margie first came to Merrily, there was no garden, no flower beds edged in border grass, no shrubbery and no walkways. Here-and-there patches of St. Augustine grass struggled against penny wort and crab grass while armadillos tunneled and rooted up her constant sprigging without restraint. Yet with the dogged persistence of the first Captain, and then his successors, Captain II and Captain III, her lawn and garden eventually became established and is one of the loveliest in McIntosh.

Well-known for her preservation efforts throughout the state, Miss Margie is a charter member of the Friends of McIntosh and past president. She spearheaded the saving and restoration of the McIntosh Depot and was instrumental in getting McIntosh on the National Historic Registry.

It was Miss Margie who conceived the idea of the 1890's Festival as a fund raiser for the restoration and ongoing preservation of the historic depot. And it is Miss Margie, along with her dedicated neighbors, the Friends of McIntosh, who continue efforts to ensure that the popular festival now in its 28th year is an ongoing event.

Today Merrily Bed & Breakfast is decorated for the Christmas Season as the home will be a participant in the annual LIGHT UP MCINTOSH, to be held Saturday evening December 8, 2001.

Reservations for rooms are accepted throughout the year. The Victorian house and garden of Merrily are available for wedding parties and special events by contacting:

Margie Thigpen Karow P. O. Box 149 McIntosh, Florida 32664 352-591-1180



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#### Peppermint Puddin'

by Don Grant

One winter weekend when I came down from the University to visit my wife's Grandmother and Aunt, I remembered the old fashion pudding that we had when I was a small boy in south Florida. Auntie told me how she used to fix the pudding for the kids on cold evening during the winter. It was simple enough to make with milk, sugar, flavoring, and cornstarch. I remembered the film that formed on the top and we kids would beg for it after the pudding was spread in a large platter to cool.

With no further asking, Auntie decided to make some pudding. I followed her into the kitchen to the large wood stove and stoked it up ready for use. She got out a small pot and poured an amount of milk in it to scald while she got the other ingredients ready to finish the pudding. Then she added some sugar to sweeten it. I sat down at the kitchen table and watched as she got the cornstarch out of the jar. She went to Granny's spice safe and rummaged around for a flavoring. She found a bottle of peppermint flavoring with just a tiny bit left in the bottom of the small bottle.

"I think I will use this peppermint," she said. Before I could say anything she emptied the contents into the bubbling milk and then added a few drops of green food coloring. "It's not much and besides it may be too old. When the Watkins man comes again I will get another bottle," she assured me.

Before she could add the cornstarch the kitchen began to smell of the strong aroma of peppermint. After stirring in the cornstarch and letting it thicken, she took her spoon and brought out enough to taste. Bringing it to me she offered it to me. I blew on the spoon to cool it, and then I gingerly put it into my mouth. The taste of peppermint was so strong that it took my breath away.

"Aw, it can't be that strong!" she said. She took another spoon and tasted it for herself. "Oh! My! It is strong isn't it? I will fix that." She went to the shelf where her pots were kept and selected another small pot. She poured half of the contents of the first pot into it, and added more milk to both.

We now had two pots of pudding bubbling on the stove. I was still trying to get the strong taste of peppermint out of my mouth. After both pots came to a bubbling boil again, she stirred both pots until they thickened. "Try this and see if it is better," she said. I took my spoon and dipped into a pot and blew until it was cool enough to taste. I put the spoon in my mouth and tasted. Again the taste of peppermint overwhelmed me. She looked at me and then tasted it for herself. "That's powerful stuff!" Again she went to the self and brought back two more pots and placed them on the stove. Again she divided each bubbling pot and added more milk. She had to add cornstarch to each pot to make it thicken properly.

At this time Granny came into the kitchen and stopped at the door. "What are you doing in here?" she said.

"I'm making pudding and I used what was left in the peppermint bottle," exclaimed Auntie.

"Lord, Child, don't you know that peppermint is only supposed to be used in drops?"

"I know Mama, but there wasn't that much so I used it. I sat back and began to laugh. Then Granny saw four pots of pudding bubbling on the wood stove. I began to laugh louder. Granny began her low chuckling laugh and soon Auntie was laughing. We tried to eat some but the more we ate the worse the taste of peppermint got. We tried to give it away but we had no one who wanted any. It was many years before I could eat anything with peppermint in it, and still each time I remember "Auntie's peppermint puddin'.



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#### History of McIntosh Marion County, Florida

By Mrs. W.M. Gist

The following is an account written by Mrs. W. M. Gist sometime in 1932. The date may be in question. Mrs. Gist was the wife of one the town founders.

From a diary (1831) kept by George Houston. government engineer, who was an early settler of Marion county, we learn that one man, a Mr. McIntosh, who Georgia, came from "squatted" here and made sugar along the branch; the old sugar house stood about where O.D. Huff now lives. Mr. McIntosh had a residence just north of town, on what is now known as "The Belk Place."

Tradition tells us this story of Mr McIntosh: At one time he worked in Palatka, sixty miles away, just coming home for the weekend. Mrs. McIntosh and baby were left alone, except for a little Indian girl, who was so much attached to them, that on several occasions she saved them from the Indians by letting them know in time to defend themselves.

Our Town then was an old field; corn and cotton was raised; the labor slaves would feed their mules and eat their lunch under the big oak trees in which now is our park. This may give you some idea of the age of these trees.

Enough wild orange trees were hauled away from here to set out groves in Micanopy and various other places.

A wire road ran through here over which a coach carried mail from Gainesville to Tampa.

At a sale, held in St Augustine, Florida, in 1830, Nehemiah Brush bought from the Arradonda Grant, four thousand acres of land. Col. Charles Brush, a son of Nehemiah, had a sister who married Eugene Van Ness. At the death of Brush, the Van Ness children inherited all of the estate.



The early purchasers of land here were: Dr. Perry Burgin, who came in 1882; J.K. Christian in 1883; S.H. Gaitskill and W.M. Gist in 1884. At that time there was no railroad connection out of Jacksonville. These early settlers came by boat up the St. John's River to Palatka, there took the narrow-gauge Florida Southern Railroad to make connection with western travel.

When a Company seeking to secure the right-o-way for this Railroad, the Brush heirs agreed to donate the required amount through several Sections of land, provided the Company would establish and maintain a depot at McIntosh old-field. When time required one, they had to look up the contract the Company had given, to secure the proof of their promise. This road was built in 1883. At first the citizens put up a little shed for protection; later a depot was

In the late eighties and early nineties, a flat-bottom-boat that drew about four feet of water carried vegetables, especially tomatoes, from here across lakes Orange and

Lochloosa, to Island Grove, for transportation over the Seaboard Railway. This boat was used for pleasure as well as for carrying vegetables.

S.H. Gaitskill and W.M. Gist built the first house in McIntosh.

The original plat of McIntosh was surveyed May 1885 for the heirs of Nehemiah Brush by W. C. Miller, C. E., assisted by J. K. Christian and W. M. Gist....

In 1885 and later other citizens moved here, W.E. Allen, John Walker, J.S. Neal, J. S. Thomas, H.L. Dickson, W. G. Norsworthy and McCormick Neal coming through from Georgia in a covered wagon bringing a few cattle with him. After arriving here in the evening, he instructed his man to pull down "hay" (moss) to feed the cattle.

The Smith brothers opened the first store here. They sold out to Gaitskill & Allen. This firm soon sold to W.M. Gist. He could not stand for handing over the counter a "short", which means a nickle's worth of crackers and cheese. After a few days ownership was sold to J.K. Christain. On this same site, though once destroyed by fire, you will still find Christian's store.

Dr. Henry Walkup was a pioneer settler, but did not live in McIntosh until its later history, when he settled here and opened a first class drug store.

W.E. Allen was or first Postmaster; from that early date to the present our post office has gown; it now has a census of more than 725.

In 1889, J. Y Petteys moved is Veneer Mill here from Orange county, because there was a demand for hard-wood orange box sides, only pine could be gotten in Orange county. Previous to this, orange box sides were shipped here by water, from Bangor, Maine; the pine wood did not compete business. A steam dry kiln and artificial dryer were installed. Experience taught the best way to dry this timber was by air. Mr. Petty obtained a patent to dry by air. The solved the question of the best way to handle wood in this county. After two years this mill was moved west of McIntosh.

In about 1876, a little log schoolhouse was built where the Negro church now stands, Our first school house was built in 1888. Pupils enrolled, about twelve. As years advanced this became Senior High School.

The first Sunday School was held under a beautiful oak tree in our park. Mr. And Mrs. McCormick Neal would gather the children around them to teach the Bible and to sing hymns.

In the spring of 1895 the Methodist church, drawn by one mule, was moved one and a half miles through the country here. All denominations built in this... the Baptist church was erected then the Christian and the Presbyterian.

Through the efforts of our citizens we could boast of a swimming pool in 1897, where men, women, and children spent their time and learned to swim; but let me tell a secret—If you women want to swim, and live in peace with your husbands, get someone else to teach you to swim, or you'll be subjects for a cartoonist.

By an Act of the Legislature of 1913 the Town of McIntosh was incorporated. The territorial boundaries were enlarged at that time....

By appointment the first town officials were: S. B. Robinson, Mayor; J.K. Christian, W.R. Brown and S.H. Walkup, Councilmen. The first Ordinance was passed May 27, 193, and Rules and Bylaws governing the Council were adopted at that meeting. The first general election was held Nov. 4, 1913.

And so the History of McIntosh goes on with its progression. We now have the First State Bank, Western Union and Postal telegraph service, telephone system, Ice and Storage plant, concrete block factory, and up to date school building, town water and lights, a portion of streets paved- others well graded, fruit and vegetable packing houses, etc.

Forty years ago we could not boast of a Civic League, but we did have leaders and willing workers. At the suggestion of Mrs. S.H. Gaitskill, and under her direction, a "Mother Goose" entertainment, followed by an oyster supper, was held in the Arredonda Packing House (which has since burned and a smaller one built). Enough money was secured to build the Pavilion, which has so recently been repaired.

After passing through a number of prosperities and adversities, McIntosh is still on the map with a population of 440 from the Census of 1930.





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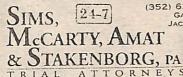


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### Festival-Goers Are Invited To Stop By And



The First Baptist Church of McIntosh

In the 1880's, McIntosh Baptists worshiped in the Orange Lake Baptist Church, which was known as Lockbi Baptist Church, organized in 1884. By 1903, Baptists in McIntosh thought they would be able to have a church here. This present building was dedicated in July 1903, with thirty-three charter members.

The first Pastor was Rev. A.L. Prisco. The first Building Committee was J. K. Christian, H. L. Dickson and J.C. Thomas. The first Sunday School Superintendent was David B. Dickson. Under the trees in Van Ness Park, the first Sunday school was held, sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. McCormick Neal. The first dedication sermon for the church was by Dr. C.C. Carroll of Ocala.

The Women's Missionary Society was organized in 1903 with Mrs. J.K. Christian as president. The ladies have not missed holding their monthly meeting very often since it was organized.

In the early days of the church, services were held only once a month on the third Sunday. Then in 1934 services were held twice a month, on the first and third Sundays. In 1942 services began on a full time basis.

In 1938 the Sunday school rooms were added. The Pastorium was built in 1951 and several additions were made later.

The organ, pianos, pulpit and other appointments were gifts of Mr. and Mrs. L.K. Edwards, Jr. Various members gave the pews in the church. The stain glass windows were installed in 1968 in memory of Mrs. J.K. Christian. She became a member in 1903 after arriving here from Lincoln, Illinois First Baptist Church.

Our Sanctuary was renovated in 1982 and the pews were recovered. The Educational Building was built in 1982. Many members and friends worked long hard hours to renovate the Sanctuary and build our Educational building.

The First Baptist Church is celebrating its 98th anniversary.



The McIntosh Christian Church

The McIntosh Christian Church was organized on January 30, 1898, with twenty-two charter members. The Reverend Charles E. Powell, Evangelist, was the organizing minister. By February 20<sup>th</sup>, when the Sunday school was organized, fifteen more members joined. Meetings of both Sunday school and church were held in the schoolhouse, which was next door to the present site of the church building. In 1903 a building committee was appointed to make plans for building a sanctuary.

The present building was completed and dedicated on January 31, 1904. Fifty years later, on January 31, 1954, the newly completed educational building was dedicated.

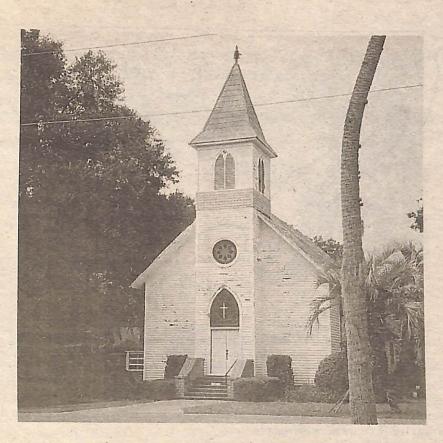
The McIntosh Christian Church is the only church in town with and open belfry. The bell is still rung to announce Sunday services. The stained glass windows, pews, and pulpit are original to the building.

The McIntosh Christian Church celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1998. The church building will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2004.

Worship services are held on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. preceded by Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday prayer meeting is held at 7:00 p.m.



### Visit Our Four Historic Churches Today



The McIntosh United Methodist Church

The McIntosh United Methodist Church has an unusual history. On September 8, 1885, Reverend W.S. Richardson founded the original church with a membership of 27. This congregation met in the Presbyterian Church until their own chapel could be built.

Although church records don't show when construction began, funds were raised, and the church was completed in 1888 near the Center Point Cemetery. It was named Marvin Chapel in memory of a former bishop.

In the fall of 1894, the church was moved to the growing community of McIntosh. Logs were placed under the building with planks beneath them. By tying one end of a rope to the church and the other to a windlass and a mule, the mover was able to slowly inch the church to its present location. It took a year to move the building due to problems that arose in the moving. When the building was finally place on the present site, it had covered a distance of two miles.

Over the years, the church has served the community in many and various ways. The women of the church have provided those in need with food and supplies through Inter-Faith and the prison ministries. The church has sponsored senior luncheons for a number of years, making good use of the new fellowship hall that was built in 1994.

At Christmas the church heads up the community live nativity and caroling. The music ministry continues to grow, and involved with the Christmas celebrations.

The church participate with other area churches in leading services at Shady Hollow, as well as maintaining a vital, nurturing program for our community shut-in. Ministries for the children have included a Vacation Bible School program for the whole town, and a newly founded preschool.

For over 110 years, the McIntosh United Methodist Church has stood as a symbol of god's love and a place of worship for those that seek Him.



#### The McIntosh Presbyterian Church

According to early records, the McIntosh Presbyterian Church was first established at Center Point. The church was approximately a mile north of McIntosh on Highway 441, and it was known as the Center Point Presbyterian Church.

In 1907 the congregation built the present church in McIntosh and requested that the Presbytery change the name of their church to McIntosh Presbyterian Church. That request was granted and records show that the action was taken on November 11, 1908.

The records also show that the total cost of the church building was approximately \$3,000. Since that time a pastor's study and a Sunday school room were added as well as a fellowship hall, kitchen, and lavatories.

The interior of the sanctuary is distinguished by the lovely stained glass windows designed in the Art Deco style. The pulpit furniture is of the East Lake Period. The carving of the pew arms is reminiscent of churches built at this time. The woodwork in the ceiling and the chandeliers are also points of interest. At the back of the sanctuary, hanging on the wall is the McIntosh plaid

This little church serves a small congregation, which looks to the future as it serves God, our congregation, and our community.

# What Is Going To Happen To Orange Lake? (1956)



The above picture was taken from newspaper clippings in 1956. It shows the area in South end of the lake where the sinkhole opened.

Forty-five years ago the water level of Orange Lake became a concern for all those who depended upon the lake for a livelihood. A sinkhole in the south end of the lake was becoming a problem because more water was draining into the sinkhole than was coming into the lake. Attempts were made to block the stream of water from the "Big Clear" into the sinkhole. The water found other ways around the simple dams.

Arguments for and against sealing the hole were made from those that were affected by the low water and from government officials. The U.S. Geological Survey was of the opinion that sealing the hole would eliminate a source of water when the water levels were restored. Both sides felt the problem was not low levels of the lake, but the trouble caused by the abundance of water when the lake level had and over supply.

Both Marion and Alachua counties had a stake in Orange Lake. The State also had a stake because of the thousands of dollars in fees that were being lost from the many fisherman and wildfowl hunters who used the lake.

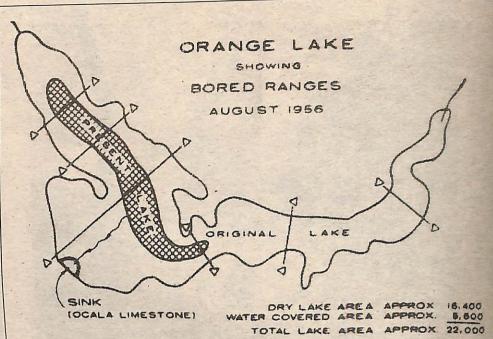
Sealing the hole was thought to be a small matter, but the counties were reluctant to take action in the face of the federal agencies that opposed the action.

Meanwhile, the water continued to drain into the south end sinkhole. The Fish and Game Commission considered lifting the bag limits on fish to allow thousands of pounds of fish to be taken that were beginning to die. But, the commission was in favor of a total fish kill rather than a partial kill. The game fish would die first and leave the rough fish that were better able to survive the conditions. When the water came back, the lake could be restocked with game fish again.

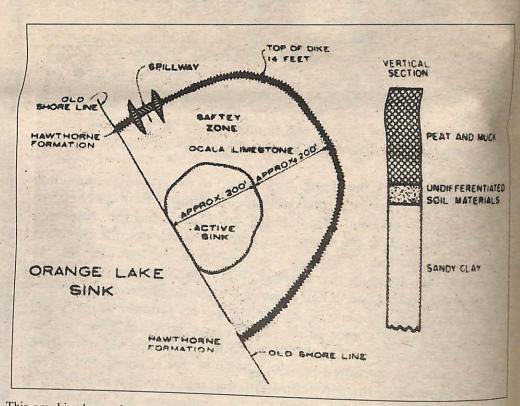
On March 13,1957, Alachua and Marion counties held a joint session at the McIntosh Community Center. They considered restoring the water level of Orange Lake. A dam was proposed that would be built jointly by the counties. The project was estimated to cost between \$903,66 and \$1,066,800 with the federal government giving up to fifteen percent of the cost.

More meetings were held and further planning was proposed and carried out. Surveys were made on the feasibility of the project, and the results came back in favor of the project. The limestone structure was sufficient on which to build the projected dam. Road equipment from both counties would be used in constructing the dam or dike. A portion of the dam was started and land was filled along the shore to stabilize the shoreline.

Alachua County commissioners expressed concern at the amount that was completed and also the amount of time road equipment would have to stay with the project.



The graph above appeared in a newspaper clipping from a local paper in 1956 showing the water level of Orange Lake at the peak of the drought. The drought of 1999-2001 is even lower than the 1956 level. The letters "esent" in the word present would be about the area that was left in the present drought.



This graphic shows the proposed dike that was to be built around the sinkhole. The project got started and then stopped at a point just beyond where the spillway would have been placed.

Alachua County commissioners expressed concern at the amount that was completed and also the amount of time road equipment would have to stay with the project. They equipment. At this point more problems arose with the sinking of the fill dirt into the muck and the commitment of equipment for use to complete the project. Work finally levels began to rise again.

# What Is Going To Happen To Orange Lake?

This is the original sinkhole at the shoreline. There are several more holes that have opened further out from this hole. This hole became a problem when the fish gathered here and died. The smell was horrific as well as the potential for polluting the ground water.



Here is Orange Lake from the McIntosh area. One can stand anywhere along this area and see nothing but weeds and rotting vegetation. This is Jim Little's dock, which is next to the McIntosh Fish Camp at the end of Ave H.



(2001)



The public fishing dock sits on the mud between the different sinkholes. One can see the rivulets of water making their way under the dock and into the largest sinkhole. What once was deep water is now field of mud and weeks.

What is in store for Orange Lake and all of the lakes and creeks that are a part of this watershed? One would think that the actions that were taken in 1956 would be a sounding board for saving Orange Lake in 2001.

After three years of drought on the watershed, many of the actions that took place in 1956 have already begun to take place. The people hurt by the drying of the lake have sought action from their local governments. Senator Rod Smith has held public forums to hear from the individuals affected by the sinkhole's damage to the lake. Marion County has proposed a cofferdam to be built around not one sinkhole but the two or three more that have opened in the same general area. Alachua County has voice its disapproval of doing anything without their input. So far the same the same actions and inactions that took place in 1956 have taken place in 2001.

Meanwhile, Orange Lake has gone from an overfilled lake in 1997 to a drier lake than in 1956. The lake has had some setbacks from the lack of rain and drainage from the watershed. It also has had fire in the southeast end of the lake that has removed or reduced the amount of peat and debris that has accumulate over the years. The fire may have been an inconvenient for some, but it was a necessity for the health of the lake. The dam across Orange Creek has caused the back up of muck and peat. This in turn has caused the lake to become shallower. The rains that fall in the area are not enough to bring the watershed back to normal. Much of the rain has been to the north or to the south of the lake. It will take a storm to fill this lake enough to bring it back to its original shoreline.

What is to happen to Orange Lake? Who knows what man or nature has in store for the area. A once important body of water is now a puddle and the loss in dollars to the local economy is indeterminate. Orange Lake was once known as Grassy Lake. The sinkholes in the south end will play an important part in whatever action is taken by man and nature. It could become another Paynes Prairie with only a small part of it containing water. Then again it could overflow as it has in nineties. When one looks out over the lake bed now, he or she who has seen this lake when it was healthy can only draw from their memories of the sunrises, flights of egrets to and from their rookeries, and the sounds of a healthy lake environment.







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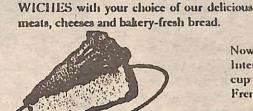
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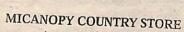
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#### McIntosh Lions Club

The McIntosh Lions Club was first conceived in the fall of 1949. The Lions Club we know today was officially established on January 1, 1950. Bill Dickson was the one instrumental in getting the first Club underway. He is the only charter member remaining today.

The club has a long and service oriented history. Through the years since 1949 the Lions Club has established projects in our community to benefit those in need and as a service to our community.

They help people in our area get eye exams and new glasses. These individuals could otherwise not afford them. They helped an eight year old girl with crossed eyes get surgery that corrected her problem. They are currently working with their District and Zone Lions to get funding approved for other eye surgery and hearing cases. They have helped an individual in McIntosh acquire a hearing aid from the Lions Hearing Aid Bank.

The Lions have sponsored Cub Scout Pack 199 for many years. When there was a chartered Boys Scout Troop, they sponsored it.

This organization sponsors the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic at the McIntosh Civic Center. There is a bike decorating contest, a cakewalk, patriotic music, hamburgers, cokes, and games for kids of all ages.

The Lions Club makes donations to five Lions Club organizations annually. They are the following: Florida Lions Camp, Southeast Guide Dogs, Florida Lions Conklin Center, North Florida Eye Bank, and the Florida Foundation for the Blind.

They bring the Bloodmobile to town two or three times a year. They also see that hearing, vision, and glaucoma screenings are given in the community.

During the Holiday Season the Club fills stockings for the Salvation Army at Christmas. Every December they sponsor Santa in Park.

Many years ago, when this area was first settled, churches had their own graveyards. Many of these churches no longer exist. The Lions Club of McIntosh maintains an old abandoned graveyard in the Orange Lake area. Each year, club members gather and bring equipment to clear and mow this old graveyard.

This community is fortunate to have an organization as active in civic affairs as the McIntosh Lions Club.



#### McIntosh Garden Club

The McIntosh Garden Club has been very active since the first of the year. In January their speaker was Marina Bloomlery on Gardening Hints. In February they took part in flower arranging. The club visited Paynes Prairie in March with the Palatka Garden Club. A Progressive Garden Party was held in April. In May they installed their new officers. The club does not meet during the summer and began meeting in September with a Membership Tea. A field trip and tour of Weedpatch Farm and Rose Garden will be held on October 4th. In November the group will have a speaker from the Marion County Extension Service on the subject of Butterfly Gardens. Rounding out the year, a Christmas Luncheon will be held in December.

Beginning in January 2002 the club will have an activity on Environmentally Friendly Landscaping. February will have an activity about Valentine Flower Arranging. Then in March a trip is planned to Shannon Orchids. In April they will see Woodlea Gardens.





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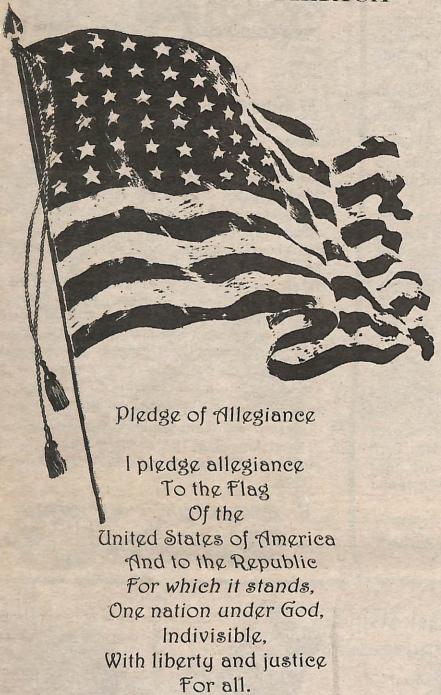


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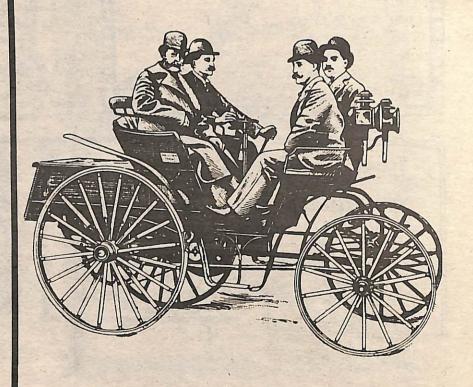
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#### Make Something Victorian That Smells Good

Many Victorian women carried a device with them on their outings helped them overcome smells that were plentiful during an outing. It also could be used to send a message to someone they wished to impress. This device was known as a Tussie Mussie. In the lines that follow one can make the same device though not for the same reason a did during woman Victorian times.

Most gardeners have plenty of plant material right in their own gardens, depending upon the depth of the message one wishes to send with a tussie mussie.

Start by collecting plant material, placing it in water while other material is assembled.

The following material will be needed: a square of plastic wrap, a ball of cotton, a paper doily, a piece of decorative ribbon, floral tape and

one quarter inch florists pins.

Groom you plant material as the assembly progresses.

The first sprig will be the center of the tussie mussie, so select plants or flowers with color. This center should also convey the key message. For instance, if one wishes to prove their devotion, lavender is a good choice for the center. For love, one would choose a rose.

Add layers around the center flower to add beauty and fragrance. To encircle the message with happiness, scented geranium, which also give wonderful fragrance to the bouquet. Placement on the last ring with a fragrant plant will also be practical from the standpoint that as one holds the bouquet, slight crushing of the plant material will bring the essential oils into the range of the recipients range of smell. Contrast is needed so be sure to add layers around the central foliage.

Spread out the square of plastic wrap with moist cotton in the center. Press the stems of your material into the moist cotton. Bring the

plastic wrap up around the underside of the foliage and wrap tightly with florist tape. Cut a small X in the center of the paper doily. To protect the paper doily from moisture, dip the center into hot paraffin wax. This should not be done until the tussie mussie is about to be delivered or used. Use one-quarter inch florist pins through each point of the X to secure the stems. Wrap the ribbon in a spiral design up the stems of the plant material, leaving several inches to gracefully trail down. More than one color of ribbon will add color.

To keep the arrangement fresh, place in a zip-lock bag and place in the refrigerator until the tussie mussie is ready to delight a loved one with a wonderful fragrant message from the heart!







#### The Language of Flowers

Throughout history, flowers and plants have lent themselves to speaking without being heard. During the Victorian era, young men and women were seldom left alone together. To get messages to each other they used poems, glances, secret letters, and the code of the language of flowers.

Lady Mary Wortley Montague in the 18<sup>th</sup> century is reported to have begun the fashion of assigning meaning to plants and flowers based on Turkish traditions. The "language" developed to an elaborate degree in the years around 1850.

So popular and important was the fashion of floral messages that a standardized code was understood to simplify the ability of the sender and receiver to pass their meanings along to each other with a minimum of misunderstanding. Roses were a favorite flower for these pastimes. For instance, a rosebud with leaves and thorns meant "I hope for love." A rosebud without leaves meant "Love may be lost." A single rose meant simplicity, and a garland of roses meant virtue and beauty. Of course, the narcissus is plainly about the ego, but who would know the turnip meant "charity?"

We still maintain sending messages with flowers today. Who would not know that a bouquet of red roses means, "I love you"? Flowers are still used by husbands or lovers rather than the proverbial throwing of one's hat in the door to say, "I' sorry I misbehaved but please forgive me!"

New mothers are sent flowers to welcome the little one, and illness or injury is wished away with flowers. Flowers greet us coming into this world and goodbye to us when we leave. The bond of friendship is offered by the sharing of flower plants. Drying the bouquets memorializes special occasions, such as weddings.

The flower that is used the most to express ones intentions is the rose. For rose lovers, here is a list for their use:

A rosebud with leaves and thorns: "I hope for love."
A rosebud without leaves: "Love may be lost."
A rosebud without thorns: "Love may be gained."
Bud of a moss rose: "Confessions of Love."
Bud of a red rose: "Pure and lovely."
Bud of a white rose: "Charm and innocence."

A rose and two buds: "Unawakened love."
A rose and two buds: "Secrets shared."
A full rose: "Beauty."
Cabbage rose: "Grace"
Musk rose: "Charm"

Single rose: "Simplicity"

Damask rose: "Bashful Love"

Dog rose: "Pleasure"

Eglantine: "Poetry"
Garland of roses: "Virtue and beauty"
Moss rose: "Voluptuous love"

Pink rose: "Our love is perfect happiness"

Red and white roses: "Unity"
A rose without thorns: "Early attachment"

Faded rose: "Beauty is fleeting White rose: "Dreams













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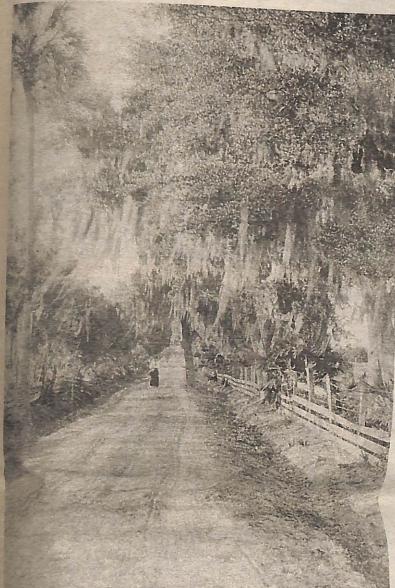
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Highway 441-Miss Mary Taylor (Dedman) walks up the hill known as Christain's Hill in this 1906 picture. Miss Taylor is Chris Rath's mother. The road is now as U.S. Highway 441.

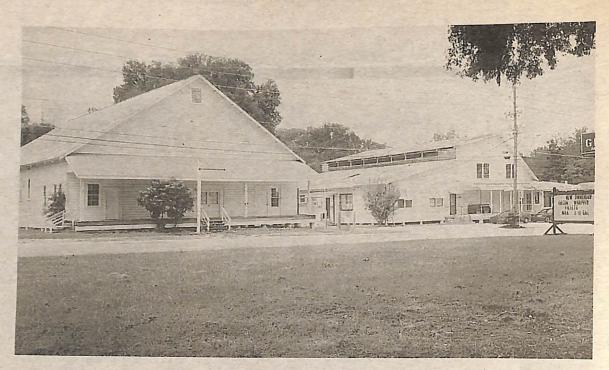




















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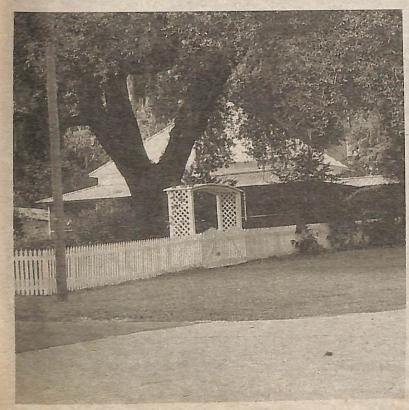
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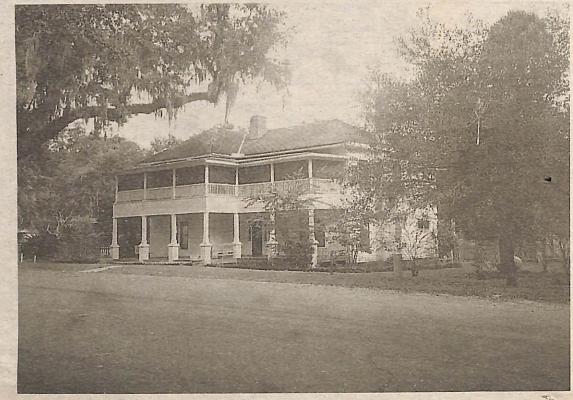
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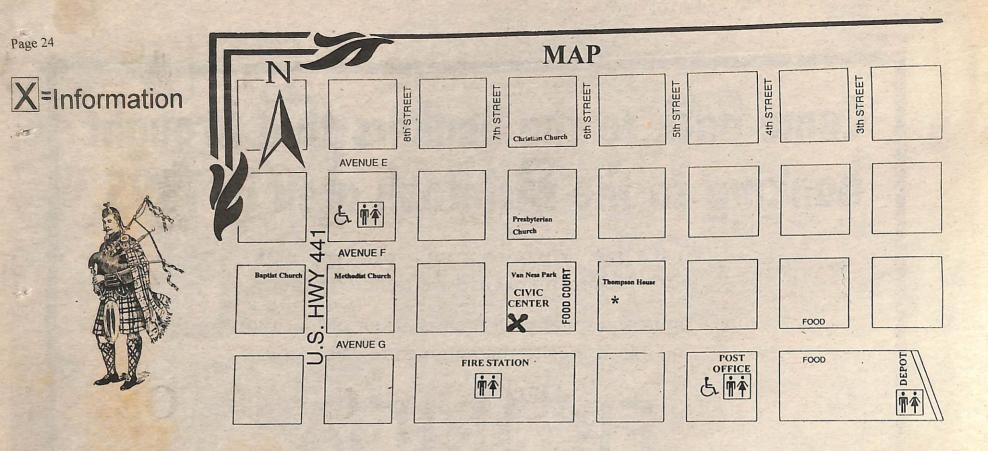
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