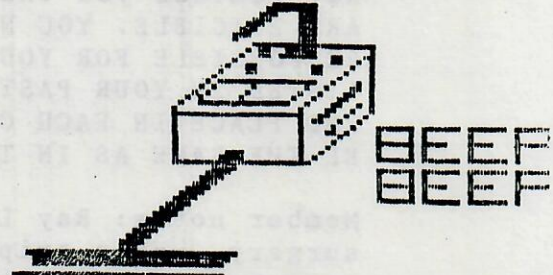




ART-I-FACTS

ORLANDO,
FLORIDA



CENTRAL FLORIDA METAL DETECTING CLUB

*****JANUARY 1993 NEWSLETTER*****

The next meeting of the Central Florida Metal Detecting Club will take place on Friday, January 8, 1993 at 8:00 p.m. The meeting site is located at the Goldenrod Civic Center on Palmetto Avenue next to the Fire Station in Goldenrod, Fla. Parking is limited so please plan to arrive early!!!

January Meeting Date: January 8
February Meeting Date: February 12
March Meeting Date: March 12

*****1992 Club Officers*****

President	Ray Leist
Vice-President	Jim Ingram
Second Vice-President	Glen Corder
Recording Secretary	Madeline Corder
Treasurer	Lonna Leist
Site Committee Chairman	Keith Reese
Newspaper Editor	Barbara Pietrzak
Corresponding Editor	
Historian	Boyd Rodgers
Refreshments	Lonna Leist
Find of the Month	Milton and Lorine Raw
Prizes	Fred and Nancy Schimmel

Members: January marks the new Officers and Find of the Month. Many of you may know that I have been unemployed for the past year and a half, a situation that has been remedied only in recent weeks. I was unable to make the Christmas Party due to work at Tradeport Post Office, and will be out of town the meeting of the January-1993. Hopefully, I will have someone to take "notes" for me so that you will have some really interesting stuff to read on your Club!!!

December Newsnotes: From Ray's Desk we hear that the Christmas Party was a big smash, with 50 members in attendance. New and returning officers were elected and the Find of the Month was held. Notes in the February newsletter will reveal the Find of the Month winners for December, January, and Find of the Year. Ray reminds you that All WINNERS OF FIND OF THE MONTH IN 1992 ARE ELIGIBLE. YOU NEED TO BRING IN YOUR FINDS AND ONLY YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ENTRIES. ALL THE WINNERS FOR 1992 ARE LISTED IN YOUR PAST NEWSLETTERS. THE AWARDS WILL BE: 1ST AND 2ND PLACE IN EACH CATEGORY (SINGLE AND GROUP). THE PRIZES WILL BE THE SAME AS IN THE PAST.

Member notes: Ray Leist is progressively well from his knee surgery, makes trips to Daytona for rehabilitation several times a week, and plans to return to work at the end of January 1993. Mr. & Mrs. Boyd Rodgers celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in December 1992 on 4th! Belated congratulations to these folks!!

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS: YOUR DUES WILL BE DUE AT THE MEMBER MEETING ON JANUARY 8, 1993. NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS WILL BE SENT THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IN FEBRUARY. DUES ARE TO BE REMITTED TO THE BELOW ADDRESS WITH CHECKS MADE OUT TO THE CENTRAL FLORIDA METAL DETECTING CLUB OR (CFMDC). ANY QUESTIONS CALL LONNA LEIST AT (407) 322-5509 EVENINGS. OR WRITE C/O LONNA LEIST, P.O. BOX 308, OSTEEN, FL 32764.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK: On December 12 & 13, 1992 the Club rented Lake Swan Camp near Keystone Heights for the weekend. The weather was a little on the cool side, but this did not stop twenty-two hunters from turning out. The camp was very nice and each camper had motel type accommodations with maid service. The personnel at the camp went overboard to please. They provided a meeting room with a cozy fireplace, and hot coffee all day long. All the meals were----FANTASTIC. They even had a snack for us Saturday evening, after our evening meal.

Everyone seemed to have a great time, plus over 3,500 coins were found, and some other interesting finds. After our noon meal on Sunday people started leaving, very tired, but knowing they had a great weekend.

NOTE: SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED TO HELP MAKE THIS A MEMORABLE OCCASION. YOUR HELP WAS APPRECIATED.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The next page features The Orlando Sentinel article dated November 12, 1992 on Florida Ghost Towns. Author Jim Warnke is a member of the South Florida Treasure Hunters Club which issues the Pull-Tab Express Newsletter on its member news relating to the hobby of metal detecting. Jim is a resident of Boynton Beach, Fla., and can be reached at (407) 732-4567 in reference to inquiries about his 1985 book, "Ghost Towns in Florida."

Florida ghost towns faintly echo thriving era

□ Little remains of communities that lived and died with citrus crops and the railroad.

By Patricia Caporale

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

Listen closely. You can almost hear the sound of a child's laughter hitch a ride on a westward breeze that carries it to the Mosquito Lagoon.

Look ahead at the towering live oak tree, heavily laden with robes of Spanish moss, and you can almost see the shadow of young lovers who first kissed beneath its branches.

Look back and you see nothing.

You're standing in the center of a town no more but once called Eldora.

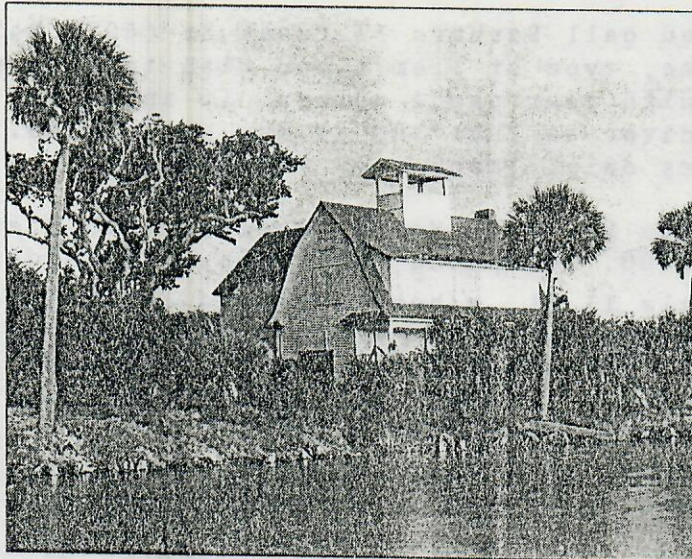
Eldora, like so many others in Central Florida, came and went with the boom and bust cycles of the state's economy of the 1800s. It rose swiftly after the Civil War when many Americans were on the move to discover new territories. It, and they, died just as swiftly after three major freezes devastated their crops and the wheels of progress rolled past them.

Founded in 1877 in what today is a part of Apollo Beach south of New Smyrna, Eldora was named after two of its pioneer residents, sisters Ellen and Dora Pitzer. Nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mosquito Lagoon, the town was in the heart of the waterway that took many new settlers south. It thrived in the roadless era.

Its soil was rich and fertile, bearing bountiful crops; and its forest was full of land mammals and fowl used as food. The lagoon provided clams, oysters and plenty of fish, not to mention a means of transportation and trade.

The town boomed. While early tax records show some 50 to 75 people lived there, tales from early settlers push it to more than 200. The main industry was citrus and an unusual business of collecting and drying saw palmetto berries, which were then bagged and sent to New York. There, they were made into a medicine called Salmetto, supposedly good for what ailed you.

Buried under palmetto thicket,



EILEEN SAMELSON/SENTINEL

All that's left of Eldora is the State House, used as a vacation retreat. Money is needed to refurbish it and turn it into an exhibit area.

the foundations of some of the early pioneers' modest homes remain today, faint evidence of a town that was once a popular stop-over by boat on the way to Miami.

Last year, the crumbling foundation of the Eldora House, a boarding house and hotel, was buried by the blades of progress.

Now, all that stands is the State House, used by a former state attorney as a vacation retreat. It awaits the money to rebuild and refurbish it enough to turn it into an exhibit area for the Canaveral National Seashore, its current landlord.

Eldora is one of scores of deserted towns in Central Florida. In many cases, the only proof the towns existed is buried under heavy bushes, palmetto and pine growth. The only evidence of their name is noted officially in late 19th century post office or railroad ledgers.

In his 1985 book *Ghost Towns in Florida*, Jim Warnke identified more than 300 Florida towns that no longer exist. Some of the information came from word-of-mouth accounts from old-timers.

In many cases, what little information is found on these towns comes from pictures and correspondence found by relatives in the bottom of old steamer trunks hidden in the attic.

Brenda Elliott, former Orange

County historian, sheds some light on several towns, many of which rose and fell as a result of the freezes of 1884-85, 1894-95 and 1899, or the railroad.

"Many towns were created by the railroad," Elliott said. "Homes, stores, even post offices were set up to accommodate the railroadmen and their families." As the railroad moved on, so did the families, leaving entire towns behind with nothing but the wind blowing through empty windows and doors.

The train station and a trestle still stand in Weewahootie. They are the only reminders of what was once a booming railroad town. Located east of Highway 15 on Weewahootie Road, the town is now part of the sprawling Deseret Ranch property that straddles Orange, Osceola and Brevard counties.

There are 15 deserted towns east of Titusville on State Road 3. They are the towns of Clifton, Shiloh, Allenhurst, Haulover Heights, Indian River Shores, Wilson, Wisconsin Village, Mortonhurst, Heath, Happy Creek, Orsino, Chester Shoals, Canaveral Harbor, Artesia and Nathan. Many are mentioned in early Brevard and Volusia County history. All were purchased by NASA and are protected under federal law.

Elliott said the town with the

most diverse history is the least mentioned in historic accounts. Perhaps, she adds because it has been named so many things. Located near Geneva in northeast Seminole County, it was first coined King Philipstown, by the army because it was the home of Seminole Chief King Philip and his son, Wildcat.

In 1850 it became Cook's Ferry after a man named Cook bought the acreage and operated a St. Johns River ferry near Lake Harney. The railroad later tagged it Bridge End. When Osceola Cypress Company opened a mill and lumber town on the site, the community became Osceola.

Osceola prospered from about 1916 until the 1940s. During the boom years of the 1920s, Osceola was expected to become the biggest town in Seminole County. Besides the mill, it had a store, a grocery, a bank and a doctor. It also had a row of fine homes lined with sidewalks.

The once-prosperous mill town is now the site of the county landfill.

Other ghost towns noted in Warnke's book include:

Hawkinsville, a.k.a. Crowsbluff, located on the St. Johns River in Lake County, one mile south of the intersection of Highways 42 and 44.

McDonald, named after its founder John A. McDonald, who has been credited with starting much of the Florida land boom that brought Americans to the South. The town is in Orange County near a railroad one mile south of Zellwood.

Shingle Creek and Illahaw, both in Osceola County.

Hammond and Orange City Junction in Volusia County.

Sorroquez, a Spanish settlement in 1689, north of Cape Canaveral in Brevard County on NASA property.

Although little is known about what caused the demise of many of these towns, Elliott affirms that the freeze and progress can probably claim equal shares.

By the turn of the century, small riverside towns that were the lifeblood of what was once primitive Florida, no longer were necessary.

For many who remained behind, the sound of the steam whistle announcing the arrival of the train on the mainland soon became a bitter epitaph.

*****CLASSIFIED AD DEPARTMENT*****

To place an ad call Barbara Pietrzak at (407) 843-6030. Please give your name, type of item/s you wish to have placed, cost and description with your phone number. If an ad has been sold kindly inform the Editor so that the ad may be deleted. Ads are FREE for paying members only! Thank you. The Editor.

For Sale: White Eagle II Metal Detector with Stand and Changer and Battery. \$300.00. Telephone (407) 886-0708. Alden Mitchell.

For Sale: Eagle II SL, w/headphone and carrying case. \$275.00 or best offer. Garrett Freedom I (new) w/earphones. \$125.00 or best offer. Garrett AT4 Beach Hunter with earphones. \$200.00/OBO. Free treasure magazines & books with each of the above. Call Joe Murat at (407) 671-1266 after 6:00 p.m.

For Sale: Garrett AT-4 Beach Hunter, with case, headphones, and recharger. Used twice. \$275.00. Call Bob Braun at (407) 425-7921.

Garrett ADS "3" with 7½ & 12" coils & rechargeable batteries- only \$225.00. Call Jim Ingram at (407) 933-1308 for more information.

Garrett ADS Ground Cancelling-VLF/TR "Ground Hog"- 7½ coil and coil cover plus bag and superior ACCU-Sound-V headphones. Only \$125.00. Call Peg Walker at (407) 295- 2179.

Fisher CZ-6, \$700.00 with warranty! 10½" & 8" Spider Coils. Call Jack Dee at (904) 749-4459 for more information.

.Wanted to Buy or Trade.

Wanted!!! Play Money, Cracker Jack Coins, Florida Tokens, and F.O.B's. Will buy or trade Silver Coins. Call Jack or Barbara Phillips at (813) 884-3276 for more information.

The Florida Yankee wants to buy your Civil War Collectibles. I am especially interested in purchasing Military Buttons from the Seminole Indian Wars or Civil War. Call David "Florida Yankee" Gascoyne for more information at (407) 767-0530.



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