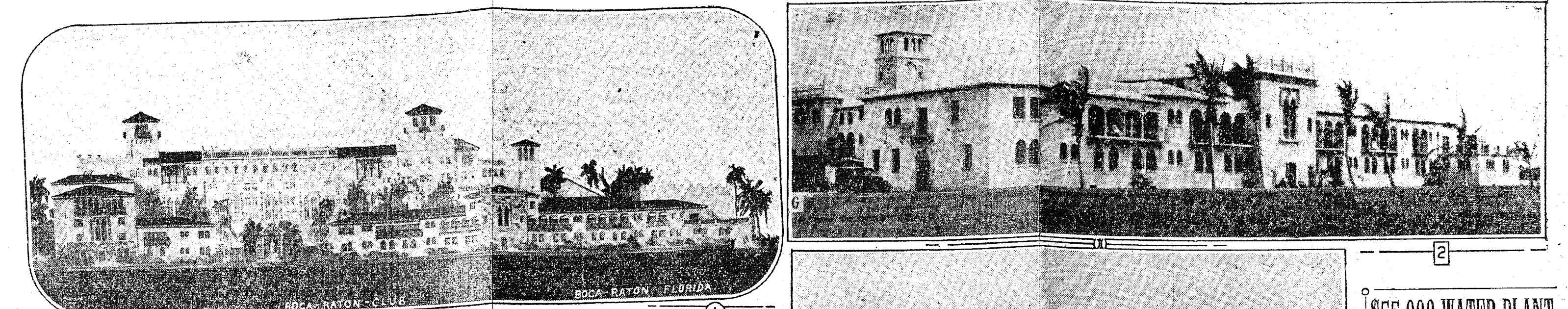


ELABORATE BUILDING PROGRAM WILL MAKE BOCA RATON UNIQUE PLAYGROUND



BOCA RATON RECEIVED CITY CHARTER IN 1925

Act of Legislature Creates First Municipal Government in East Coast Settlement.

(HERALD SERVICE.)
BOCA RATON, Fla., May 11.—The city of Boca Raton was created by act of the state legislature in 1925. Before that time there had been no organized government, though there had been a considerable settlement for many years.

The city is under the council form of government with a council of three members, the mayor, J. G. Brown; a commissioner of public work, Leo C. Godwin, and a commissioner-city clerk, Mrs. Beulah Butler.

It has a volunteer fire department with a paid chief and assistant chief, with eight men on call who are paid for the time spent in drills or on fire calls.

The fire station is in the south end of the city hall building, where the combination American LaFrance pump and chemical engine is housed and where the chief makes his headquarters.

With the completion of the new water system and the installation of the new fire apparatus the city is well equipped to care for any hazard now existing.

Policing the city is not a difficult job as the township police are law abiding. I. L. Blackmer, chief of police, has served the city to everyone's satisfaction since his appointment.

The city has a good system of paved streets, with the Dixie Highway running through the center of the city and Palmetto Park road running through to the ocean beach.

A new steel drawbridge has just been installed in this road over the East Coast canal by Palm Beach county.

The Federal Highway, which will be completed between Broward and Palm Beach county points during the coming year, will run through the city one block east of the Dixie Highway, passing in front of the city hall.

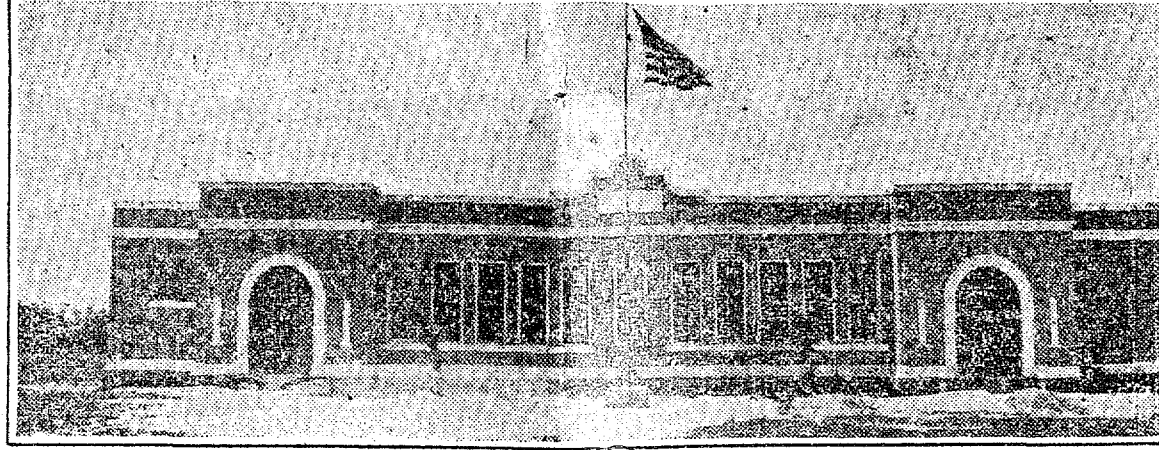
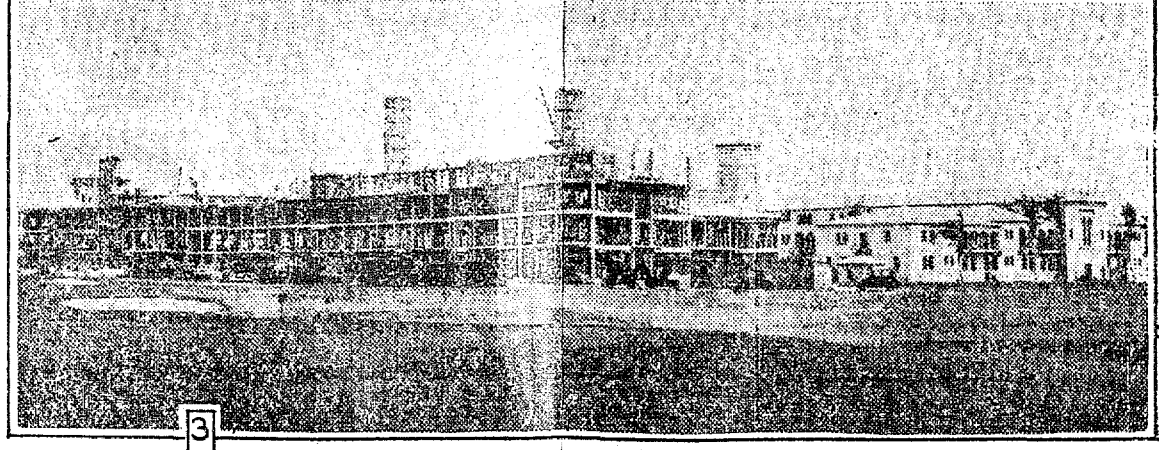
Boca Raton has an excellent school. Two teachers, Mrs. Platt and Mrs. Platter, are accepted as a standard. The school is accepted as a standard of instruction.

This year there are 65 pupils enrolled in the seven grades, which are conducted here. This is the largest enrollment since 1925, and is nearly double that of last year.

Pupils of the eighth grade are taken by bus to Delray, where the junior high school work is carried on.

A beautification program has been started recently at the school which includes the planting of a new lawn and shrubbery by the pupils and the erection of a bird bath by the pupils.

Two railroads, the Florida East Coast and the Seaboard All Florida serve the city. Motor busses of the Florida motor lines also give transportation service to the outside world.



BOCA RATON BOASTS OF ROMANTIC ORIGIN

Mounds of Indian Tribes Furnish Historical Background; Here Before Columbus.

By CARL H. NYE.
 Staff Correspondent for The Herald.

BOCA RATON, Fla., May 11.—An interesting historical background is found for the city of Boca Raton.

Before the coming of Columbus, the Abaniki Indians, called "Chippewee" worshippers and lived on the sunrise coast of America, built their mounds on the shore of Lake Boca Raton and Lake Wyman. These lakes lie within one mile of each other within the city limits of Boca Raton.

Ethnologists claim that the Abanikis were the first human beings to tread the soil of Florida. They were said to be a race of giants, the stature of the men being about eight feet.

One of their mounds was south of Boca Raton inlet, in the natural jungle where the foliage is distinctly tropical and different from that nearby. An excavation of this mound in 1925 brought to light some skeletons and utensils. The bodies all were buried facing east, according to the ancient custom.

Another mound in the Villa Rica section north of Lake Wyman gave up pottery specimens, weapons of conch shell and other Indian utensils. In this mound were also found bones of the saber toothed tiger and other prehistoric animals once native to Florida.

This mound has all been removed and the shell of which it was made used in the building of a road. A sand mound nearby has not been touched. Specimens from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

Pirates from the Spanish main made use of the protection offered by the natural harbor, provided by the little lake just back of the dunes, between Boca Raton inlet and the ocean.

Many legends relate of the buried treasure left here by the pirates. At different times parties have spent time and money in excavations along the ocean shore and in the dunes stretching north and south from Boca Raton inlet.

The Seminoles also knew Boca Raton as a natural beauty spot, the early history of the tribe showing that they called it "Eeta-hak-wee," meaning a "beautiful scene." For many years a camp was maintained just west of the Hillsborough river. In the favorite hunting grounds of the tribe. It is said that Boca Raton was considered their best fishing grounds.

The first step in the real estate history of Boca Raton came in 1834, when the first white resident, T. W. Rickards, a civil engineer employed by the Flagler interests, came here. He came by schooner from Titusville, which was the southern terminus of the Florida East Coast Railway at that time.

When the railway was built to Boca Raton in 1839, Mr. Rickards built a house on the east side of the East Coast canal, not far from the present drawbridge. The canal was being constructed at this time. Mr. Rickards built his house, it is said, almost entirely from wreckage gathered on the beach, even finding doors and windows there.

In 1897 the first plot of Boca Raton was made by Mr. Rickards, who laid out a considerable portion of 1,000 acres in five-acre tracts which were sold to Northern investors.

P. S. Lewis of Philadelphia, planted 100 acres to grapefruit. Nearly 500 acres were set in pineapples by non-resident owners who engaged Mr. Rickards to care for them.

For 10 years the pineapple industry was thriving and at one time Boca Raton shipped 10,000 crates of this delicious fruit annually. Cuban competition finally made the industry unprofitable and the fields were abandoned.

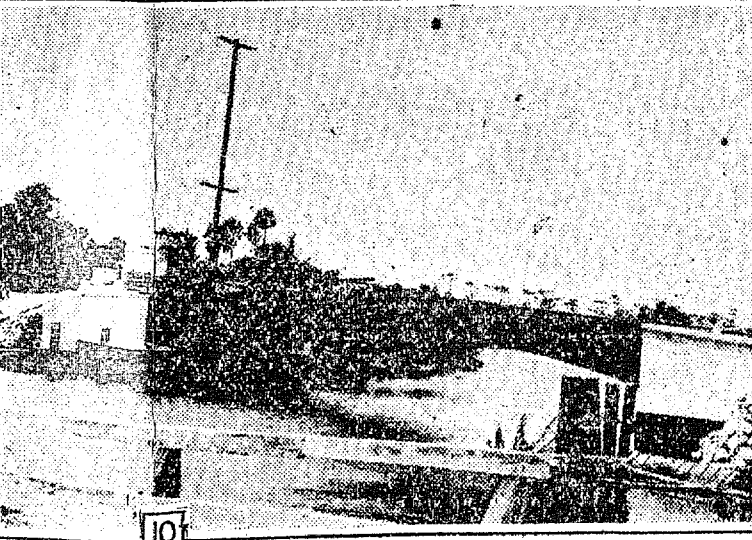
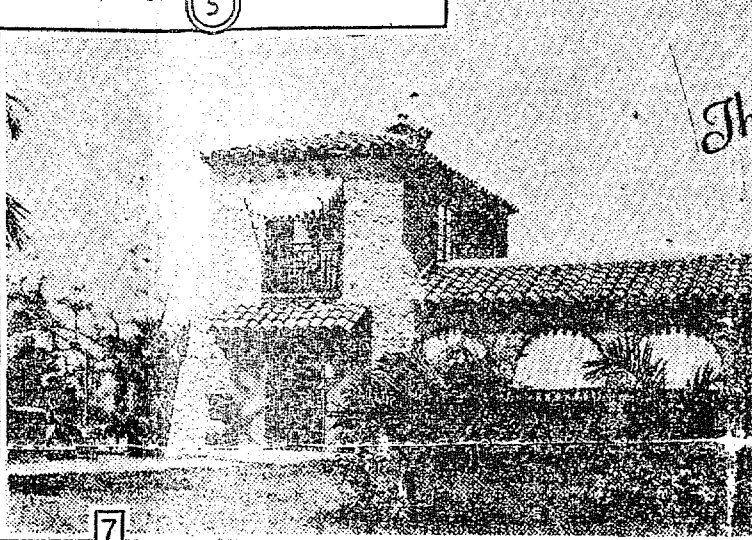
Truck farming has since been the major activity, although during the real estate boom this was neglected. B. B. Raulerson, J. G. Brown, C. W. Brown, George Atkins, S. H. Cheesebrough, Harry Cheesebrough and W. P. Purdum are old timers who are still active in farming.

The tropical beauty of Boca Raton is exceeded by no place in Florida. There is a natural patch of tropical trees and plants along the inland waterway and along the ocean shore. There are many magnificent live oaks covered with hanging moss, albatrosses and orchids. And the tall palmetto, coconut palm, rubber and sea grape add their beauty to all parts of the little city.

Good fishing is found in the Gulf Stream at the door and in the lakes and canals. Hunting in the back country is good. Fishing in the water warmed by the Gulf Stream is as fine as any place along the coast.

There are many fine homes situated on the beach, along the drive to the beach and west on the highlands.

All combining to make a place with history, scenery and physical assets second to none.



(1) The Boca Raton club house, now under construction, one of Florida's architectural gems, includes 630 sleeping rooms. (2) The Cloister wing of Boca Raton clubhouse. (3) Construction work on the west wing of the building, April 8, 1928. (4) A view of the grounds looking from Ocean boulevard across Lake Boca Raton. The lake has been dredged and a new seawall built. (5) The Boca Raton schoolhouse. (6) Looking down from the water tower into the agitating basin and carbonating tanks in Palmetto drive, Boca Raton. (7) The Cates residence in Florida club section, Boca Raton. (8) Residence of Fred C. Alken in Florida club section, Boca Raton. (9) The Boca Raton city hall, of Spanish mission type architecture. (10) The new bridge over the East Coast canal, recently completed. (11) The Boca Raton city water plant.

TAX DELINQUENCY EASY TO OFFSET

Boca Raton Expenses Can Be Curtailed To Meet Revenue.

BOCA RATON, Fla., May 11.—In Boca Raton, the amount of delinquent taxes is large since many acres of wild land were added to the city limits during the rush of the Minor Development Company to sell lots. With a curtailment of municipal expense to meet the size of the city and care for the pupils, the expense can be kept at a minimum and necessary work and maintain a good city.

Water bills furnish a considerable item of revenue to the city, although the rates are not excessive. It is estimated that this income will pay for the operation of the plant and give some surplus for the sinking fund.

The city charter is being revised by the city attorney, W. G. Miller, of Hall, Johnson and English, Fort Lauderdale. It is proposed to change the number of city commissioners and alter the city limits, as at present these limits are stretched too far.

Charles B. Messlich, bond attorney of New York, is making a check of the bond provisions of the charter. His stipulations are out of proportion to the needs of the city.

This Boca Raton is steadily rearranging her affairs and ideas to meet the conditions which are now governing the life and growth of all communities in this locality.

WINTER VISITORS FILL BOCA RATON

Every Available Dwelling Place Is Filled To Capacity.

BOCA RATON, Fla., May 11.—A survey of housing conditions in Boca Raton showed that during the winter every dwelling in the city which was in habitable condition was occupied.

All owners of property from the North were occupying their Florida homes and a large number of new comers were here for the first time. In addition to the visitors a large number of men employed by the Seaboard and Southern construction company were here for the first time.

The Cloister Inn of the Boca Raton club was opened for part of the season and a large number of guests were there. The numbers of visitors to this new club kept the town busy all winter long.

Several properties changed hands during the season, among them being the home of J. S. Cramer on Boca Raton Road which was sold to C. J. Plastridge of Malden, Mass., several lots on the beach front and one lot on Palmetto Park drive.

BUILDING HELPS BRING PROSPERITY

Tourist Trade Not Sole Resource of Boca Raton.

BOCA RATON, Fla., May 11.—Business has profited in this city from a good tourist season, but also from the construction work at the Boca Raton club, where the Seaboard and Southern Construction Company has a force of 250 men at work.

Many of the workmen have made their homes in the city, while many come from Delray Beach and other communities.

At present the construction work is 65 per cent completed, engineers in charge of construction said today. The building will be completed during October, it is expected.

Besides benefiting Boca Raton, this project has furnished income to all parts of the state.

Every pound of cement in the construction work is a Florida product, coming from the plant in Tampa.

The rock used in all concrete work is being furnished by the Meteor Transport and Trading Company of Miami.

All rough lumber used in the concrete forms is cut in the northwest section of the state.

Millwork for the entire job is being furnished by the Duval Planing Mill of Jacksonville.

In the exterior finishing a large amount of quarried Florida key rock is being used. This rock is all coming from the yards of John B. Orr Company of Miami, where it is cut to specification after being quarried out on the keys. This company is also furnishing the cast stone used in architectural work on different parts of the building.

PARIS MOTOR CARS JAM MUNICIPAL PAWN SHOP

PARIS, May 11.—(AP)—So many optimistic Frenchmen have pawned their automobiles that the city pawnshop has had to call a halt. "My Aunt," as the Paris pawnshop is called, has no more room in her garage. The city has decided to build a garage to hold 600 cars. It will be a good investment, for the municipality makes more than \$60,000 a year clear profit on the vehicles of those compelled to resume the status of pedestrians.

POLAND BANS NOBILITY TITLES ON PASSPORTS

WARSAW, May 11.—(AP)—Polish "princes" and "counts," whose titles were abolished by the constitution of 1921, may no longer use their designations of alleged nobility on passports. Government offices have been lenient with the de-ranked nobility since their "fall," but the ministry of the interior has now prohibited one of their last indulgences.

EXTENSION IS BUILT ON BOCA RATON CLUB

Costly Geist Development Is One of Most Important Construction Projects in Florida.

(HERALD SERVICE.)
BOCA RATON, Fla., May 11.—The largest and most elaborate building program under way in all Florida is in progress here in the completion of the Boca Raton club, which includes all the property between the Dixie Highway and the ocean formerly owned by the Minor Development Company.

The Boca Raton club was conceived and planned by Clarence H. Geist of Philadelphia, capitalist and public utilities owner.

The Cloister, administration building and the land mentioned before, were purchased by Mr. Geist and his associates in a syndicate.

The Spanish River Land Company, a Florida corporation organized by the syndicate, later purchased the buildings and land and in addition 112 acres on the ocean front. This area will be developed into a residential section surrounding the club.

The Boca Raton club has purchased from the syndicate the Cloister, the administration building, land for two 18-hole golf courses, tennis courts and a bathing beach on the ocean.

Using the Cloister as a nucleus, Mr. Geist has planned the Boca Raton club along lines of his experience with the Seaview Golf club, located at Abasco, N. J., across the inlet from Atlantic City. This club is one of the largest and most successful restricted clubs in the world.

When the building program is finished the club house will have 650 sleeping rooms, an indoor salt water swimming pool, a healthatorium for women and one for men, an commodious rooms for sunbathing.

On the ground floor will be the main dining room, which will seat 700 guests under its 75-foot vaulted ceiling, a ball room, several lounge rooms, large locker rooms and grill room adjacent to the men's locker room.

In the arcade on the ground floor will be a barber shop, beauty parlor, rooms for shops of various kinds, brokers offices and telegraph and telephone offices.

The club house will also have five beautiful patios in different parts and a rocking chair terrace overlooking the main patio. This patio is 250 feet square with a large fountain in the center, immense royal palms and nearly 40,000 tropical shrubs and vines. A complete nursery has been purchased to supply needed plants.

A children's dining room, and separate dining rooms for maids and chauffeurs are provided. Complete cafeteria equipment is arranged for the help.

The kitchen is complete in all details known to the best of hotel service companies.

South of the building an outdoor swimming pool, estimated to cost \$90,000, is under construction, around which a large area of fine ocean sand is to be placed for sun bathing and lounging.

On the ocean beach a bathing casino modeled after the Bath club at Miami Beach will be constructed. This will be accessible from the club by a direct motor road, by boat from the club dock or on foot through the tropical jungle along the lake shore.

One 18-hole golf course is complete and has been in use by members and their guests during the past season. A second 18-hole course is under construction by Toomey and Flynn of Philadelphia. This course is designed to be one of the championship courses of Florida.

During the past season Gil Nichols, well known golf professional, has been in charge of the course. It is expected that he will return next year.

Lake Boca Raton and the inlets have been dredged to a depth sufficient to allow yachts to enter and have a good anchorage. A jetty has been constructed on the ocean side of the entrance channel and a rock sea wall built along the shore of the lake and a large amount of earth from the lake bottom pumped out making many acres of fine lawn surrounding the club building.

In addition to the arrangements for golf, tennis, bathing and fishing a fleet of 20 fishing boats has been ordered for the use of members.

\$55,000 WATER PLANT SUPPLIES BOCA RATON

Part of Unexpended \$500,000 Bond Issue Utilized To Provide Modern Utility.

(HERALD SERVICE.)
BOCA RATON, Fla., May 11.—The city of Boca Raton is now the possessor of what competent engineers say is the most modern and efficient water supply system in the South.

It includes deep wells, a filtration and softening plant, a water tower with a tank of 150,000-gallon capacity and nine miles of water main.

The new waterworks is located west of the Florida East Coast railway tracks one block north of Palmetto Park road in the heart of the city.

The plant was erected at a cost of \$55,000, exclusive of the mains. The money was part of the \$500,000 bond issue voted in 1925, for a number of municipal improvements.

No good appliance known to engineers was overlooked in the designing of the system. As a result Boca Raton has a supply of the purest and cleanest water in Florida, produced at a minimum cost for operation.

Water is supplied by two wells 107 feet deep, from which it is pumped over a series of ascending steps into an agitating basin equipped with Dorr appliances for mixing the alum and lime needed to soften and purify the water. This basin is equipped with a propeller blade which continually stirs the water and chemicals, getting a thorough mixture. Third, the water passes into the large clarifying tank where the alum and lime settle into the bottom of the tank. This tank is fitted with scraper arrangements which are used to free the sediment from the bottom when it is necessary to pump the accumulated lime and alum residue out.

It next passes by gravity flow into the carbonating tanks where it is more thoroughly softened and clarified. Carbon dioxide gas is manufactured in a coke burning furnace and gas filter, which is installed inside the building.

From the carbonating tanks the water is allowed to flow by gravity through two large filters consisting of thick layers of very fine sand and gravel into the large clear well underground. The clear well has a capacity of 75,000 gallons. The filters are made by the Roberts Filter Company, of Leeb, Pa.

The carbonating system is considered by authorities to be the best system for completely purifying the water in use today.

From the clear well the water is pumped into the 150,000-gallon storage tank on the tower. Two pumps are used as needed to keep the proper pressure in the tank.

Inside the building, on the second floor, are the grinding and mixing machine for handling the chemicals. On this floor also is a complete laboratory where daily tests are made of the quality of the water in the mains.

In the basement are the pumps, one electrically operated, and one driven by a gasoline engine for emergency use in case of a fire needing direct pressure in the mains or in case of failure of electric current. These pumps are of 750-gallon an hour capacity.

Here also is the equipment made by Drellforn and Flynn of Chicago for producing the carbon dioxide gas used in carbonating the water.

The wiring equipment installed by R. E. Lowry of Miami, is a very complete switch board, controlling the operation of every piece of apparatus.

The plant has been in operation for about one month, with no trouble experienced in adjustment to conditions required of it.

Tests of the water made by the plant chemist and by the state board of health have shown that the water tests are as nearly chemically pure as it is possible to obtain, it reports show.

Fifty pounds pressure is maintained in the mains at all times in conformity with the fire insurance requirements, and this can be boosted as needed by the throwing in of a second pump.

The completion of the system is expected to result in a reduction of fire insurance premiums in the city, agents of the Florida Rating Bureau have recently checked the city with this in view.

Construction of the waterworks was done by the Donathan Construction Company of Miami. C. G. Bestwick of Coral Gables was the engineer in direct charge of the entire project.

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The Spanish River Papers

Boca Raton Historical Society, Inc.

Mrs. L. Bert Stephens
Boca Raton Hotel & Club
Boca Raton,