

OAKLAND PARK BEFORE IT WAS OAKLAND PARK

***Sharing local history is key to
building a sense of community***

Presented by Susan Gillis



What did it look like?
Sabal palms, royals, saw
palmettoes, cypress,
pines & more pines &
oaks

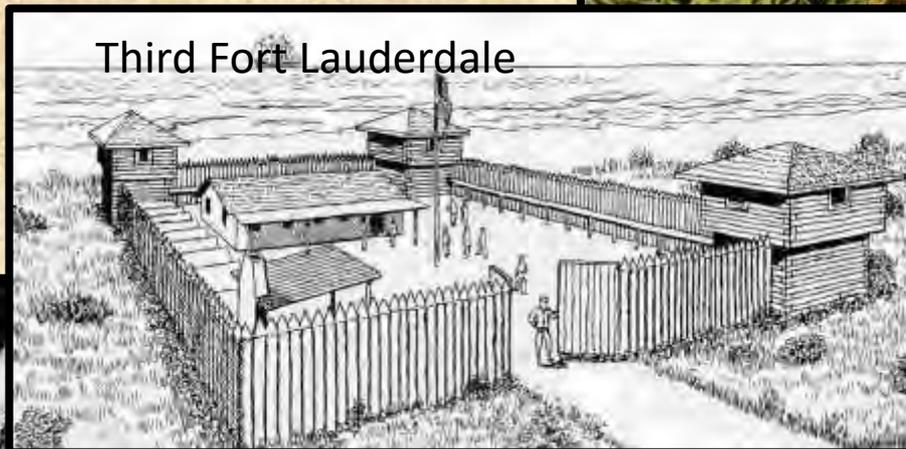
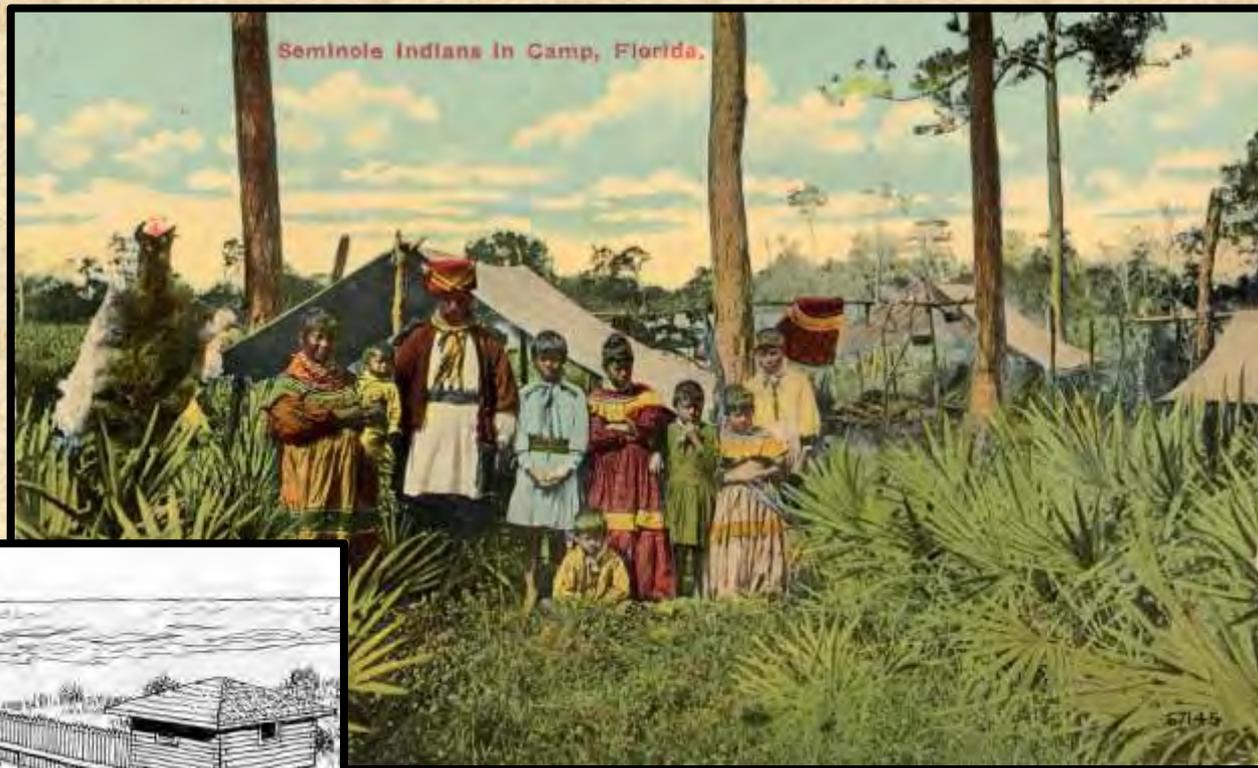




Left First known residents—Tequesta;
Right New River (Fort Lauderdale) –white
Bahamian planters 1790s—“New River
settlement”



People we call Seminoles
also move into South
Florida in the late 18th C;
2nd Seminole War 1835-
1842
Fort Lauderdale
established on New River
in 1838

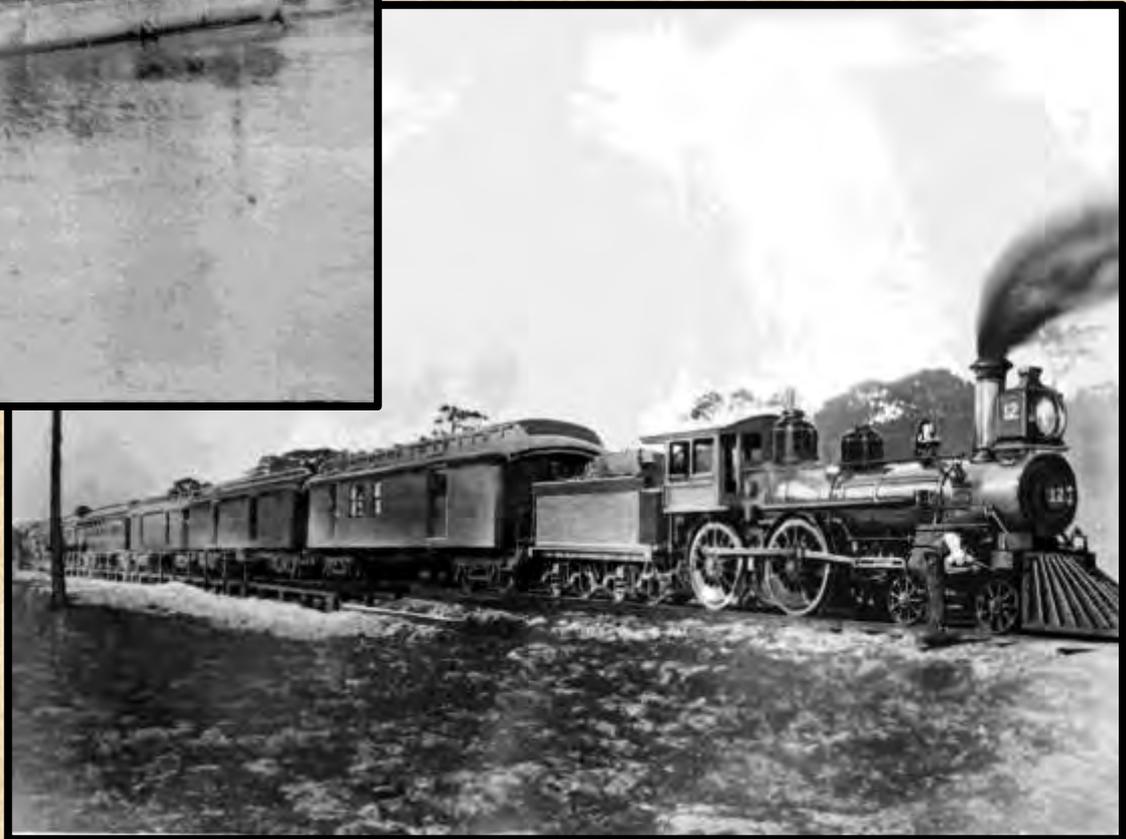




(Dade) County Road 1892 & stage line and Stranahan's trading post 1893 where Stranahan House is today- beginning of modern city of Ft L

Florida East Coast Railway extended through to Miami 1895; first through train 1896

Both of these ran through the future Oakland Park



Everglades drainage began with the North New River Canal off the South Fork of New River in 1906. This opened former 'glades lands for farming.

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

"THE GATEWAY TO THE EVERGLADES"



Corn Grown on Muck Land



Whidbys first known non Indian settlers in
Oakland Park area 1901

Tom and Netta Whidby at
left and others



Whidby Farm-located where
Jaco Pastorius Park is today.
Farmed tomatoes, eggplants,
onions, cabbages, pineapples,
beans etc.

Note the pine forest



Oakland Park's first known African American resident was a man named Poole—he lived in a rustic pioneer shack and occasionally worked for Whidby.

Example of a pioneer shack. NOT MR POOLE

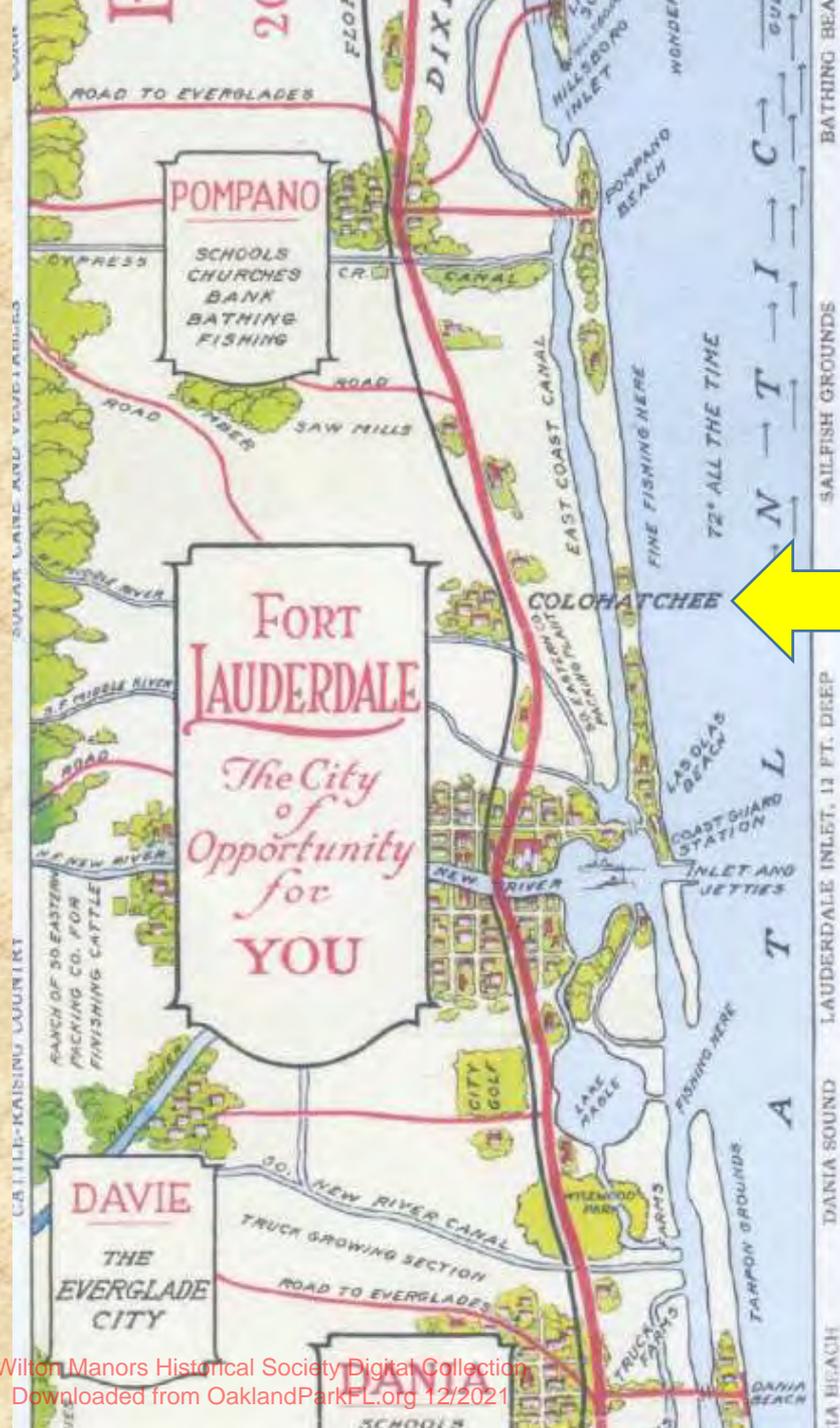




Seminoles had a camp on Cypress Creek where the Westin Hotel is now. (Robert Osceola's cypress dugout camp)

What is now Wilton Manors/ Oakland Park area becomes known as Colohatchee after 1910.

By 1914, the Prospect School opens in the future Oakland Park— location unknown





THE village of Colohatchee, located just north of Fort Lauderdale, on the Dixie Highway, is a shipping point for large quantities of produce. The beautiful scenery around Colohatchee is a delight to the eye. A small river, where bass and sergeant entice the angler, runs near the hamlet.

Picturesque palms and pines overhung with characteristic Spanish moss form as pretty a setting as one could desire.



Typical packinghouse –
probably tomatoes

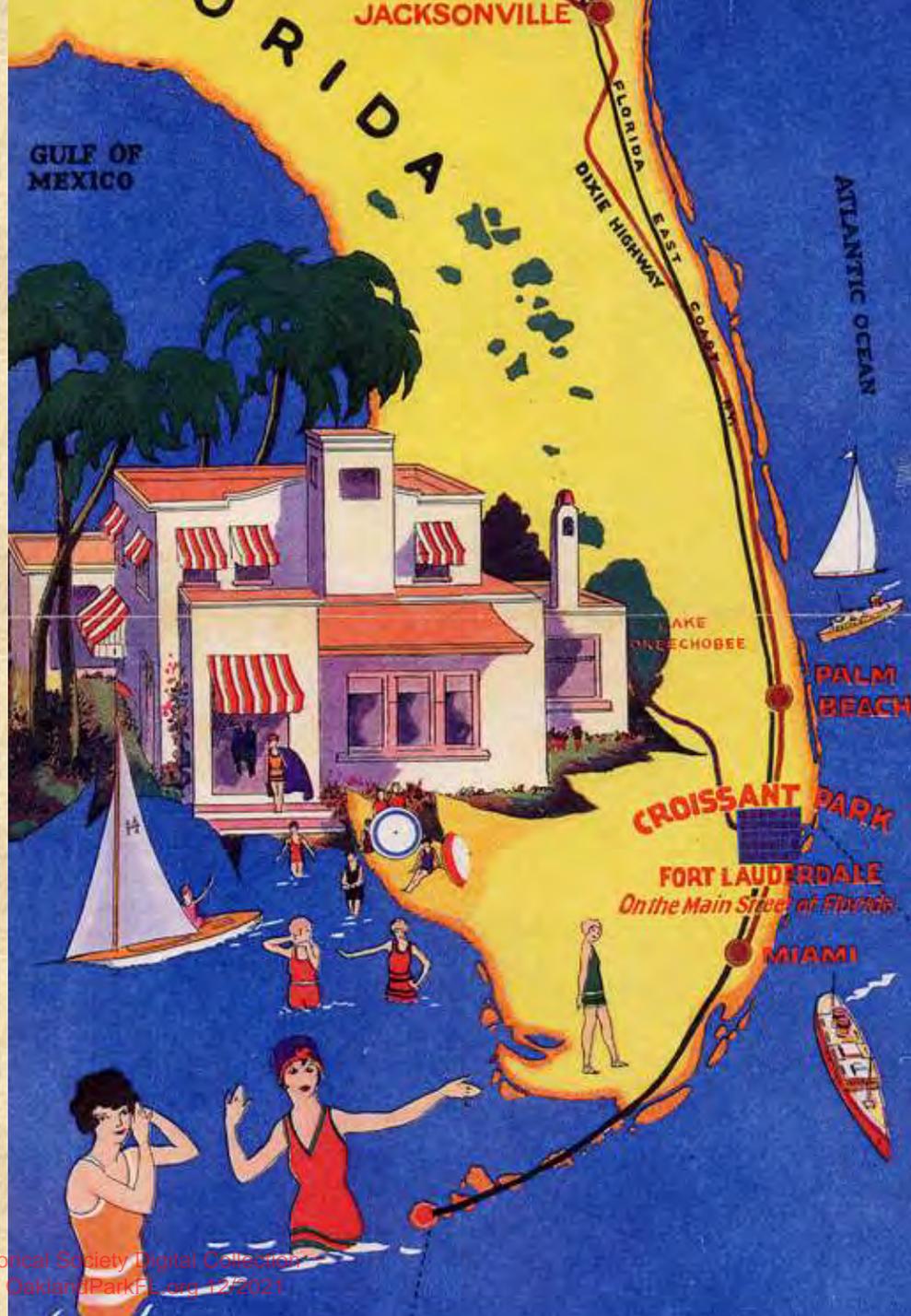


THE FLORIDA LAND BOOM of the 1920s

Real estate and
tourism replaced
farming as focus—for a
time

Beach becomes
important

*Croissant Park in Fort
Lauderdale is typical*



1922 2 important events happen

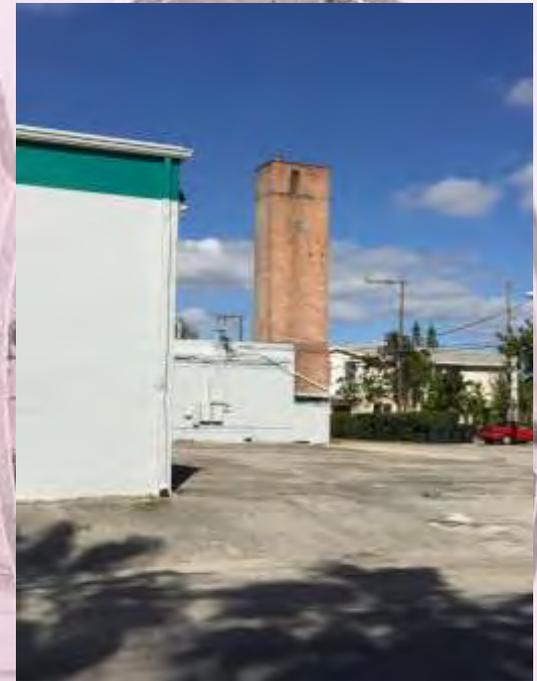


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The Woman's Club of Colohatchee is very active and enterprising in the upbuilding and welfare of their village.

A large amount of development and improvement work has been completed near Colohatchee.



1922 Southeastern Packing Co. opens on present NE 12th Terrace. It provides O.P. with electricity.

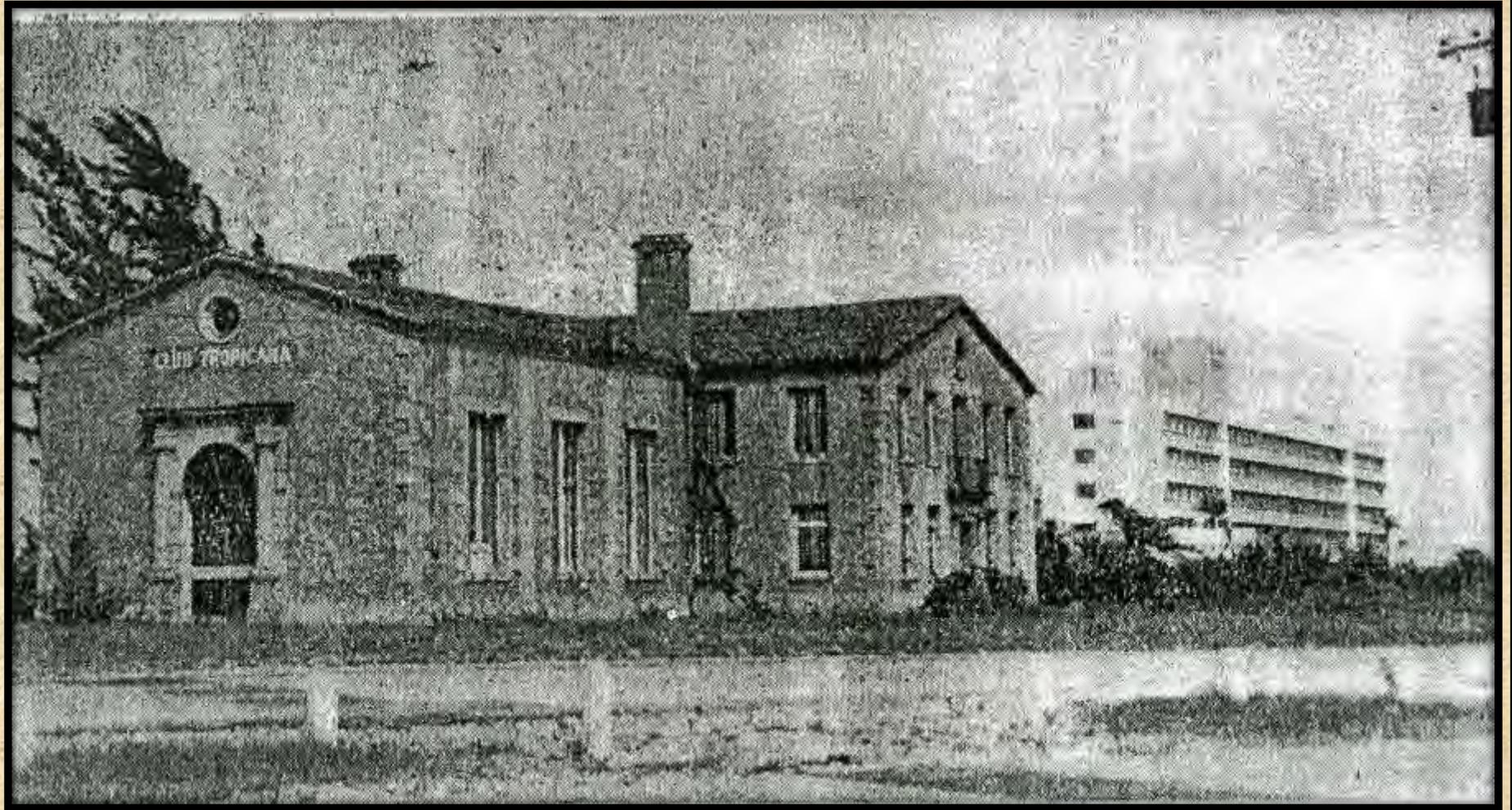
Barbeque sponsored by the two companies near intersection of Dixie Hwy and current OP Blvd 1923



1922 Barkdull Investment Company lays out a new development along north fork of Middle River east of Dixie to be called Oakland Park
At right—actual oaks of Oakland Park on north fork



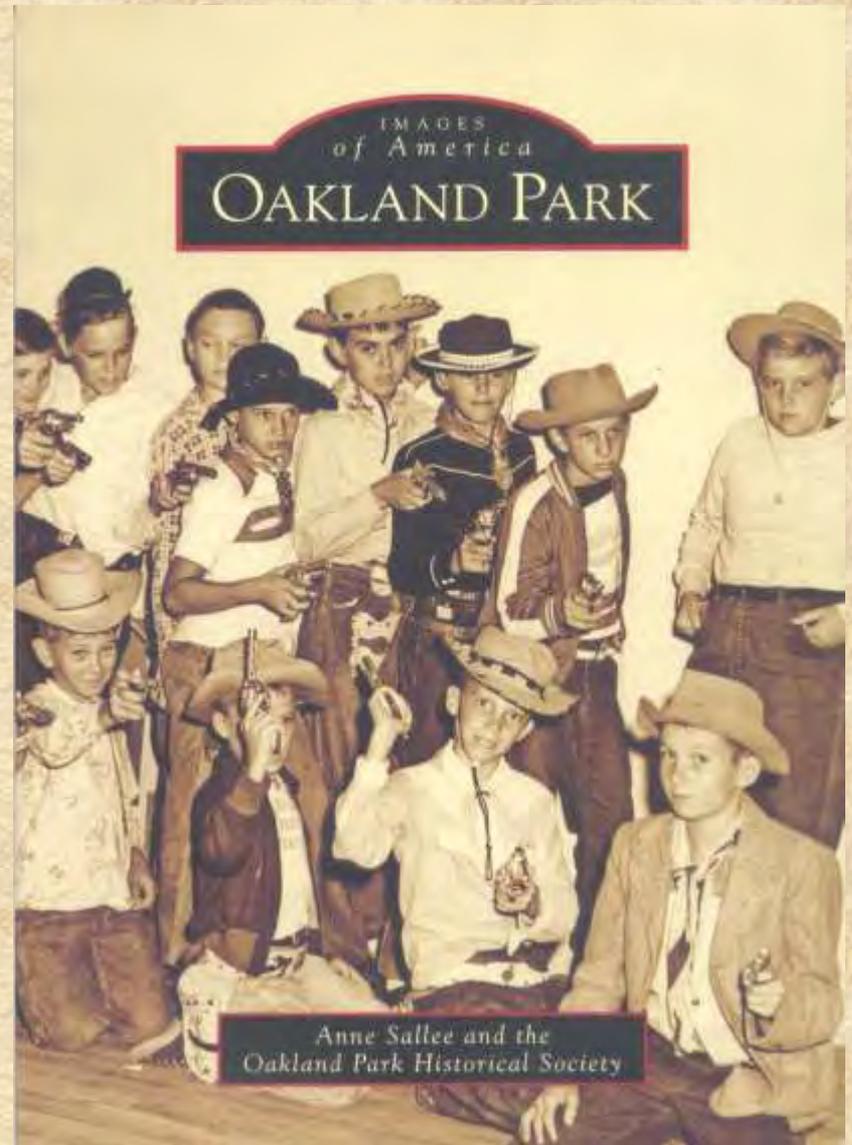
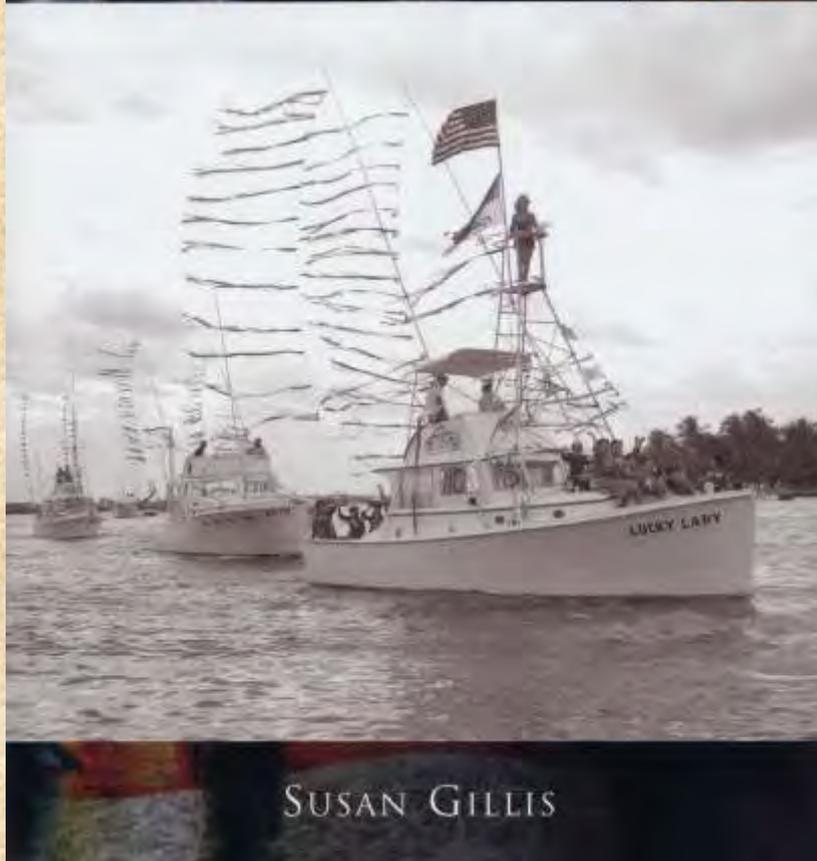
People gather along Dixie Highway near future
Oakland Park Blvd for the barbeque, 1923.



Floranada Administration Building with marble floors, mahogany doors etc. –never completed—stood at the northwest corner of Floranada Rd and Federal. After Floranada, it briefly became a bar but closed soon after. Demolished ca. 1961.



Florida East Coast freight depot near present city hall



To find out more...

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