

keep the cattle awake. On another occasion, when the Edison Light Golden Jubilee was being celebrated, a severe storm damaged the local power plant and the celebrants dined by candlelight. Edison Memorial Day is celebrated annually in Fort Myers on February 11, the inventor's birthday.

Shortly after Edison had established his Fort Myers home, Henry Ford bought an estate adjoining that of his friend. The FORD ESTATE, 2200 McGregor Blvd., is enclosed, like its neighbor, with a high picket fence; the unpretentious house is hidden from view. Ford soon joined Firestone and Edison in forwarding the experiments of the Edison Botanical Research Corporation (*see above*), and spent a great deal of time at the old Hendry home, near LaBelle (*see Tour 13*), where he liked to take long walks, accompanied by his secretary. One of Edison's most treasured gifts was an early Model T car given him by Henry Ford. In his later years Edison could often be seen driving through the streets of Fort Myers in this museum piece, with its great shiny brass headlights and high buggy top.

On First St. are the MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM, seating 600, and EVANS PARK (*shuffleboard, roque, and tennis courts; swimming pool; chess pavilion*). The POST OFFICE, W. First St., a two-story reinforced concrete building of modified Spanish style, was built in 1932. Across the front runs an open loggia with 8 massive stone columns; at each end are enclosed lobbies finished in polychrome. Mangrove seeds occasionally sprout from fissures in the porous limestone of columns and facings.

In TERRY PARK, E. First St. and Tarpon Ave., products of the surrounding counties are exhibited at the Southwest Florida Fair, held here annually in February.

Fort Myers is at the junction with State 25 (*see Tour 13*).

Section d. FORT MYERS to NAPLES; 34.8 m. US 41

South of FORT MYERS, 0 m., is the FORT MYERS GROVES (L), 5.2 m., extending 2 miles along the highway and bordered with red hibiscus; it is a co-operative enterprise in the cultivation of oranges and grapefruit.

ESTERO (Sp., estuary), 14 m. (300 pop.), is the capital of KORESHAN UNITY, a religious co-operative community established here in 1804 by Cyrus R. Teed. At the general store (L) members of the cult obtain food by presenting requisitions from the colony's secretary. In the large yellow frame building (R) is the printing plant; a weekly paper, a monthly magazine, and a score of tracts and books on Koreshanity are published. That the universe is within the earth, the flesh is immortal through reincarnation, and perfection will be reached when the sexes blend into one everlasting human entity are tenets of this faith.

When the community was founded, Teed told his followers that within a few years 10,000,000 true believers would come here; accordingly, streets were cut through the pine woods, and business and residential sections were plotted. Evidence of this early planning can still be seen in the surrounding woods.

Because Teed had convinced his followers that he was immortal, on his

death his body was placed on a cypress plank and laid on the banks of the Estero River. For several weeks his disciples awaited a triumphal reincarnation. It finally became necessary to place the remains in a bathtub. Soon a hurricane swept the bathtub away, and no trace of it or the body was ever found. The plank, however, was found unmoved on the spot where it had served as a bier, and this was enough to restore the faith of the sect. Koreshans practice celibacy; men and women occupy separate living quarters. Growth of the sect depends on obtaining new recruits, who are required to turn over to the community all their worldly possessions, which are not returned if they withdraw.

The Unity produces some of the finest citrus fruit and truck vegetables in the State, and has an excellent nursery; bamboo 80 feet tall is grown here. In the KORESHAN UNITY ART HALL (*open*) are paintings by various artists, including some by Douglass Teed, son of the founder of the colony.

BONITA SPRINGS, (Sp., good little springs), 20.9 m. (315 pop.), occupies high ground well adapted to fruit culture. There is good fishing in the deep IMPERIAL RIVER; on the Gulf beach near by are many varieties of shells.

NAPLES, 34.8 m. (390 pop.), was named for the Italian city and planned as a winter resort as early as 1887, when this part of the State was isolated and all mail and supplies had to be brought from Fort Myers by boat. A frame hotel and a few cottages were built, but the resort's growth was retarded by lack of transportation. The construction of the railroad and the Tamiami Trail led to the building of a large tourist hotel and numerous cottages along the 7-mile stretch of white beach. General W.N. Haldeman, former publisher of the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, and 'Marse' Henry Watterson, Kentucky journalist, were among the first settlers in Naples and aided in its development.

The FISHING PIER (*free*) extends more than 1,000 feet into the Gulf; almost every kind of salt-water fish is caught in these waters. A large shell mound at the south end of town, near GORDON'S PASS, has been partly excavated. The KEEWAYDEN OUTDOOR SCHOOL, for boys and girls, is on KEEWAYDEN KEY (*boats at Naples*), an island approximately a mile long and separated from the mainland by a 50-yard channel.

Naples is at the junction with US 94 (*see Tour 5*).

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