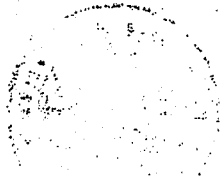


The American Eagle:
A Unique Florida Weekly Newspaper

By
KENNETH EDWIN ANDERSON



A THESIS PRESENTED TO THE GRADUATE COUNCIL OF
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PREFACE

... so from the heat of ... political strife has been hatched The American Eagle, full-fledged and strong of beak. His flight is lofty, --no place, though high, escapes his keen, far-seeing eye. From time immemorial the eagle has been the symbol of liberty from the thraldom of the oppressor's yoke, therefore The American Eagle--friend of the downtrodden and oppressed--is an adversary to be reckoned with by those who "are thirsting for power" and dominion over others.¹

¹Lead Editorial, The American Eagle, June 7, 1906.

Abstract of Thesis Presented to the Graduate Council
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Arts in Journalism and Communications

THE AMERICAN EAGLE:
A UNIQUE FLORIDA WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

By

Kenneth Edwin Anderson

August, 1970

Chairman: Dr. Harry H. Griggs
Major Department: College of Journalism and Communications

Just prior to the turn of the century there appeared on the lower West Coast of Florida a group of pioneers who intended to found a Utopian community based on a "religious and fraternal commonwealth." These people--The Koreshan Unity--in 1906 founded a weekly, secular, political newspaper of the highest quality, which through the years has rendered great service to the people of the State of Florida by defending their civil liberties and recording in a scientific fashion the agricultural and horticultural potential of the State.

There have been four eras in the history of The American Eagle-- political, agricultural, horticultural and the conservation of natural resources. During these periods the Eagle enjoyed the services of three competent, imaginative, and innovative editors, aided by the external influence of a world-renowned scientist. The author's study of the half-century history of The American Eagle shows that this paper has made valuable and concrete contributions to the history of Florida and is worthy of being recorded as part of the history of journalism in this State.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

This paper was written to record the history of The American Eagle, a small weekly newspaper published in Estero, Florida, since 1906. It is the author's belief that this newspaper has been unique among small country weeklies in the State of Florida. It was founded by a man who gained international attention for his unorthodox scientific beliefs and unusual religious attitudes, a man who was hailed as a prophet by his followers and a charlatan by his enemies. It was begun as a corporate venture by The Koreshan Unity, Incorporated, "A Religious and Fraternal Commonwealth," to combat an unhealthy political situation in its home county. From its first issue it displayed typographical innovations not found in the large metropolitan newspapers of Florida until years later. A half-century ago The American Eagle was fighting for honesty in public office, for a two-party system of politics, for government "in the sunshine," for good roads, for a fence law to make Florida's highways safer and for the conservation of natural resources. These fights sometimes became physical. The founder of the Koreshan Unity was severely beaten while the town marshal stood by and watched and the first editor was physically assaulted by the chairman of the county commission. But today, these causes, championed by The American Eagle, are written into the laws of the State of Florida.

Once The American Eagle considered its political battles won it turned its attention to the agriculture of the State, following the

trend to farming in Florida that was the major industry of the day.

Later, The American Eagle turned from agriculture to horticulture, particularly that of tropical plants that would thrive in the sub-tropic climate of Florida and add both to the beauty and economy of the State. During this period it enjoyed an international circulation as a horticultural journal and won a national award for its coverage. It also became a vehicle for historians of the early Spanish expeditions to Florida, and long, historical accounts of the early explorations of the Spaniards were serialized on its pages.

After forty-three years of weekly publication, internal disputes, old age, a shortage of funds and a mysterious fire brought The American Eagle to a temporary halt. Following a hiatus of nearly sixteen years, publication was resumed, much in the same format, except that now the forte of The American Eagle is the conservation of natural resources.

The author had a two-fold interest in attempting to record the history of the Eagle. First, there have been several pamphlets, books and theses written about the Koreshan Unity or its founder or its practices, but the Eagle itself has never been examined. Even now early editions are hard to find and soon there may be too few left for research purposes. The present editor of the Eagle is no longer young, and from her long association with the Eagle, is an invaluable source of information. It is the author's belief that The American Eagle represents an important item in the history of journalism in Florida and one that should wait no longer to be examined. Secondly, the author had personal knowledge of the Eagle from having been raised in Fort Myers, the largest town near Estero. His stepfather was a regular subscriber a quarter of a century ago, and when the author was a small

boy he would often accompany his stepfather to the Koreshan Unity to purchase plants or trees for their home garden.

The author began his study of the Eagle by reading what material was available to determine what he should look for, and if there were any significant eras during the lifespan of the Eagle that would call for close scrutiny. One excellent source was the autobiography of Allen H. Andrews, who for forty-two years was editor of the Eagle. A search of the "morgue" at the St. Petersburg Times turned up several valuable items. Among these was a copy of the original catalog of the "College of Life" founded by the Koreshans even before they moved to Estero. Also at the Times, was a magazine article published in its October 20, 1968, edition, and an unpublished historical account of the Unity in Florida which the Times had purchased from a free-lance writer but had never published. Also in the Times file was a 1954 newspaper article on the history of the Unity written by the present editor of the Eagle. A master's thesis written in 1928 on the economic aspects of the Unity was found in the Research Library of the University of Florida. From this background material it was determined that there were four significant eras in the history of the Eagle:

- 1) The early years. The founding of the Eagle as a political newspaper in 1906 and its gradual transition, completed about 1911, to an agricultural paper.

- 2) The Nehrling years. The influence exerted by Dr. Henry Nehrling, a botanist, and the change, in 1921, to a "Horticultural Review" to the ouster, in 1948, of the original editor, Allen H. Andrews.

3) The Bubbett era. The demise of the Eagle under its last editor (through no fault of his) as a weekly newspaper.

4) The "new" Eagle. The resumption of publication in 1965 of the Eagle as a monthly conservation newspaper.

In order to study carefully the changes that took place within these eras a careful examination was made of each issue of the Eagle for a period of three months preceding and three months following each change. In addition, a superficial study was made of all issues of the Eagle that are currently available, from 1906 through June, 1970.

It was decided to use a methodology that would analyse both content and description of the Eagle. A recording device was developed that would do this in four areas. It was pretested on a three-month group of Eagles taken from the stacks at Hume Library. When it was found to be workable, it was applied to the three-month groupings described above. Reliability was tested by having another coder apply the recording device to some of the same issues as did the author. The results were compared afterwards and found to be the same.

The four areas the recording device was divided into included first a space to record the name of the editor, the date, volume and issue number, the makeup and physical appearance, the paper stock used, the type used, the headline style used, the number of pages and their size, and the equipment used to print that particular edition. This last item was determined from a description of the equipment printed in the first issue, mention of later additions or changes in equipment in the autobiography of one of the editors and a personal interview with the present editor.

Secondly, categories were provided for recording what type of news

was presented in that particular issue. For the purposes of this study, "news" was considered to be any item of general interest addressed to the public at large and appearing anywhere in the paper except on page two, which was reserved for editorials wherein the editor spoke directly, or was not clearly labeled an advertisement. The categories included political, horticultural (defined here as pertaining to the growing of flora for ornamental or other purposes of esthetic enjoyment or individual use), agricultural (defined here as the growing of flora as cash crops on a large scale for sale), scientific (defined here as the reportage of any form of scientific information except that related to horticulture or agriculture), religious (the mention of anything pertaining to any religious tenet, sect or denomination), conservation (any item pertaining to the conservation of natural resources), general (any item not falling into one of the above categories such as births, deaths, marriages, crime, etc.), and "other." Each item in this category was identified specifically if it did not fall into one of the other categories, such as a book review or travel feature. These categories were then cross-indexed as to their origin and source: international, national, state, local, Koreshan Unity and Koreshan Unity inflammatory. This last was added because at the outset the paper espoused political beliefs not popular with the power structure of the community and strongly expressed its own views in its columns.

The third portion of the device was identical to the part used for news and was used to record editorial content. Editorial content was considered to be any item appearing on page two (except in two cases when a signed and labeled editorial appeared on page one and a clearly labeled news wrap-up column appeared on page two). These were

particular issue, such as the use of color, the appearance or disappearance of a column, or other physical or editorial changes that might not have been recorded elsewhere.

The information was transcribed directly from issues of the Eagle located in the Hume Library and in the files of the Koreshan Unity at Estero. It was transferred to five by eight cards that were arranged in chronological order. Any issue that contained a major editorial or format change was "flagged" with a metal clip to call special attention to that issue. Issues that displayed a new or different type style were photographed and then enlarged back to the original dimensions and brought to the College of Journalism for verification of the typographical elements.

A few issues of the Eagle are recorded on microfilm in the P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History. The Hume Library has original copies of the Eagle from 1922 through 1949. The early issues remain in the Art Hall, the museum of the Koreshan Unity at Estero. Negotiations were begun in May, 1969, with the present editor of the Eagle, Miss Hedwig Michel, for permission to study the Eagle and to examine the files. This was granted and in June, 1970, the author went to Estero and examined the copies of the Eagle there and interviewed Miss Michel. The information obtained from these interviews and in later correspondence with Miss Michel was also placed on cards in its chronological position together with the information obtained from the other bibliographic sources.

FIGURE I: RECORDING DEVICE

Editor: _____ Date: _____ Vol. _____ Issue: _____ Ser. No. _____

Name: _____ Pages _____

Motto: _____ Sizes _____

Makeup and Physical Appearance: Half-tones yes--no Paper stock _____

Heads: type style _____ size _____ (est if on film)

(circle one or more) multi-line, multi-deck, up, down, mod. up/down, heads

for each item, trend to wrap-up, single col., multi-col., tombstones

was makeup open? grey? trend this issue to: horizontal, vertical

This issue printed: hand-set, hand press, machine set, hand press, sheet/web

offset, letterpress. Circulation this issue (if known) _____

News:	Political	Hort.	Ag.	Sci.	Rel.	Consv.	Gen.	Other (specify)
Int.								
Nat.								
STA.								
LOC								
KU								
KUL								

EDIT.								
INT								
NAT								
STA								
LOC								
KU								
KUL								

(NOTE: In above tabulation "I" refers to items carried individually, "W" to items carried in wrap-up.)

FIGURE II: RECORDING DEVICE

ADS: TOTAL KU THIS ISSUE _____ TOTAL OUTSIDE THIS ISSUE _____ GR. TOTAL _____

KU

OUTSIDE

PUBLICATIONS _____
 PU. CLUBS _____
 LAND OR INVEST. _____
 PLANTS OR GARDEN PRODUCE _____
 CONCERTS OR TOURS _____
 GEN. MCDSE. _____
 POLITICAL _____
 TRANSPORTATION _____
 EDUCATION _____
 CONVERTS _____
 SCIENTIFIC _____
 OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

LEGAL _____
 PUBLICATIONS _____
 PUB CLUBS _____
 REAL ESTATE _____
 PRODUCE OR CROPS _____
 POLITICAL _____
 RETAIL BUS. _____
 SERVICES, GEN. _____
 SERVICES, PROF. _____
 RESORTS _____
 HOTELS _____
 RESTAURANTS _____
 TOURIST ATTRACTIONS _____
 FINANCIAL _____
 TRANSPORTATION _____
 OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

REMARKS OR COMMENTS ON THIS ISSUE:

CHAPTER TWO
THE KORESHAN UNITY

This is properly the story of The American Eagle, but to understand how, and why, the Eagle was founded and its original mission, some background knowledge of the people and events is essential.

The decision to found the Eagle as a weekly political newspaper was made by the board of directors of the Koreshan Unity, Incorporated, under the leadership of Dr. Cyrus Reed Teed.¹

Dr. Teed, who called himself "Koresh" was the founder of Koreshanity, which he said, would replace Christianity as Christianity had replaced the Judaism of the Old Testament. "Koresh," he claimed, was the Hebraic translation of Cyrus.² His teachings included not only the religious ones of Koreshanity but also economic and scientific principles. He espoused a belief in the cellular nature of the universe and was able to convince many that the universe was one great cell. What we know as the world is, according to Koresh, a hollow sphere, with the Sun as an electro-magnetic storage battery with a light side and a dark side. In other words, Koresh taught that we live on the inside of a concave sphere, not on the outside of a convex one.³

¹Hedwig Michel, Personal Letter, July 15, 1970.

²Hedwig Michel, "Koreshan Unity Religious Center Now at Estero," Fort Myers News-Press, Feb. 17, 1954, p. 19.

³Cyrus Reed Teed, The Cellular Cosmogony (Estero: Koreshan Unity, reprinted in 1951).



*In the name of Humanity,
Korash, V
(Cyrus R. Teed.)*

FIGURE III

DR. CYRUS REED TEED

FOUNDER OF THE KORESHAN UNITY

to Koreshanity and presented to Koresh and the Unity a tract of land he had homesteaded on the Estero River in South Florida. Plans were made to move the Unity, the Guiding Star Publishing House and the College of Life from Chicago to Florida, but it was not until 1903 that the last of the Koreshans and equipment arrived.⁷

At first, the land at Estero did represent an "Eden" to the pioneers, the soil was rich and fertile, the winter climate was mild and the river and bays teemed with fish, turtles and oysters. But the pioneers had no homes to live in at first, the land had to be cleared of palmettos and other undergrowth and the tropic nights brought swarms of mosquitos.⁸

Log houses were built at first, and then more permanent frame buildings were constructed as the printing equipment and other accouterments arrived from Chicago. There were no roads or railroads that far south then, so supplies were shipped by rail to Punta Gorda, then transshipped by sailboat or steamer for the last 100 miles of the journey.⁹

However, Teed did not allow the lack of facilities to interfere with the amenities of the College of Life. Even before the Koreshans had buildings to live in, they built a bandstand on the banks of the Estero River and in the evenings would present band concerts, symphonies and plays.¹⁰ The students also constructed stone fountains and hand-

⁷Hedwig Michel, "A Gift to the People" (Estero: The Koreshan Unity, n.d.).

⁸Allen H. Andrews, A Yank Pioneer in Florida (Jacksonville: Douglas Printing Company, 1950), pp. 8-12.

⁹Allen H. Andrews, "How the Eagle Was Hatched," The American Eagle, Jan. 15, 1948, p. 2.

¹⁰Hedwig Michel, Personal Interview, June 25, 1970.

carved stone statuary to be placed about the grounds. Others attended classes offered in the college catalog. An early edition lists the following courses offered:

Trades

House Building and Boat Building
 Elements of Architecture and Mechanical Drawing
 Pattern Making and Wood Turning
 Mechanical Department
 Electrical Department
 Stone Construction Department
 Wood Carving Department
 Fine Cabinet Work
 Art Printing Department
 Power Press Department
 Tinsmith Department
 Surveying and Engineering Department
 Agricultural Department
 Apiary Department
 Baking Directress
 Commercial Department

Music Department

Orchestra and Band Leadership
 Harmony and Composition
 The Use of Wind Instruments
 Violin
 Piano
 Clarinet

Art Department

Instruction in Drawing
 Interesting Chalk Talks on Art

The Lecture Courses

Cosmogony
 Osteopathy
 Dentistry
 History and Ethnology
 Higher Mathematics from the Koreshan Standpoint¹¹

¹¹The Pioneer University of Koreshan Universology (Esterio: The Koreshan University System, n.d.).

The other residents of Lee County at the time, with no roads or means of communication, much less good schools, might have resented these ambitious newcomers who sought to establish a university before they even had homes to live in.¹² In 1897 Teed had constructed his "rectilineator," a massive, brass and mahogany surveying instrument which was set up on the beach at Naples, and a Koreshan surveying party "proved" from their sightings and computations that the earth was indeed a hollow sphere.¹³

One of the early tenets of Koreshanity was that all real property and goods be held in common ownership for the good of all. Each would share according to his needs. At the outset also, celibacy was encouraged for the members. Husbands and wives who joined were encouraged to live apart and their children became the children of the community.¹⁴

Thus did their beliefs tend to set them apart from their neighbors in the rural South just after the turn of the century. Rumors began to circulate that Koresh was a charlatan who was trying to bilk investors out of their life's savings. In 1907 the Tallahassee Sun claimed: "Teed is not the first rascal who has made religion a cloak for his designs against the property and personal liberty of others."¹⁵ Some of these rumors grew out of the early experiences of the pioneers. In the winter of 1897 many were reduced to a few handfuls of meal a day

¹²Belje Scriven Ridgely, "The Park the Koreshans Gave," manuscript written for the St. Petersburg Times, but never published, n.d.

¹³Michel, "A Gift to the People."

¹⁴Ridgely.

¹⁵Elizabeth Whitney, "Koreshan," Floridian Sunday magazine section of The St. Petersburg Times, Oct. 20, 1968.

and a cup of milk, when more colonists flocked down than the facilities available could provide for.¹⁶

But by 1906, the greatest apparent antagonist of the Koreshans was a man who considered himself the head of the local power structure in Fort Myers, Philip Isaacs.

Isaacs did occupy a unique position in a small town. He was chairman of the county Democratic Committee, county judge, and probably most important of all, editor of the local paper.

Friction between the Koreshans and the townspeople who supported Isaacs came to a head during the Spring Democratic primary of 1906. The Koreshans desired to register to vote, and to vote, for under the more or less one party system of politics in Florida at that time, winning the Democratic primary was tantamount to being elected. Isaacs, in his position as local party chairman was in a position to make the rules. He decreed that in order for a voter to register as a Democrat, he would have to swear he had voted a straight Democratic ticket in past elections. This automatically disqualified the Koreshans, for they had voted Democrat, except for the office of president. There, they claimed, they had bolted the party and voted for Theodore Roosevelt as the man they felt most qualified for the job.¹⁷ This gave Isaacs the perfect excuse to refuse to register them, and when they insisted on voting in their precinct anyway, he had their votes thrown out.

Open quarrels broke out. Isaacs claimed Dr. Teed gave him a bad check

¹⁶"Sad Lot of Those in Teed's 'Unheavenly' Heaven," Pittsburgh Daily News, May 19, 1897.

¹⁷Andrews, Eagle, January 15, 1948, p. 2.

and had the sheriff follow Teed back to Estero and arrest him. When Teed was brought to Fort Myers, Isaacs dropped the charges, had the sheriff release Teed and permitted him to walk the sixteen miles back to Estero.¹⁸ On another occasion, a Koreshan went to a Fort Myers hotel to inquire after a guest, the lady proprietor misunderstood him and a rumor spread the man had insulted her. On his next trip to town Teed was attacked and beaten and a group of Koreshan boys were attacked and had their clothing ruined when their baggage was broken open and scattered on the ground. During the course of the fight, the town marshal stood by and watched as Teed, then 67 years old, and the local candidate for the Progressive Liberty Party were severely beaten.¹⁹

To the Koreshans, who had a fully equipped printing plant at their disposal, there was only one solution; start a newspaper and carry their side of the story to the people.

¹⁸The American Eagle, Oct. 18, 1906.

¹⁹The American Eagle, Oct. 25, 1906.

CHAPTER THREE

THE BIRTH OF THE EAGLE

Since the Koreshan Unity print shop was already publishing The Plowshare and Pruning Hook and The Flaming Sword, Dr. Teed did not have much difficulty in establishing a third publication. The Eagle was founded as a secular, political newspaper and its area of coverage was not designed to overlap that of the two earlier periodicals.¹ To staff the new paper Teed drew from the members of the community at Estero. Evelyn Bubbett remained in her position as manager of the Guiding Star Publishing House and her husband James, was what today would be considered the mechanical superintendent, or, the man in charge of the back shop. The printer was Jesse Putnam and a young man named Allen H. Andrews was named editor. The paper was to be printed and published according to plans set forth by Dr. Teed.² In addition, there were four or five women employed as compositors who set the type by hand and then distributed it back into the job cases when the paper was printed.³

¹Michel, Personal Interview, June 25, 1970.

²Ibid.

³Allen H. Andrews, A Yank Pioneer in Florida (Jacksonville: The Douglas Printing Company, 1950), p. 69.

One account states that Bubbett was the only professional printer supervising the work,⁴ but Andrews later claimed prior experience as a printer, but not an editor.

Any history of the Eagle would hardly be complete without the inclusion of at least a part of the biography of Allen Harmon Andrews. He was to retain the editorship for forty-two years, and while the directors of the Koreshan Unity maintain the Eagle was always a corporate project of the Unity, there are those who claim that in later years Andrews treated the Eagle as his personal fief and there were many in South Florida to whom the Eagle was Andrews.

Andrews was born on February 2, 1873,⁵ in Binghamton, New York, the son of a physician and surgeon. His father wanted him to study medicine and join him in his practice, but while Andrews was in high school he became interested in a school paper published by a friend, called The Eagle--although Andrews said the later naming of The American Eagle was coincidence and was in no way related. Andrews wanted his father to set him up in the printing business. The doctor agreed, but only if Andrews learned something about the trade first. He first purchased a small card press but soon found his first impressions came out reversed since he did not know that the type had to be set as a mirror image. Next he made the rounds of the local print shops and was "hired" as an unpaid apprentice by a weekly prohibition paper called The Axe. This

⁴Michel, Personal Letter, July 1, 1970.

⁵Andrews, Yank, p. 188.

FIGURE IV

ALLEN H. ANDREWS

FIRST EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN EAGLE



FIGURE V

VOLUME I, NUMBER 2

TYPICAL EARLY FRONT PAGE UNDER ANDREWS

The American Eagle

Riches and Poverty Come where the Commonwealth Reigns.

Vol. L

ESTERO, FLA., JUNE 14, 1906

No. 2.

Decadence of the Ballot

The perpetuity of a government for the people, of the people, and by the people, has always been supposed to rest upon the popular voice through the ballot.

The *New Orleans Picayune* a few days ago printed a list of eleven southern states that have 94.67 per cent of the population of the entire country, but only cast 10.25 per cent of the vote of the country in 1904. These states are among the group known as the "Solid South," they are solid Democratic.

The *Times-Union* in commenting on this great shrinkage in the southern vote, has this to say: "This neglect of the ballot is mainly due to the fact that the real fight for office in the south is in the nominating primaries, and that in the formal election the Democratic candidates are certain of winning."

We would like to state the case in more forcible terms if possible. In the states where but one party fills the public offices with its candidates, the so-called candidates in the primaries are in reality nominees for election, as they are elected to the office at that time, the final or formal election being a farce and a travesty on the ballot system. Each year finds the number of respectable citizens increasing who will no longer take part in politics, because they see the futility of doing so under the system that obtains for the choosing of public officers.

The primary run in the interest of the solid party has degenerated to such a level that it is within the power of its manipulators, through the state laws made by them, to so gag and throttle the people in their strictures of qualification, that only those may participate who will obey the behests of the ring and the boss who are in power. Such a condition has this state of affairs reached, that when a man announces himself, or permits his name to be used in connection with a public office, he is immediately looked upon with suspicion, and if he has no stolen goods on him at the time, he is given credit for having designs upon them; for why should a man seek public office if it is not for private gain, inasmuch as in private life he and all others "look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter?"

Men buy and sell each other so literally in private life through the commodity or wage system, that it is thoroughly consistent and legitimate to permit and expect the same in public life. That every man has his price is the logical outcome of modern business methods as applied to politics. So thoroughly and insidiously has this cancer of selfishness the malupring of which is the love of money, the root of all evil, eaten itself into the heart of the American Nation, that the precautionary injunction of Jefferson, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," is practically nil. We believe that there lies inherent in the American people a spirit of independence, which if suitably aroused will strike again to the ground that subtle foe of liberty, taxation without representation, which is becoming so

manifest throughout the solid South in the decline of the ballot.

The good citizen who has lost all faith in expecting any representation, and the independent and minor parties who are without any representation, must unite and set an example in Lee County by putting a full ticket in the field to be on equal terms for selection by the electors on the day of general election.—W. Russ Wallace.

The objection urged by the Democratic County Chairman that the Estero electors vote as a unit, leads us to the question: If it is wrong to vote as a unit, how should a precinct split its vote, and what proportion should go to each candidate? We are perhaps somewhat dull on the ethics of correct voting, and earnestly seek enlightenment. Let the worthy Chairman answer.

THE AMERICAN EAGLE may be found on sale each week at W. W. Stone's news and jewelry store (Washington's old stand), Fort Myers. Mr. Stone is also authorized to take subscriptions.

Big Show Coming

We are pleased to announce the advent in this section of the great Lee County Democratic Circus. They will perform during the entire heated term, terminating the season's engagement in November. This circus, while a one-ring affair, nevertheless has many marvelous attractions, chief among which is the performance of "Jack" the celebrated Democratic "trick donkey," under the able management of his trainer, Herr Isaac. So clever is this wonderful little animal that no one has yet been found who could ride him without full consent of his trainer, the least sign from whom serves to send the unfortunate rider sprawling in the dust.

"Jack" also, under the excellent instruction of his master, has learned to spell in a wondrous manner. This he accomplishes by manipulating and arranging little pieces of printed paper in such manner as to spell the desired word. While his performance is confined mainly to words of the primary

Who is the Ananias?

Mr. W. S. Poppie comes out in a denial in the *Press* of June 7, as follows: Estero, Fla., June 2, 1906. Mr. Phillip Isaacs,

Editor Fort Myers Press.
Dear Sir:—The party or parties who states I did not vote for Parker on Nov. 8th, 1904, tells an unmitigated falsehood, and the truth is not in him. Look at the official record and you will see that eleven votes were cast at Estero outside of the Koroshan Unity, and Judge Parker received eleven votes, viz: Frantr, Schaefer, Leitner, Collier, Hall, Cole, Barber, Hafner, Gomez, Cochran, and Poppie. I feel that I am still on the outside of this mundane sphere, where my brain is kept at its normal by the almost constant north-east zephyrs. We have too many constitutional lawyers who cannot discriminate between the general and the primary election laws, hence confusion results.

Respectfully, W. S. Poppie.
As to Mr. Poppie not having voted for Parker being an unmitigated falsehood and the party an unmitigated liar, we leave the appended statement of witnesses, under oath, to locate the source of the report and the chief Ananias. Why Mr. Poppie desires to thus advertise himself as the creator and peddler of an unmitigated falsehood and that the truth is not in him, we cannot tell. This we are certain of, we thought he was telling the truth and gave him credit for good judgment in the matter until he said differently in print.

This self-condemned member of that wonderful Executive Committee, states that eleven votes were cast for Parker outside the Koroshan Unity, and gives the names. Naturally, we would like to inquire how Mr. Poppie knows how the Koroshans voted, and how the others voted, when the ballot is a secret ballot, and it is unlawful to mark or in any way fix a ballot so it can be identified. Just what connection Mr. Poppie's being on the outside of this mundane sphere, or north-east zephyr circulating around in his brain-pan, have to do with the matter we leave him to explain. This we do know, Mr. Poppie was elected to membership on this Committee by the Koroshan vote, that the master of throwing out the said vote was up before the Committee, and it was decided to "fix up" an oath so the Koroshans could not vote. Mr. Poppie said nothing to any of the Koroshans, (his constituency) to enlighten them in any way, nor consulted with them to find out their wishes in regard to the matter. When charged with infidelity to his constituency he said, "I don't tell tails out of school."

After reading carefully the subjoined affidavit, it will be in order for Mr. Poppie to step down and out, and give some other member of that Committee a chance to come to the front.

Kollin W. Gray, on oath, before a notary public, deposes and says:

On May 16th, 1906, shortly after the dinner hour, I met Mr. Poppie at the Koroshan store. He shook hands with me and began to apologize for the way he spoke to Mr. Wallace and myself the night of the election at the polls, when he had said, "Just wait, the vote may be thrown out yet." I asked him

(Continued on Third Page.)

"HIS MASTER'S VOICE"



THE GREAT LEE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CIRCUS

Another One Nailed

Estero, Fla., June 11, 1906.
In reply to the article of "Democrat" in last issue of *The Tropical Breeze* we wish to make the following statement: He says, regarding the throwing out of the Estero vote, "A canvass of this precinct shows not one dissenting voice outside the Koroshan Unity." This we deny. If he has made such a canvass of Estero precinct we are unaware of it. We are qualified voters and not members of the Koroshan Unity. Signed: J. H. Cockrain, F. Gomez, J. Watson, P. Schaefer, Jos. Hafner.

Estero, Fla., June 12, 1906.
I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of the original document sent to *The Tropical Breeze* for publication.

A. H. Andrews,
Notary Public.
My commission expires Dec. 19, 1906.

BIGGS.—Hello, Triggs! I hear you are building a new boat. What color do you propose to paint it?

TRIGGS.—Well, as it is a sail-boat, I think I'll paint her wind blue.

class, he nevertheless spells readily such big words as "defeat," "election," etc., but his master admits that he never can learn to spell vote. He frequently gets the letters twisted some to form the word *vote* instead.

This donkey has a special aversion to the American Eagle and the Republican elephant, at the least sight of which he goes into tantrums, kicking and snorting in truly terrifying manner. He is of registered pedigree and his bray, though musical to those in the ring, grates harshly upon the ears of outsiders as he stridently bawls, "chirrating for power!" "chirrating for power!" Come one, come all, and see the marvelous stunts.

The Koroshan Unity pays as a writ enough taxes for fifty or sixty men.—Oh, joy! Such a possession for dot county treasury.

They vote as one man.—"It is unconstitutional!" We will throw their votes into the waste basket!

"There is always room at the top." We think so too, but we won't mention anybody's name.

association lasted only four weeks and then he went to work for the Binghamton Daily Republican as a printer's devil and general errand boy for \$1.50 per week. His work consisted mainly of sweeping up the "spillage"---type that had been spilled on the floor---and running errands. One task Andrews claimed he refused to perform was "rushing the growler" for carrying the typographer's beer buckets to the saloon to be filled. This job lasted for six weeks until Andrews found he was getting too far behind in his school work.⁶

This last statement in Andrews' autobiography strikes the author as being somewhat ironic, for in 1947 when this writer was a sophomore in high school and Andrews was short of help at the Eagle, he prevailed upon him to drop out of school and come to work at the Eagle to learn how to be a Linotype operator.

In the 1880's, the exact date is not known, Andrews' father sold his practice and moved to Chicago and joined with Teed in the publishing of The Plowshare and Pruning Hook. Andrews himself went to work for The Guiding Star Publishing House.⁷

In 1894 Andrews suffered a period of bad health and decided to move to Estero to join some of the Koreshans that were already pioneering in the area. He remained as a "pioneer" for five years, helping to construct the first sheds and buildings, was the "postmaster," which consisted of rowing a skiff containing the mail and supplies from Estero Island (now the city of Fort Myers Beach) across the bay and up the

⁶ Andrews, Eagle, January 22, 1948.

⁷ Ibid.

river to Estero each day, fished and gathered oysters to supplant the colonists' food supply and grubbed palmettos to clear land for the construction of the "New Jerusalem."⁸

During this period he took part in the Koreshan Geodetic Survey men, with the aid of the rectilineator, the Koreshans proved that the earth is a concave sphere. The experiment took place on land donated for that purpose by Gen. W.B. Haldeman, joint owner with Col. Henry Watterson of the Louisville Courier Journal. Two other members of the survey party were Lucius M. and Harrison Boomer, members of the Koreshan Unity and also owners of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York.⁹

After five years Andrews' eyesight began to fail and he was sent back to Chicago, but plans were being made to move the entire membership and the printing plant to Florida since high rents, coal bills and doctor bills for illnesses caused by the climate, were using up all the unity's income. Some of the Chicago people began to move down in 1902¹⁰ and on November 17, 1903, the remainder of the Chicago group left for Florida along with the printing plant. Fifteen railroad cars were required to carry the equipment and baggage. This was off-loaded onto barges and lighters at Punta Gorda, then the southern terminus of the railroad in Florida. The equipment was at first placed in storage in sheds at the mouth of the Estero River.¹¹

The print shop site was cleared of brush and palmettos, lumber cut in our sawmill and buildings constructed. A small lighter was then built for transporting machinery and equip-

⁸ Andrews, Yank, pp. 7-27.

⁹ Ibid., pp. 29-33.

¹⁰ Ibid., pp. 36-38.

¹¹ Andrews, Eagle, January 22, 1948.

ment across the mud flats in the bay and up the river. Little by little, the equipment was brought up and installed, and at length we had a print shop ready to operate.¹²

Thus the Koreshans found themselves singularly well-equipped to deal with their adversaries when they felt their civil rights had been violated and that they had been disenfranchised by Judge Isaacs. In one of his final editorials, published more than forty years later, Andrews recalled the birth of the Eagle:

... During the democratic [sic] primary of 1906 we got tangled up with the local politicians who resented a bunch of 'd---Yankees' coming down to vote in their primary, being especially incensed by the fact that we voted as a unit, which in those days of sparse population sometimes had its influence in the nomination of county officials. On the day of the primary election Estero voters were informed that they were required before voting to sign an oath to the effect that they had voted the democratic [sic] ticket, national, state and county, at the previous general election. Those who had been in Estero at the preceding election had voted the entire democratic [sic] ticket, with the one exception of the presidential nominee, Theodore Roosevelt, whom they considered a man greater than party affiliations. Those voters who had come to Estero since had naturally not been here to vote the state and county ticket of the Democratic Party. And so they got us, "A comin' and a gwine," as the saying is.

Nevertheless, we voted under protest, but our Estero vote was thrown out by the Fort Myers politicians in the subsequent official count. With no other party ticket in an overwhelmingly democratic [sic] field, it was tantamount to disenfranchisement, leaving bonafide residents with no voice in the election of those who were to levy and collect their taxes, and naturally we were furious.

The then weekly Fort Myers Press, at the time owned and edited by a man of Hebrew lineage named Isaacs, began the circulation of slanderous stories about the Estero colony which we had no voice in refuting. An indignation meeting was held in which the necessity was stressed of striking back at our traducer. With our citizen's rights assailed and with a well equipped print shop at our command, it was decided to publish an independent weekly paper, and what could have been more appropriate than to christen it The American Eagle? Although

¹² Andrews, Eagle, January 22, 1948.

I had absolutely nothing to do with the naming of this paper, it has often struck me as a coincidence that way back in my school days it was The Eagle that influenced me to a subsequent long journalistic career with a paper of that same name.

At that Estero indignation meeting arose the question as to who was to edit the new paper, and much to my consternation, the job was wished on to me, who though a printer by trade, had never written a line for publication. A timid guy at the time who would rather run than fight, I was soon precipitated into a hot political battle where I had to stand my ground from attack from all directions.¹³

From that point on, Andrews did plunge into battle, with Isaacs, with other politicians about the State, and finally with members of the Unity. One historian of the Unity says, "Teed planned the layout and his approach was very erudite. Andrews wrote the columns and believed in hot attacks. Andrews was a fighter--the members never knew what to expect next."¹⁴

Volume one, Number one, of The American Eagle appeared on June 7, 1906. The first edition gave note that this was to be no ordinary country weekly. This writer has had some experience in researching early weekly newspapers of Florida and the craftsmanship, typography and design of the Eagle are far superior to any others of the period he has seen. The Eagle was not printed on common newsprint, but on sixty to seventy-pound book-quality paper. The handset type was justified with a symmetry not accomplished with many of the mechanical typesetters in use today. The first edition ran four pages and measured eleven by seventeen inches. The front page was divided into four thirteen pica columns; page two, the editorial page, was set in three seventeen pica columns.

¹³ Andrews, Eagle, January 22, 1948.

¹⁴ Michel, Interview, June 25, 1970.

Page three, the jump page, was again set in four thirteen pica columns. Page four was divided into four columns, the two inner columns being set with body type and the two marginal columns reserved for advertising. Each column was thirteen picas wide. In the first issue all the advertising appeared in these two columns on the last page. The twenty-four ads in the first issue were all "business cards," one thirteen pica column wide and fifteen agate lines deep. One interesting note was that each ad was set in a different type, ranging from steelplate Gothic shaded, to some that appeared to be based on German script.

"It looked like a catalog of early type styles," one expert on typography has said.¹⁵ The nameplate was set in a bold-face version of seventy-two point Caslon and the main front page heads were thirty point extra condensed sans serif. Outline heads and smaller item heads were fourteen to eighteen point Caslon bold.

The author lived in Lee County, home of the Eagle, from 1937 to 1962, and during this time, became acquainted with who the old families in town were, who occupied positions of power from a financial standpoint, and who were considered the community leaders. Of these first twenty-four ads, eleven were placed by persons who would fall into the above categories. These and other community leaders continued to advertise in the Eagle for many years, which leads the author to assume that while some of the politicians of the time may have considered the Koreshans "damn Yankees," they were accepted and enjoyed a position of respect in other parts of the community.

¹⁵ Prof. Charles G. Wellborn, Jr., Personal interview, July 6, 1970. Prof. Wellborn, an expert on typography at the University of Florida, examined copies of the Eagle and verified the paper quality and type styles and sizes for the author.

The first edition of the Eagle carried two political cartoons. One on the front page, centerfold, was two columns by three-and-one-half inches. The other, the same size, was on page three, just above the centerfold. Both were very well drawn and engraved with no evidence of amateurishness. Of course both were aimed at the county Democratic Committee. The one on the front page pictured Isaacs as a schoolmaster teaching a pupil to spell "vote," "veto."

An unsigned "brief" buried on the jump page described the mechanical aspects of the Eagle:

The American Eagle is published further south than any paper on the west coast of Florida. Notwithstanding this fact, the office is one of the best equipped in the state, having a well-stocked type room and the most modern machinery obtainable. The press room contains three cylinder presses, three job presses, two power paper cutters, two folders, [book and news], a wire stitcher, numbering machine, bundling press, and roller casting outfit.

The Eagle is almost entirely our own product--even the headlines [soon to appear], cartoons and part of the actual engraving, are the product of our own artists. The type is also entirely set in this office, there being no plate matter in the publication. Altogether, we believe it will be quite an original paper.

Most of the content of the first Eagle was political; the lead editorial of the first issue set the tone:

OUR INITIAL SCREAM

As heat is one of the necessary factors in incubation, so from out of the heat of the recent political strife has been hatched The American Eagle, full-fledged and strong of beak. His flight is lofty,--no place, though high, escapes his keen, far-seeing eye. From time immemorial the eagle has been the symbol of liberty from the thralldom of the oppressor's yoke, therefore The American Eagle--friend of the downtrodden and oppressed--is an adversary to be reckoned with by those who "are thirsting for power" and dominion over others.

Neither Andrews nor Teed, who wrote some of the editorials and signed them Koresh, hesitated to directly attack Isaacs at every opportunity.

Teed referred to him as, "Judge (and Jew-ry)," and, "Fill-up Isaacs! Name implies a vacancy somewhere, does it not?"¹⁶

In the first issue general news was carried in a wrap-up column on the back page, entitled, "The Week's News Boiled Down." This was to become a regular feature of the Eagle, and the following week the column got a signature which consisted of a picture of a black iron wash pot bubbling away over an open fire, a "sig" that is still in use today. The column is a true condensation of international, national, state and local news, with a descriptive sentence or two devoted to each item.

The second paragraph of the first editorial proclaimed, "The muck rake is abroad in the land," and the first item in the wrap-up read, "Upton Sinclair urges President Roosevelt to make public the investigations concerning the Chicago meatpacker's industry." In the fourth issue, the Eagle favorably reviewed The Jungle, Sinclair's expose of the meatpacking industry, and each of the early issues made some mention of the issue, and thus the Eagle joined the ranks of the other muck-rakers who made journalistic history by attacking the deplorable conditions then prevalent in the meatpacking industry.

The only real reference to Koreshan beliefs other than political in the early Eagle was the motto, "Riches and Poverty Cease When The Commonwealth Comes," that ran just under the nameplate.

Teed made good his promise of "headings" when in the fourth issue the nameplate was changed from seventy-two point Caslon to an artwork script style that is still in use. Another exciting (for the time)

¹⁶Eagle, June 7, 1906.

innovation in issue number four, was the use of color. The usual political cartoon was used centerfold on page one, but it was printed over the drab green silhouette of an eagle with outstretched wings.

On August 23, 1906, the Eagle went "up" to six "pages." The general content and format of the Eagle remained the same but a supplement measuring eight and a half by ten inches was stuffed inside. The front carried a miniature of the Eagle nameplate at the top and reprinted the Florida election laws. The reverse carried the platform of the Progressive Liberty Party which the Koreshans had espoused. Gradually over the next few months the Eagle grew. The small supplement became full page size, at first printed on just one side, but within a short time, on both sides. For the next few years, format changes were gradual, the most marked being an increase in advertising, both in number of ads and in size. The first display ads began to appear, most of which were one column by four inches.

In addition to Isaacs and the meatpackers, the Eagle also took up the cause of the local fishermen during the summer of 1907. Commercial fishing was for many years a mainstay of the economy of the area and many of the Koreshans and other residents of Estero depended on fishing for their livelihood. The local fishermen who fished from skiffs used one or two nets to gather the mullet that constituted the major portion of their catch. But, big fish companies from North Carolina learned of the rich fishing grounds and sent down forty-two man crews that used ten large nets linked together. Any fish in the school that escaped the large nets were too scattered for the local fishermen with their smaller nets, to catch. The Eagle demanded that the State should enact a non-resident tax on out-of-state fishermen to limit the practice, and

eventually this law was placed on the books.¹⁷

The repeated and often vitriolic attacks on Isaacs were successful, for just three months after the Eagle began publication it announced editorially:

We have been informed that local democracy contemplates letting down the bars in 1908, throwing open the primaries to democrats, republicans, socialists, prohibitionists and all who may apply.¹⁸ Whereas last year the primary was a very exclusive affair and no one was allowed to participate therein unless his grandfather voted for Thomas Jefferson, the coming primary will be free for Tom, Dick or Harry.

The reason for this generosity is not difficult to comprehend. It is merely the fact that competition has entered into Lee County politics. So long as one party dominates the county things are carried out with a high hand and the primaries are very exclusive, but with the advent of a competing party barriers are broken down, exclusiveness vanishes and the glad hand is extended to all in the wild scramble for patronage.

The Eagle had won. Isaacs sold his paper and left town.¹⁹

But Isaacs was just one adversary for the Eagle to deal with. It lost no time in finding, and besting, another.

It was in the fall of 1907 that the Eagle took up the fight for equitable taxation on the wild lands of Lee County, showing that the small resident landowners were paying three-fifths of the taxes, while the big non-resident land companies owning four-fifths of the land were getting by with ridiculously small tax payments in proportion to their holdings. This brought on some argument with Walter Langford, land company agent, but the exposure resulted ultimately in wild land [tax] assessments.²⁰

The Unity suffered a setback, when on December 22, 1908, Dr. Teed died. There are several accounts extant of how Dr. Teed met his death.

¹⁷ Andrews, Yank, pp. 45-47.

¹⁸ Andrews seldom capitalized the names of political parties.

¹⁹ Eagle, September 12, 1907.

²⁰ Andrews, Yank, p. 47.

Mrs. Ridgely, in her article on the Koreshans said that Teed had exhausted himself on a long lecture tour and died soon after returning to Estero.²¹ R.S. Berry, who lived at the Unity for a time while writing a master's thesis on the economics of the Unity, and claimed to have gotten his information from L.W. Bubbett, editor of The Flaming Sword, and later editor of the Eagle, hinted that Teed died as a result of injuries received at the hands of a lynch mob.²² Andrews, in his autobiography, said that Teed died following "some months of suffering from acute neuritis."²³ Still another account said that Teed died as a result of injuries received when he was struck on the head by the Fort Myers town marshal, a man named Sanchez, but that this was never proven.²⁴

Except at the end of Andrews' tenure as editor, the pages of the Eagle were not used to discuss the internal problems of the Unity, so the exact cause of Dr. Teed's death may never be discovered, but it is quite probable that the crusading journalism of the Eagle did not endear Dr. Teed to all. He was buried in a concrete vault built on the tip of Estero Island, but it was later washed away by a tropical storm.²⁵

The death of Teed did spell trouble for the Koreshans. For one thing, it was learned after Teed's death that he had cosigned a mortgage for a friend who purchased a large woodworking plant in another state.

²¹Belje Scriven Ridgely, "The Park the Koreshans Gave," manuscript written for the St. Petersburg Times, but never published, n.d., p. 9.

²²R.S. Berry, The Koreshan Unity: An Economic History of a Communist Experiment in Florida (Master's thesis, University of Florida, 1928), p. 18.

²³Andrews, Yank, p. 47.

²⁴Michel, Interview, June 26, 1970.

²⁵Andrews, Yank, p. 47.

The plant failed and the resulting debt was passed down to the members of the corporation. Many of the members feared the encumbrance would bankrupt them, so they left, but those that remained paid off the debt and eventually acquired a valuable tract of land from the deal.²⁶

Another problem arose when Victoria, who had been Teed's feminine companion and counterpart in the Unity, suddenly left her position of authority, married a dentist, and moved away.²⁷ This caused another alarm among those remaining for some thought she had control of all the remaining assets. Although reduced in numbers, the colony remained.

When the initial political battle had been won, Andrews had begun to concentrate more on local news, there still not being a daily newspaper in the county. He advertised for local correspondents and soon had a dozen, scattered about the small settlements of Lee County, chronicling the events of their neighborhoods. Andrews' favorite was C.G. McKinney, "a whimsical old pioneer" who lived on Chokoloskee Island, the southernmost settlement on the West Coast of Florida, an area still frontier and unhampered by too much law and order. McKinney wrote under the pen name of "Progress" and Andrews later said, "His local items were so full of quaint local humor that they were frequently copied by other state papers, which led to my awarding him the distinction of the man who put the chuckle in Chokoloskee."²⁸ The following are samples of Progress columns ca. 1908-09.

Tomorrow is our preaching day. It is likely that the deacon and the steward will both be here, and possibly there

²⁶Andrews, Yank, p. 47.

²⁷Ridgely, Park, p. 11.

²⁸Andrews, Yank, pp. 44-45.

will be some chance for our preacher to get up some of the root of evil and lug it off with him. He is trying to destroy evil, I understand, and if he gets the root of it first I think that is the right start.

We have a lot of moonshine among us now. One of the teams went up the river last Monday with a load of barrels and syrup, so we think the prospects are pretty good.

I see the Lee County folks are agitating the county hospital again. I don't see how we folks on the island can get anything out of it from the fact that we never get sick. One of our poor fishermen went to Key West a few days ago. The M.D.'s got hold of him and told him that he had appendicitis and wanted \$200. to open him up. Of course, this is not a poor man's disease, but I think the doctors found out that the boy had some relatives that had the dough.²⁹

We have lots of booze, moonshine and red liquor. Some of the team gets drunk everyday. Yesterday they had a racket and one of our best moonshiners got cut up and blood flowed very freely, and the ones that were able took him up to Everglade to get his hide patched up so it would not leak so bad.

We are getting along fine; have plenty of booze and everything. We don't want any sheriffs nor anything. If we need anything it is more booze and more of the devil's disciples to drink it, and bigger knives and more pistols and guns.³⁰

It was a piano that brought about the first major content change of the Eagle. During the summer of 1909, Andrews won a piano in an advertising contest sponsored by a Jacksonville music store. He had no need for it since there were already several at the Unity. The Koreshans had all been musicians and one of their first acts on arriving had been to establish a symphony orchestra and music was one of the subjects taught at the College of Life. Not needing the piano, Andrews decided to use it in a contest of his own. He offered it as a prize to the young

²⁹ Andrews, Yank, pp. 44-45.

³⁰ Ibid., p. 138.

lady who obtained the most new subscriptions to the Eagle. One enterprising girl toured the entire county and soon new subscriptions came pouring in "by the hundreds," but, after the initial period most of these dropped off again, because, "they had only subscribed to help some friend and not from an interest in the paper." After that, Andrews decided the best way to increase circulation was on the merits of the paper itself.³¹

The "piano contest" did attract the attention of two prominent Fort Myers citizens, H.E. Heitman, a merchant and J.E. Foxworthy, owner of the Lee County Bank. Both were of old-line Lee County families and both were advertisers in the Eagle. They called Andrews to Fort Myers and tried to interest him in starting a daily paper in Fort Myers, but he declined saying, "Gentlemen, I want to live a while longer and I don't know of any surer method of slow suicide than running a small town daily paper. No thank you."³² This refusal seems to bear out a later comment made about Andrews, one to the effect that he liked to spend his time roaming about the countryside gathering plants and talking to people, and that the one day a week he spent in the Eagle office writing his editorials and columns he referred to as "my day in jail."³³

The merchants of Fort Myers were not to be put off however, in their desire for a more frequent publication. In 1911 the Fort Myers Press became a daily, and this left the Eagle in the position of trying to

³¹Andrews, Yank, p. 57.

³²Ibid.

³³Michel, Interview, June 25, 1970.

compete newswise with a daily paper published in the county seat. Andrews, (and most probably the Board of Directors of the Unity, although he did not mention them in his autobiography) decided to specialize and make the Eagle into a horticultural paper.³⁴ This change was gradual and at first, technically the Eagle could have been called as much agricultural as horticultural for it did not really gain note as a horticultural journal until 1921.³⁵

On its fifth birthday, June 6, 1912, the Eagle celebrated by changing the color of its nameplate from black to red and the motto to, "Screams for Lee County in Particular and Florida in General." For several years the Eagle had been an eight page paper and the use of high quality half-tone engravings was common.

The first page was still in four columns. The lead column on the left was usually the main story of the week and most usually was on an agricultural or horticultural topic. It was wrapped out from under the single column head and continued in columns two and three. The two inner columns were broken by a three-and-a-half inch cut just above centerfold, the position formerly occupied by the political cartoon. The cut was usually a line drawing, a map, or diagram dealing with the geography of the county or Florida and tied into the main story although sometimes a half-tone was used. It was never wild art. The right marginal column was signed "Topics of Interest" and was a general news wrap-up of the week's events.

³⁴Andrews, Yank, p. 63.

³⁵Michel, Letter, July I, 1970.

FIGURE VI

VOLUME VII, NUMBER 1

TYPICAL 1912 EDITION

The American Eagle

Serving the Lee Co. in Particular and Florida in General.

Vol. 7.

ESTERO, FLA., JUNE 6, 1912.

No. 1.

Commercial Tropical Fruits

The following interesting paper was read by Mr. John R. Beach, is from the State Horticultural Society at its recent session in Miami, and was later published in the *Journal of the Florida Horticultural Society*. It is a study of the leading commercial value of the State's Tropical Fruits. It is especially necessary to add that these tropical fruits may be grown equally well in Lee County.—*Edwin Cook.*

In this report I will only discuss the three tropical fruits which have attained commercial importance with us, the Pineapple, Mango and Avocado. To attempt to describe the host of others which supply our household and find their way into nearby markets, would greatly exceed the limits of this article. I will mention however, that the Department is making exhaustive researches into the Avocado fruit and in time we are likely to have the best of this fruit in the world at our command. This is the fruit to which is given the famous Carmichael of Bourant, the Custard Apple grown in Europe in hot houses. The world-renowned Mangosteen, whose name we have heard from childhood, and which has never yet been fruited successfully outside the Malay Peninsula and adjacent islands has been taken hold of at Washington, new methods of propagation discovered and the prospects are that some day we may fruit it in Florida.

The pineapple industry has gone through a severe strain in the past few years. A vast increase in acreage in Porto Rico and Cuba, backed by American capital and developed by experienced Florida growers upon up to date lines, has glutted the market. As a result in 1909 prices were not remunerative, and in 1910-11 were far below the cost of production. Growers were forced out of the business, fields abandoned, and new planting abandoned. The acreage in Florida has been reduced one half since 1909, and a similar process has also occurred in the islands, so that last summer the reduction in output had reestablished former economic conditions to a large extent. In Florida a severe drought reduced the size of the fruit so much that prices were still rather low; as fast as I can gather from different sources, the average prices were about \$1.50 per crate, while the small size reduced the total yield per acre, the good sized fruit was in active demand and sold as high as 10¢ formerly before the glut occurred. The growers who still hung on, thus encouraged, fertilized freely with abundant rains the crop this season promises to be a good one and prices as remunerative as of old. One grower has sold this entire crop for \$1.75 f.o.b. and he thinks this price will prove not below the average. The gross reduction in acreage has occurred in lower Palm Beach and upper Dade counties, in which section the farmers have been able to fall back on winter truck growing for a living. Many fields have been pronounced "run out," the land either "exhausted" or the plants reduced in vitality.

Those who believe the former to be the trouble have tried hauling in

leaf-mould or burying old plants for humus, or merely allowing the land to lie fallow. To the latter I can give a word of encouragement. The other day I passed by a field at Eden which 20 years ago was cultivated in pineapples by the late Capt. Richards and is now covered with thirty young patches just coming into bearing. Those who believe that the plants have become exhausted, last summer imported slips from Cuba and Porto Rico to infuse new blood, the results of which plan time can tell. My own theory is that too much mineral fertilizer has been used in many cases, which experience has proven has had effect upon the vigor of plants, and a more liberal use of tobacco and cotton seed meal would go a long way towards correcting the trouble where it had not gone too far.

Fighting principles for fungus and insects in the field has not proven a

trouble is being investigated very extensively by the Department and some feel assured that about next season the trouble can be absolutely controlled.

The Trapp stands at the head of the list of varieties for commercial planting, its interest bringing it into the market after the bulk of the others are gone. Its excellent quality round shape, solidity and keeping qualities give it preference over other varieties which mature fully as late. And then the test of 12 years on the budded trees and 15 or 20 on the parent, constitute a pedigree of great weight in such an infant industry. A good early variety is now much desired, and I will mention two that are competing for this place. One belongs to Mr. H. H. Harrison and he has named it Estelle. He says that there are several trees grown from a certain lot of seed planted in 1899 by Mr.

Topics of Interest

There will be no flies on the suffragettes in New York this summer, except what they take themselves. They propose to make the men look up to them for once in their lives, by making a whirlwind campaign of Long Island, carrying their speakers from place to place in airships. These bird-women will have their heavenly chariots decorated with vari-colored bunting, indicating their sentiments, and long streamer mottoes of "votes for women," as they dash down upon the astonished, and half-paralyzed voters like a hawk on a spring chicken, to give them a never-to-be-sawed-off piece of their mind as to how they shall vote on woman suffrage.

Who said, now, that the women were slow, and never would develop political sagacity? Sebastian is a tramp card in political campaigning. First catch your voter, as you would the hare, and then he can be served up to the queen's taste. But won't this catch him? He'll be there to see them slight, and stay to see them depart, getting all that goes between whether he believes in women voting or not, and by that time he will have concluded that they are about smart enough to run the government, as well as the "puddin'-heads" he has been sending up to do it.

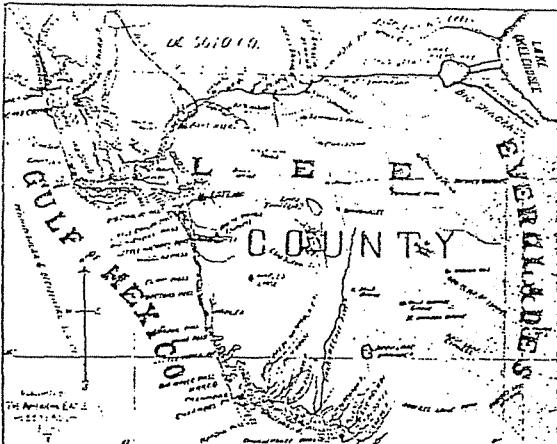
A magazine called *Banking Reform* makes the statement that there is nominally deposited in the banks of this country \$18,000,000,000 and that the money actually there is but \$1,500,000,000. Now the only way that the bankers can hope to meet their depositors' demands is the expectation that their cash on hand will always be sufficient to accommodate all that their depositors require each day. That is, that what is checked out by one man will be re-deposited by another. The scheme works all right so long as the depositors have unwavering confidence in the banks, and with one dollar cash on hand, the banks are enabled to loan out and draw interest on ten and two-third dollars of other people's money. But suppose that some fine day, every depositor would conclude that he would feel safer to have his money in his own pockets; they could only get one dollar out of every ten and a fraction, and the banks would have to suspend until confidence returned. If it did not, they would be irretrievably busted. Is our banking system anything but a big game of confidence played upon the people, that must some day meet its Waterloo?

There are a great many strange things happening nowadays, but one of the strangest is the arrival in New York of the steamship *Columbia* with a load of passengers from Glasgow; with the report that not a single drink of liquor was sold to a passenger on the voyage. There was plenty of drink on board, but the passengers were all total abstainers.

The "barkeep" on this steamer must have felt somewhat as one did some years ago when the prohibitionists held their national convention at Es-

(Continued on page 2.)

MAP OF LEE COUNTY, FLA.



Lee County lies mainly between 26° and 27° N. Latitude. Its area is 4,031 square miles. Location is nearest immune from frost of any section of the U. S. Total population, 6,794.

satisfactory proposition, and the better plan is to keep up the vigor of the plant with plenty of proper fertilizer from the start, and let nature protect itself.

A good deal of new hickory ridge land has been planted in St. Lucie County, from Ft. Pierce northward, and the fields are all looking well. On the whole the prospects look good for the industry in my opinion.

The Avocado crop in Dade County is reported to be a failure this season, while in Palm Beach County it seems little below the average. One pioneer grower in Dade County says that is the first season in 12 consecutive years that the Trapp budded trees have failed to make him a good crop and this year three-fourths of the fruit has dropped in his section. All seem to attribute this to the damp rainy weather during the blooming time, and since then a consequent attack of fungus similar to that which blights the young mango. This

James T. Trapp, and that all the trees from this lot of seed seem identical in character. He described the fruit as "medium size, short neck, yellowgreen, solid and meaty, close-fitting seed and nutty in flavor, can be picked from the 1st to the 15th of July." Mr. Dwight Allen of West Palm Beach has a seedling which he calls William, which answers almost precisely to the foregoing description, except that the color is dark green with scarlet cheeks. I am not sure that the seed is absolutely tight-fitting, but think so. This is an important matter when it comes to long shipments.

I am indebted to Mr. Charles Montgomery for the following notes on his own experience. He writes, "Any information we give you must of necessity be meager as our experience extend only over a period of about seven years. One of the serious features of the avocado industry is that

(Continued on page 2)

Page two continued as the editorial page. It was still set in three columns, and usually in type two points smaller than the rest of the body type, which was twelve point Century Book. The masthead appeared at the top of the left column and included subscription information and a request for correspondents. The remainder of the column was editorial "briefs," one or two pungent sentences or Biblical quotes aimed at current affairs. The editorials, both Andrews' and "trade" items from other papers ran in the second two columns which at times included letters to the editor, poems and a short joke or two. In the issues examined, most of the letters to the editor were queries about horticultural subjects. Page three was the jump page. In addition to stories jumped from page one it also carried a cartoon or map centerfold, and if the jumps did not occupy all the four columns there would be a poem at the top of column four and short items or brights interspersed on the page without heads.

The other pages carried the ads, still in the marginal columns, the other news wrap-up, "The Week's News Boiled Down," and letters from the area correspondents.

Several other factors influencing the change to horticultural specialization were that Andrews professed a life-long interest in plants and growing things as a hobby,³⁶ (although this was disputed by a later editor who claimed he never turned a shovelful of earth in his life),³⁷ the fact that horticulture had been one of the earliest endeavors of

³⁶ Andrews, Yank, p. 63.

³⁷ Michel, Letter, July 15, 1970.

of the colony and they had begun building a botanical garden almost as soon as they arrived and for years had been importing tropical seeds and plants from all over the world, and that in Florida at that time there was a growing interest in agriculture as the land opened up and became more accessible and farmers learned of the fertile soil available and the favorable growing seasons.³⁸

The change did not mean that the Eagle abandoned its crusading, however. It still kept a sharp eye on politicians, both state and local, and did not hesitate to speak out for what it thought was right.

It did not always win, as was the case in "The Great Courthouse Battle," but at least it exposed political machinations to the light of public opinion. In the courthouse dispute, Andrews ran figuratively and literally head-on into Capt. W.H. Towles, who had apparently assumed Isaacs' position of political power in Lee County. Andrews described him thus:

One of the most picturesque characters of pioneer Fort Myers was Captain W.H. Towles, a cattleman of heroic build and despotic manner who dominated successively the town council and board of county commissioners, to each of which he belonged for several years. A man of varying moods and impulses, he was known to have done many kindly acts for the relief of impoverished crackers and negroes, [sic] and on the other hand there was no length to which he would not go to get even with someone whom he disliked.³⁹

In 1913 Towles, then on the County Commission, began to push for a referendum for a bond issue to raise money to build a new, \$100,000 courthouse. According to Andrews, the existing frame courthouse, valued

³⁸Michel, Interview, June 26, 1970.

³⁹Andrews, Yank, p. 20.

at \$30,000, was old but adequate. Since there were no paved roads in the county at that time, many of the rural residents, including the ones at Estero, considered roads a greater need than a new courthouse. On December 11, the Eagle ran an editorial condemning the courthouse plan in no uncertain terms. On Friday, January 20, 1914, Andrews went to Fort Myers and Towles spotted him getting out of his buggy and rushed over, struck him in the face, breaking his glasses and began to beat him. Andrews did not attempt to defend himself, but tried to escape from the larger man, who apparently gave him a good beating. Andrews had Towles arrested, but dropped the charges when he learned Towles had witnesses who were prepared to swear Andrews struck the first blow. The Eagle continued to editorialize for road construction and against the courthouse, and applied to the circuit court for an injunction against the commissioners to stop them from building the courthouse. Towles then engineered a magnificent political coup. The Eagle asked for the injunction on a Friday, and the court to which it applied was not located in Fort Myers, but Lakeland or Tampa, (the account is not specific). Towles took advantage of this and called a special meeting of the commission for Saturday morning and by a 3-2 vote decided to build a new courthouse. Immediately after the vote was taken, Towles' cowhands, who had been "waiting in the wings," rushed on the frame courthouse and tore it to the ground.

When the messenger arrived with the injunction on Monday morning, it was too late, Lee County did not have a courthouse. The commission then exercised a vague and seldom used Florida statute that authorized county commissions to proceed without referendum in the construction

of county courthouses, "in the event of emergencies."⁴⁰

As part of the new role of horticultural journal of the Eagle, Andrews began to spend most of his time away from Estero, traveling about the state collecting plants, talking to botanists and nurserymen and trying to attract advertisers and subscribers. This began to cause some friction at the Unity for there was a feeling, that was to grow over the years, that Andrews was promoting himself, not the Eagle, and leaving others to do all the work.⁴¹ On one of his early journeys, however, Andrews did take steps to "automate" the Eagle. For years the Unity had wanted a Linotype machine to replace the tedious task of handsetting all the type. But the only one on the market in the early days was expensive and the manufacturer wanted cash. On a trip to Punta Gorda in 1914 Andrews stopped by the office of the Punta Gorda Herald and there saw the Harris Intertype, a machine built when the original Mergenthaler Linotype patents expired, and which was offered for sale on extended credit terms. One was purchased by the Eagle in time for the first issue of 1915 to be printed on type set by it, and thus the handset era came to an end.⁴²

A new feature was added to the Eagle during these years. Page seven, a four column page, began to run small display ads in the marginal columns, and the two center columns were signed "Lee County Directory," with an artwork head and a sig of a lithographed eagle point-

⁴⁰Andrews, Yank, p. 63.

⁴¹Michel, Interview, June 25, 1970.

⁴²Andrews, Yank, p. 69.

ing to it. The directory listed churches, transportation schedules, and other items of interest and need to newcomers to the area.

1915 also saw other recognition come to the Eagle. Andrews went to the state convention of the Florida Press Association to represent the Eagle and won a silver cup for the best coverage of the Miami-held meeting.⁴³

In 1916 Andrews became "mobilized" and really began to travel to gather material for pages of the Eagle and plants and cuttings for the Koreshan Gardens. For \$250 he purchased a Model T Ford from the local sheriff. It was a versatile vehicle that he dubbed his "Seagoing Ford" because it could easily be set across the prow of a steamboat or ferry and taken where there were no roads or bridges.⁴⁴

This was the "Good Roads" era of Florida journalism and Andrews took part in many expeditions and the Eagle printed these in an effort to draw attention to the need for a state-wide network of good roads. He and the sheriff, Frank Tippens, and the Seminole Indian Agent, W. Stanley Hanson, made one of the first crossings of the Everglades-- from La Belle to beyond Immokalee--to prove that the area could be opened to motor traffic.⁴⁵

The items that Andrews garnered on these wide-ranging forays made the Eagle interesting reading, even for those not with a primary interest in horticulture. Among these was a visit to Lue Gim Gong, at Deland. Lue was a horticultural wizard, according to Andrews. Born in China,

⁴³Andrews, Yank, pp. 66-67.

⁴⁴Ibid., p. 71.

⁴⁵Ibid., pp. 98-106. ◀

he had come to America as a boy and worked for a wealthy Massachusetts family. Upon their death he inherited a small plot of land in Florida. He moved down and began to experiment with hybridizing oranges. After a number of years he did develop a new variety of orange that was blight and freeze resistant and which he named after himself. A nursery company promised him a royalty of ten per cent for his patent and sold thousands of the trees to growers all over Florida, but all the old Chinese ever received was \$200.⁴⁶

Another interesting account was when Andrews visited Capt. J.H. Doxsee and his clam canning plant and clam dredge at Marco Island. There is a huge clam "bar" that extends for miles parallel to the south Florida coast from near Marco to Lostman's River. By 1919 Capt. Doxsee had built a huge dredge to gather the particularly large and succulent clams that came from the area. Canned whole clams, minced clams and bottled clam juice were sold nationwide under the Doxsee label. They are still available, but the tradename now belongs to a northern firm. This account was particularly interesting to the author, for he has long been a close friend of Henry Doxsee, the Captain's grandson, and in 1948 spent the summer working on this very same dredge, which was destroyed in a hurricane the following summer.⁴⁷

The Eagle still continued to champion causes it thought right, but with varying success. In 1921 Andrews became friends with a chiropractor (who was not identified by name in the account) who felt he was "getting

⁴⁶Eagle, April 11, 1918.

⁴⁷Andrews, Yank, pp. 111-113.

the run around" from the Florida Board of Examiners in obtaining a license to practice. He was either "too early" or "too late" to apply, or the Board managed to find some other technicality to refuse him. The Eagle took up his fight editorially, and called on Governor Sidney Catts (whom the Eagle had supported during his campaign) to investigate the Board. Catts did so and suspended two members of the Board and the doctor received his license to practice. However, Florida politics in those days were seldom forgiving. A new governor came into office at the next election. The old board members were reinstated and the doctor was promptly arrested for practicing without a "valid" license. Apparently the Eagle decided to let the matter drop at that point because it was not mentioned again.⁴⁸

Andrews did not stick entirely to the plan of putting out a horticultural journal, for in his travels about the state he accumulated many items of historical and general interest which he presented along with accounts of his visits to nurserymen, botanists and horticulturists. Readers were kept informed of horticultural progress in Florida and the Eagle was considered a journal for the dissemination of horticultural news; but the Eagle also kept up the agitation for good roads in Florida, and readers were treated to lively and colorful accounts of Andrews' visits to Silver Springs, the Ross Allen Reptile Institute, the Ringling Museum, Cape Canaveral (then of interest because of its early Spanish history and the proximity of a second Koreshan settlement), the Fairchild Botanical Gardens in Miami, the McKee Jungle Gardens, Key West, Salt

⁴⁸ Andrews, Yank, p. 133.

Springs [not the one near Ocala, but a mineral spring near Venice, noted since the days of Caloosa Indians for its therapeutic effects and now commercially developed as Warm Mineral Springs], the Chinsegut Cattle Experiment Station near Brooksville, and a fig-growing project at Tallahassee.⁴⁹

During these wanderings Andrews reported, he brought back many plant specimens which he said he planted at Estero. But, it was more likely that the actual planting and growing was left up to the Koreshan gardener, a Norwegian named Theodore Naselius, "who was the best tropical plantsman the Unity ever had, but who never took care of anything."⁵⁰

⁴⁹ Andrews, Yank, pp. 88-97.

⁵⁰ Michel, Letter, July 15, 1970.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE NEHRLING YEARS AND THE ECLIPSE OF ANDREWS

The transition to a horticultural journal was completed in 1921 when the Eagle began to publish the writings of Dr. Henry Nehrling,¹ but it was not until May 9, 1946, that the motto was dropped from the nameplate and it was altered to read, The American Eagle and Horticultural Review.

Dr. Nehrling, who was called the "saviour of the Eagle" because of the new subscribers and advertisers he attracted with his astute and erudite manuscripts on tropical gardening² was born in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, in 1853 and graduated from Teacher's Seminary in Addison, Illinois, in 1873.³ The "doctor" was an honoris causa from a European professional society for his later scientific accomplishments.⁴ His first interest was ornithology and he gained world-wide recognition for his studies of birds. He traveled from Illinois to Missouri to Texas observing the migratory patterns of native American species and supporting himself by teaching as he moved about. He spent five years in Texas, during which time he published several papers on birds and a two-volume illustrated

¹Hedwig Michel, Interview, June 26, 1970.

²Ibid.

³Allen H. Andrews, A Yank Pioneer in Florida (Jacksonville: Douglas Printing Company, 1950), p. 126.

⁴Michel, Letter, July 1, 1970.

work, Our Native Birds of Song and Beauty, which other ornithologists adopted as a standard reference. While working on this book he became interested in tropical horticulture and began to study plants rather than birds. He purchased a home in Gotha, a small town near Orlando, to begin a tropical garden in 1886, but he had been appointed curator of the Milwaukee Public Museum and it was several years before he could move to Florida. He began to build his garden at Gotha, specializing in amaryllis and fancy caladiums, and sent all over the world for specimens to complete and extend his collection. The garden at Gotha was not the success he had hoped for however, for it was still too far north for some of the delicate tropical varieties, so in 1919 he moved to Naples and set up a new garden which soon flourished and his work attracted international attention. But, he too was to become victimized much as Lue had been. One day two men showed up at the garden and proposed that if he would let them breed and sell his plants commercially they would give him a fine new house near Avon Park and build a huge new garden there. He agreed and soon trucks came and took away his plants. He went to Avon Park and found the house, an empty shell, but his plants were gone forever. However, he kept very minute and detailed records of his work, so in 1921 he approached the Eagle on the prospects of publishing them.⁵ Andrews told Nehrling that he could not afford to pay him, but an agreement was reached whereby Nehrling could barter his manuscripts to the Eagle in return for supplies from the general store operated by the Koreshans.⁶ From that

⁵ Andrews, Yank, pp. 126-129.

⁶ Michel, Letter, July 1, 1970.

point on Nehrling's work appeared weekly, and the Eagle flourished as a result of his work.

Even though it was now "officially" a horticultural journal, the Eagle did not ignore current events problems. It still agitated for good roads, and in 1923 Andrews and several other Koreshans were in the famed Tamiami Trail Trailblazing Expedition. A group of pioneers, twenty-three strong, set out in ten automobiles to cross the Everglades from Fort Myers to Estero to Naples and then through the heart of the Everglades to Miami. The expedition consisted of a number of Florida editors and writers, woodsmen and members of the Good Roads groups. What is today a two-hour drive took the trailblazers more than three weeks. For a time they were thought to be lost and the Miami Herald obtained a World War I German bomber to engage in what may have been the first air-sea rescue mission. The group finally made it, but only after three of the autos became hopelessly bogged down and were abandoned and the ones that were still running were so battered that their springs had been replaced with cypress saplings. At some points the expedition progressed less than a mile a day through the swamp, and when the supplies ran out, the pioneers survived by eating cattail roots.

Needless to say, this made front page copy the world over. Russell Kay, a noted Florida journalist, whose column, "Too Late to Classify," was carried in the Eagle for years, hired Seminole Indians as runners to carry out his dispatches to Naples from whence they were telegraphed to the press.⁷

⁷Kenneth Edwin Anderson, "Florida Newspapers and the Tamiami Trail," University of Florida, 1970.

The trail was built just in time for the peak of the Florida land boom. While Andrews claimed he scorned the methods of the big land dealers who made fortunes on underwater real estate he did engage in some speculation on land near Estero and claimed to have made enough money to buy the Eagle a new Linotype and the town of Estero a five kilowatt electric generating plant.⁸

This generating plant was to provide an amusing anecdote for the Unity a few years later. Thomas A. Edison had long maintained a winter home and laboratory in Fort Myers. He too was interested in horticulture and had surrounded his home there with a botanical garden, part of which he acquired in his search for a suitable filament for the electric lamp and his later experiments with synthetic rubber. Many of the plants he had obtained from the Unity, and he was a frequent visitor to Estero. One evening the Koreshans invited Mr. and Mrs. Edison to dine at the Unity, but during the course of the meal a tropical storm came up which put the generator out of commission, so the inventor of the electric light was forced to finish his supper by candlelight.⁹

With Nehrling furnishing a steady flow of copy that expanded both the advertising and the circulation list, Andrews was still free to travel about the state. In May, 1925, George Hosmer, editor of the Fort Myers Press, talked Andrews into going to Tallahassee as a lobbyist for the members of the press who were at that time agitating for a fence law. Good roads were finally coming to Florida and the number of autos was

⁸ Andrews, Yank, pp. 163-165.

⁹ Eagle, June 1, 1929.

increasing daily, but farmers were still not required to fence in their pastures and accidents caused by motorists striking hogs and cattle were increasing at an alarming rate. Andrews accepted the assignment, but failed in his mission (a fence law was passed several years later). He returned to Fort Myers a disillusioned man after he saw what he called the "backroom" methods whereby state business was conducted at what Andrews called "all-night drinking parties" instead of on the floor of the legislature.¹⁰

With the stories of Nehrling's experiences and Andrews' travels the Eagle became a recorded history of agriculture and horticulture in Florida: the first successful growing of corn and cotton on an economically feasible scale that far south, what types of soil were available in different parts of the state and what grew best there, the importation and growing of the Cajeput, or "Australian Fireproof Tree," and the subsequent use of Cajeput bark for packing fancy oranges to be shipped north. Floridians and readers everywhere learned of the many exotic plants and trees that could be grown in Florida. The list of flora discussed in the pages of the Eagle would fill a horticultural encyclopedia; among them were:

Rhodes grass	Persimmons	Chinese peaches	Plums
Tangelos	Strawberries	Mangosteens	Pineapples
Beacon grapes	Papayas	Governor's Plum	Sapotas
King oranges	Anocados	Jamaica apples	Rose apples
Pomegranates	Zizuphus	Loquats	Imbu
Grenadilla	Amberella	Tamarind	Star apples
Carambola	Soursop	Cecropia	Monestera deliciosa
Akee	Citrus Kalpi	Jambolan	Stychnos Spinosa
Figs	Conistel	Kai apples	Guavas
Jackfruit	Mulberry	Cassava	Orchids
Coffee	Litchi	Tung tree	Bromeliads ¹¹

¹⁰ Andrews, Yank, pp. 170-174.

¹¹ Ibid., pp. 49-359.

On one of Andrews' trips he spent some time in Gainesville inspecting the Tung plantation of H.W. Bennett, who after careful investigation, had sold out his New York business interests and moved to Gainesville to plant Tung trees. The trees, native to China, are a rich source of a very high quality oil used in the manufacture of paint.¹² The grove and business are still thriving today.

On December 12, 1935, the Eagle broadened its scope once more and added a new feature, the history of early Florida. In that issue began a long series of accounts of the very first Spanish explorers in Florida. It was taken from the diaries of the Catholic missionaries who accompanied the explorers and covered the period from 1493 to 1568. It took several months to run, always beginning on the front page and then jumped to fill as much space as was available.

The next historical series began in the May 13, 1943, issue and covered the period of the Seminole Indian Wars in Florida. Again, the material was taken from whatever authenticated sources were available. On November 6, 1947, the Eagle began a series on the history of the De Soto Expedition to Florida. This article took until well into 1948 to complete and is presently (1970) being reprinted in the Eagle. It was written by Warren H. Wilkerson and is based on, A Concise Natural History of East and West Florida, written by a Capt. Bernard Romans in New York in 1775, and also on, The Travels of William Bartram, written by William Bartram in Philadelphia in 1791. Bartram was a well known naturalist, and the new Life Sciences Building, Bartram Hall, at the University of Florida is named

¹² Andrews, Yank, p. 235.

after him. With this series the Eagle ran drawings of old maps, charts and Spanish documents obtained from the Library of Congress.

The fall of 1947 saw a major change start to take place in the staff of the Eagle. For years now, the format of the paper had been much the same. Gradual typographical changes had taken place, such as the switch to a condensed Franklin Gothic for front page heads that were usually one column one or two line and often a lack of heads on inside stories, but other than that it was much the same as it had been in 1911 or 1912.

But, the staff was becoming elderly. The Unity had not attracted many new or any young members in years. The plant and office staff consisted of seven persons, most of whom by now were in their eighties. When in the fall of 1947, Lou Staton, who was then responsible for the layout, became ill, the membership called a meeting in November, 1947, and decided to change the Eagle from a weekly newspaper to a monthly horticultural magazine. As mentioned earlier, the Unity never chose to discuss their internal affairs to any great extent in the pages of the Eagle, but at the meeting apparently the reason for wanting the change was two-fold: First, the age of the staff who felt they were no longer capable of printing both the Eagle on a weekly basis and also The Flaming Sword, the Unity's religious publication, and secondly, the Unity's feeling that it was bearing all the expenses of publishing the Eagle, but receiving no income to offset the expense. How much the revenue from advertising and circulation was and where it was going was not disclosed and it was claimed that circulation figures were never kept. Too, it was felt that Andrews spent too much time away from Estero, returning only once a week to write his editorials, thus leaving the rest of the staff to do most of the work.

Therefore, the Board proposed that the Eagle be changed to a monthly to be published by a staff composed of Lawrence W. Bubbett, editor of The Flaming Sword; Miss Hedwig Michel, treasurer of the Unity; Jesse Putnam, printer, and Andrews. Andrews, who at that time was president of the Unity, flatly refused and stormed out of the meeting and took the incident not only to court, but also to the pages of the Eagle.¹³

On January 11, 1948, Andrews and the Eagle were awarded the first annual Thomas Barbour medal for outstanding service in the field of horticulture.¹⁴ Dr. Thomas Barbour, for whom the medal was named by the officials of the Fairchild Tropical Gardens in Miami, was a frequent visitor to South Florida and was identified with horticultural activities in Florida. For 40 years he was director of the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology. He took part in many expeditions to gather natural history in India, Burma, China, Japan, the East and West Indies and Central and South America. He was also custodian of the Harvard Botanical Gardens in Soledad, Cuba, and officer in charge of the laboratory at Barro, Panama.¹⁵

Andrews lost no time in running the story on the editorial page of the Eagle. The citation accompanying the award read:

In the work of preserving from destruction such living things as trees, vines, palms, and flowering plants, more is needed than the daily care of willing hands, particularly in a land like Florida where conditions are new and strange to so many of those who come here to live and plant gardens.

Through the columns of The American Eagle Mr. A.H. Andrews has brought to its readers all over the state the largest

¹³Michel, Interview, June 25, 1970.

¹⁴Eagle, January 15, 1948.

¹⁵Andrews, Yank, pp. 511-513.

volume of information about what tropical plants were being grown in South Florida that any organ of publicity here has carried.

The spirit of his editorials and the care taken to have the facts correctly reported has made his weekly publication a source of encouragement and of horticultural news that has few equals anywhere in the world I believe.

For us who have settled in this region Mr. Andrews' friendship with Dr. Henry Nehrling has brought a rich reward. It is a rare and happy occurrence when a man of genius attracts to himself a congenial spirit who will stand by him during his lifetime and remain devoted to his memory after he has gone.

Dr. Nehrling was one of Florida's greatest horticulturists. It was a lucky circumstance for us that Mr. Andrews took upon himself the task of preserving the voluminous writings of his friend. As Editor and Publisher of The American Eagle at Estero, Mr. Andrews printed these serially in his paper. This made it possible for them to be brought out later in two outstanding editions; the first one The Plant World in Florida abridged and edited by Alfred and Elizabeth Kay and later the complete work in two volumes, My Garden in Florida put together and published by Mr. Andrews.

For these services to Florida horticulturists and all interested in preserving the wild life of this region, this medal is gladly presented by the Fairchild Garden, one of the institutions to which he has always given his interest.¹⁶

This ran on the third column of the editorial page, following the above excerpt were two paragraphs on the life of Thomas Barbour, and then a final paragraph by Andrews:

Presentation of the Barbour Medal was Opportune, at a time when determined efforts are being made by dictator de facto officials of the Koreshan Unity to suspend publication of The American Eagle.¹⁷

Apparently at the 1947 meeting Andrews had been voted out of the office of president of the Unity and replaced by Lawrence W. Bubbett, for

¹⁶Eagle, January 15, 1948.

¹⁷Ibid.

in that same issue the lead editorial was a vicious and energetic attack on the other members of the Board whom he now considered his bitter enemies, and who in his eyes were intent, as he put it, "on wrecking the Eagle."

SURRENDER OR STARVE!

Almost everyone recalls the widely published pictures of starved and emaciated men, women and children who were inmates of the Nazi prison camps during the late World War. But here in this land of the free it does not seem possible that such cruel practices are being resorted to by officials of a religious and fraternal order right here in Estero, Florida. However, such is the case.

Attention is called herewith to the case of Jesse E. Putnam an aged and emaciated member of the Koreshan Unity who has rendered over forty years of faithful service to this little community to which he belongs. Mr. Putnam is being denied by arrogant officials the nourishment and care which he urgently needs, and thereby hangs a tale.

Nearly sixty years ago there was organized in Chicago, Ill., by Dr. Cyrus R. Teed a little community, thereafter to be known as the Koreshan Unity. One of the leading tenets of this community was the collective ownership of all property, as practiced by the early Christians, those joining putting in whatever they had in labor and worldly goods, all working together for the common welfare. The principle seems high and idyllic, and under unselfish control worked out fairly well for a number of years, with accessions in membership and property until some time following the death of the founder in 1908.

But the finest of theories proves no better in operation than the people who administer it and the year 1947 found the community reduced to a mere handful, with a directorate of but four members, three of whom forming a bloc against the writer, a charter member who at that time was president.

The bloc consisted in part of Mrs. Hedwig Michel Levi, a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany, and Lawrence W. Bubbett, an accomplice, both of whom were ten to twenty years younger than a majority of the members and were themselves admitted to membership only about six years previously. Just how these two got into the saddle to crack the whip over the older members of forty or fifty years connection with the Unity is too long a story for narration here, however. Third member of the bloc is Lou H. Staton, an old and valued member who for some reason seems intrigued with the plan of conquest by the usurpers.

First hostile act was an effort to suspend publication of The American Eagle which was just completing its 41st year of continuous publication, objection being on the claim that it was not a moneymaker, although about breaking even financially. So far, that effort has failed, with The Eagle still being issued regularly.

Final break with the conspirators came when they attempted to force the writer to cancel a sale of valuable island property which, as president, he had agreed to under authorization. This refused to do, as the Unity had always been honorable in its dealing, so signed the deed and consummated the sale.

From that time on a fight has been in the court to oust the usurpers who, from a little religious community of fraternity and co-operation have gradually transformed it into a mercenary corporation with themselves as dictators. Because of my opposition to their plans, at the annual meeting I was succeeded by Bubbett as president, Mrs. Levi being elected as secretary-treasurer and Staton as vice-president.

Nevertheless a majority of the membership are opposed to this self-appointed oligarchy and are demanding a legal election in which all members are allowed to participate. This is the sole issue now before the court which these usuepers [sic] are trying to prolong in the hope of wearing out the opposition. And them, perchance, some of the older members might pass from the scene in the interim which would lessen the majority against them.

Every effort is being made to gain adherents to the ranks of the insurgents, from promised favors and emoluments to bullying and browbeating the obstinate ones, and this brings us down to the case of Mr. Putnam, who sides with the majority against them. In his late seventies, weak and emaciated, he has been in urgent need of professional care and nourishing food, but is being neglected, while the needs of the faithful are being attended to assiduously.

Several weeks ago, when seeing him in Estero, path, noting his emaciated condition, told Mr. Putnam that if he would come over to Miami for a time he would be given proper treatment and nourishing diet which he so urgently needed.

The matter was referred to President Bubbett, who refused Mr. Putnam permission to go to the doctor of his choice, but said he would get him a doctor in Fort Myers. However, what the man needed most was not medicine, but nourishing food which he was not getting at home. The writer went to treasurer Levi and told her that if it got out that she and Bubbett refused Mr. Putnam the right to choose his personal physician it would create something of a scandal, and Mr. Putnam was grudgingly allowed to go.

Dr. Rasmussen reported that never in all his experience had he seen anyone more weak and emaciated than Mr. Putnam, a man above average height who weighed 107 pounds when he came to him for treatment,--a plain case of malnutrition and near starvation, reminding him of the victims of Nazi cruelty in Germany. While under his care for several weeks Mr. Putnam gained ten pounds in weight.

Mr. Putnam returned to Estero after several weeks, having gained ten pounds in weight. Shortly thereafter he wanted to go again, but was refused by President Bubbett. I told him to go anyway, inasmuch as he was being helped, and he went. He returned a week later with a dietary list prescribed by Dr. Rasmussen that included milk and eggs, which were refused him by Mrs. Levi at the Koreshan Unity (HIS) Store unless he paid for them. And the woman who refused him is custodian of the Unity money!

President Bubbett later wrote Dr. Rasmussen forbidding him to give treatment to any member of the Unity unless o. k.'d by Bubbett and his associates. As he had already twice refused permission to Mr. Putnam, this was tantamount to ordering Dr. Rasmussen to treat no more members of the Unity who desired his aid.

"But mam, [sic] proud man, clothed with a little brief authority, cuts such capers before high heaven as make the very angels weep!"

The foregoing narrative of the outrageous treatment of an old and faithful member by arrogant de facto officials is related here in the belief that an aroused public sentiment will bring pressure to bear on the said officials as will cause them to desist. And by the way, it is passing strange that any reputable Fort Myers lawyer could agree to defend anyone guilty of such inhuman conduct. Inasmuch as these de facto officials have recently acquired possession of some forty thousand dollars through a fortuitous realty sale, there can be no valid plea of poverty.

With community assests conservatively estimated at a half million dollars, to which I have no access, I am being forced to carry on under considerable difficulty, in the hope that I will be forced to suspend publication. Readers of The Eagle, this is also your fight. You can help greatly by sending in renewals and new subscriptions. With your financial aid and an aroused public sentiment which they cannot long withstand, we are going to vanquish these cruel usurpers and wrongdoers.¹⁸

¹⁸ Andrews, Eagle, January 15, 1948.

On that particular editorial page and the one following in the next issue, the type used was smaller than usual, apparently so that Andrews could get in more information about his side of the conflict. Also, on these two pages appeared the first typographical errors that the writer noted in the many issues of the Eagle he examined. Andrews had used a style of his own, which included not capitalizing many words, such as the names of political parties, and the word "Negro." But, in these two issues there were more misspelled words than in the forty-two previous volumes of the Eagle combined, and the wrong font was used sometimes within a word. Whether Andrews in his ire wrote rapidly without bothering to proofread, or had to set the type himself, or someone wanted him to look "sloppy" is not known, but it makes interesting conjecture.

The editorial page on January 22, 1948, began with the head, "How The Eagle Was Hatched." Directly underneath was a letter to the editor:

I wonder how the paper's name was chosen. I think some of the readers would enjoy a brief history of The American Eagle. I would, and that word "brief" is ill chosen.

Yours very truly,
Mrs. L.M.L. 19
Coral Gables, Fla.

This was followed by a two-column history of the Unity and the Eagle. All mention of the current conflict was carefully avoided and it was a very complimentary review of the Unity, the Eagle, and Andrews. It might have been a coincidence that a Mrs. L.M.L. did just happen to write such a request at that time, but, on the other hand Andrews could have easily "planted" the letter in hopes of placing himself in a favorable light. At

¹⁹Eagle, January 22, 1948.

the bottom of the third column of the same page the following item was set
 in bold face type.

Attention Subscribers!

The three de facto [sic] directors of the Koreshan Unity, --Bubbett, Levi and Staton,--an investigation of whose illegal authority is now pending in the court, have decreed that I on [sic] longer manager of this printing plant and editor of The American Eagle, and are therefore confiscating all checks and money orders addressed to this paper. So be warned! Make all remittances payable to A.H. Andrews until further notice. If you have sent any within the past several days, stop payment on them and issue to me, as they cannot interfere with my personal mail. We are right now seeking an injunction.²⁰

No other mention was made of the controversy anywhere in the paper, but on the following week, the editorial page was once again set in eight point type and again there was a bold face notice at the bottom of the last column:

In our last week's issue mention was made of a resolution by my opposing directors relieving me as head of the Koreshan Unity Print Shop and as editor of The American Eagle. An action in court was then pending to enjoin them from carrying out their plan.

At a hearing in Fort Myers on Saturday, the 24th, the judge ruled that all affairs should be held in status quo, as of last November pending a final hearing in the case wherein our differences would be adjudicated. This means that A.H. Andrews is still the editor of this paper which he has operated for 42 years. This statement is made in justice to our subscribers, who are entitled to know [the] present status of the case.²¹

No further mention was made of the dispute and the issues of February 5th and February 12th appeared as usual. But the issue of February 19, 1948, carried Lawrence W. Bubbett's name at the masthead. Allen Harmon Andrews

²⁰ Eagle, January 22, 1948.

²¹ Eagle, January 29, 1948.

was no longer editor of the Eagle.

After his removal as editor, Andrews continued to live at the Unity until his death in 1951.²² Before he died however, he did write his autobiography, much of it taken from the old files of the Eagle, and which was published in 1950 as A Yank Pioneer in Florida.

²²Michel, Letter, June 30, 1970.

CHAPTER FIVE

THE EAGLE UNDER BUBBETT

Of course, there are two sides to every story. Lawrence W. Bubbett was no newcomer to the Unity as Andrews had indicated in his fiery editorial. He was the son of James H. Bubbett, the original printer of the Guiding Star Publishing House, and his wife, Evelyn Bubbett, manager of the Guiding Star Publishing House from 1888 to 1935.¹ He succeeded Teed as editor of The Flaming Sword in 1908, and remained in that post until publication ceased in 1949.² A later editor of the Eagle had these comments about Bubbett and Andrews:

Bubbett [was] a type close to nature, almost the exact opposite to Allen H. Andrews who never had a garden tool in his hands.

Bubbett for years grew the produce for the members--he knew a lot about the soil, also a lot about the quality of humans.

In the Koreshan family Andrews was qualified as the traveling salesman for our nursery. He brought plants to our garden.³

Privately, it was hinted that Andrews had embezzled the funds collected from the revenue of the Eagle and that he had "four helpers who were notorious jailbirds who tried to take over the place," and that

¹Hedwig Michel, Letter, July 1, 1970.

²Ibid.

³Michel, Letter, July 15, 1970.

there was never an accounting of revenue and that circulation figures were never kept. The sale of the land that Andrews mentioned in his editorial was intimated to be part of a scheme by outsiders who had promised Andrews security if he let them have the Koreshan land.⁴

Also, it was claimed, "Nehrling's wife repeatedly wrote of Andrews' absolute egotism, while [at the same time] she upheld the membership."⁵

In his first edition as editor of the Eagle on February 19, 1948, Bubbett presented the Unity's side of the affair in an editorial that began on the front page and was jumped to the editorial page which it occupied in full since it included at the end a reprint of the official court order in which the judge upheld the Unity and castigated Andrews for his acts. The editorial and court order read as follows:

Rule or Ruin

Editorial

The power of the press is a potent force either for good or evil. When used for good, it is highly beneficial to a community, to a state, to a nation at large, for the cultural influence of the printed word is of inestimable value in the progress of a people toward a higher standard of morals, of education, of government when it emanates from a high standard of thought. On the other hand, the power of the press when perverted and employed to mold public opinion through spite and revenge, or for selfish purposes, is a dangerous weapon.

In the January 15th number of The American Eagle there appeared a wholly unwarranted attack on the members of the Board of Directors of The Koreshan Unity by its editor, Allen Andrews, entitled "Surrender or Starve!" Had such a false and scurrilous attack appeared in a medium other than that owned and published by The Koreshan Unity, it would have been

⁴Michel, Interview, June 25, 1970.

⁵Michel, Letter, July 1, 1970.

FIGURE VII

LAWRENCE W. BUBBETT



ignored as unworthy of reply. But for the editor of a paper, published by the organization of which the individuals assailed are its officials, to attack those officials requires explanation.

The American Eagle is owned and published by The Koreshan Unity, and not by Mr. Andrews. It is one of several departments which include a general store, filling station, trailer park, apiary, horticultural nursery, printing and publishing department, and the group of members consisting of about a dozen persons, mostly of advanced age. The Koreshan Unity is a corporate body governed by a Board of Directors composed of five members, namely, L.W. Bubbett, president; Lou H. Staton, vice president; Hedwig Michel, secretary-treasurer; C.J. Rahn and A.H. Andrews. This Board manages the various activities of the corporation; it owes a duty not only to the members of The Koreshan Unity but to its preferred stockholders, a duty which has been neglected in the past. The Board is responsible for the preservation of the assets of the corporation and to see they are not dissipated.

In consonance with this obligation, some time ago the matter of the operation of the Printing Department, which includes the printing of The American Eagle, was discussed. The labor required to publish the paper had heretofore been performed by members of the Unity, but some of those members had grown too old to do the work. In addition, the cost of operation was a constant drain on the Unity treasury. This cost and the labor required in its production were out of all proportion to the benefit to The Koreshan Unity derived from keeping the paper in circulation. Under the circumstances, it was proposed to change the Eagle to a monthly horticultural bulletin, thus lessening both labor and expense involved. Mr. Andrews finally agreed to this, but later changed his mind and decided to fight for the continuation of the weekly editions.

Contrary to Mr. Andrews' assertion, at no time was the proposition entertained by the Board to discontinue the publication of the paper; but action had to be taken when Mr. Andrews refused to be governed by the decision to change the weekly to a monthly issue, to which he himself had agreed. As conditions existed, in effect Mr. Andrews was practically conducting a private enterprise within "an Industrial and Fraternal Commonwealth" of The Koreshan Unity, drawing both upon the sadly diminished man-power of the Unity and the resources of the treasury in the publication of the Eagle, and appropriating the funds derived from subscriptions and advertising space largely for his own benefit in keeping the paper going.

Such a condition of affairs could not be permitted to continue, in all fairness to the entire membership of the body, therefore at its October 1947 meeting the Board passed a resolution giving Mr. Andrews, as head of the Printing Department, until January 1948 to activate that department in whatsoever manner he might choose, to try to put it on a paying basis; otherwise the Board would take such action as was deemed necessary to remedy the situation. Mr. Andrews was still president of the Board at that time and voted for the resolution!

But instead of sincerely trying to activate the Printing Department, of which he was head, Mr. Andrews activated himself in attempting to oust the Board of Directors! By representing to the members of the Unity that it would be to their best interests, Mr. Andrews "high-pressured" them into signing over to him their individual powers of attorney. As most members of the Unity are elderly persons, unacquainted with the ways of the world, they acquiesced, little realizing what they were doing in delegating such power to another.

With these powers of attorney, Mr. Andrews forthwith instituted suit against his fellow Board members, using the names of the members of the Unity, without their knowledge, he had thus procured as co-plaintiffs. In the Bill of Complaint filed against the Board, Mr. Andrews asked for an injunction and receivership without a hearing. This the Court denied and summoned both sides for a hearing.

(What line of thought impelled Mr. Andrews to ask for a receiver for a corporation of which he was a director, and which was solvent in its entirety--although his own department was operating at a considerable loss--is a mystery. Had the Court deemed such action necessary, and had appointed a receiver, such an officer hardly would have permitted the continuance of the paper at such a loss.)

At the court hearing held November 29, wherein charges of embezzlement, mismanagement and "plotting to get control of the property" were brought against the majority members of the Board, not one shred of evidence was produced to substantiate those charges, and this action the Court also denied.

The last straw upon the camel's back of patience was laid by Mr. Andrews when he wrote and published the above-mentioned attack in the Eagle against the members of the Board. To protect itself against further attack in the columns of its own paper, the Board passed a resolution removing Mr. Andrews from management of both the Printing Department and The American Eagle and as editor of the Eagle.

Again Mr. Andrews applied to the Court, this time for an injunction to restrain the Board from carrying out its resolution removing him from office. Not only this, but he attempted to bolster his position by adding a malicious charge that the Board was starving one of his supporters. This charge was absolutely false and preposterous, and it was a grievous tactical error on the part of Mr. Andrews, for he was still president of the Board when this man was allegedly starving! Why did not Mr. Andrews do something then to alleviate this man's alleged condition?

The simple fact was that Mr. Andrews merely used Mr. Putnam as a means of attempting to strengthen his case against the Board. But this fell of its own weight, and the following order was issued by the Court.

In the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial
Circuit in and for Lee County, Florida.
In Chancery--Case No. 8907

R. PERCY Jones, et als. Plaintiffs
vs.
THE KORESHAN UNITY, etc., et als.
Defendants

ORDER

This cause came on for hearing before me on the 24th day of January, 1948 upon the PETITION of Allen H. Andrews and Jesse E. Putnam and upon the MOTION of the Defendants; and testimony and evidence being heard and considered; the Court finds as follows:

1. That the allegations of said PETITION have not been sustained as to the charges that the Defendants have starved or otherwise mistreated Petitioner Putnam or that he has been denied medical attention; that, on the contrary, it appears from the evidence presented that Petitioner has been furnished competent doctors and offered medical service which said Petitioner Putnam has refused and that he has been supplied with medicines which he has declined to take as prescribed; that said Petitioner Putnam has been given all food requested by him and that the preparation and cooking of meals and food for Petitioner and other members of the Koreshan Unity is under the full authority of one of Petitioner's Co-Plaintiffs, who has authority without limit or amount to procure and prepare food for the members of the Koreshan Unity.

2. That the said PETITION as to the treatment allegedly accorded Petitioner Putnam and the editorial entitled "Surrender or Starve," written and published in the columns of THE AMERICAN EAGLE on January 15, 1948 by Petitioner Andrews, are in bad faith and without reasonable grounds for their support.

3. The Court further finds, that as to the allegations in said PETITION on behalf of Petitioner Allen H. Andrews, that THE AMERICAN EAGLE is owned by the Koreshan Unity and is not the private property of said Petitioner Andrews or of any of the members of the Unity; that the operation and the management of said publication is in the hands and under the control of the Board of Directors of the Koreshan Unity, consisting of Allen H. Andrews, Laurence [sic] W. Bubbett, Hedwig Michel and Lou H. Staton; that these said persons are the duly constituted governing body of said Koreshan Unity, whether de jure or de facto, and their actions and the actions of said Board or a majority thereof regarding the management and operation of said publication, or regarding other Koreshan Unity property and activities, are valid and binding until this Court, or some other Court of competent jurisdiction, decrees that said Board of Directors are not the properly constituted governing body of said corporation.

4. That the action of Petitioner Andrews in using the columns of said publication for his own benefit, in failing to make monthly reports of finances and operations covering his activities and in locking the doors of the building housing the said publication and the Printing Department of the Unity are improper and should not be continued.

5. That the operation and management of said publication and the other activities of said corporation should be under the direction, supervision and control of the Board of Directors of said corporation as hereinabove set out and this Court has no power to interpose its authority for the purpose of adjusting controversies between Directors of a corporation relative to the proper method of conducting the corporate business and the actions of a majority of such a Board of Directors are controlling and a Court of equity will not interfere at the suit or upon the request of a minority of a Board of Directors to prevent the majority of a Board of Directors from pursuing any particular course of action when it does not appear that such action is fraudulent or otherwise illegal or improper.

The Court being fully advised in the premises, it is hereupon

ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED as follows:

1. That the PETITION of said Allen H. Andrews and Jesse E. Putnam was not brought in good faith and it is hereby denied and dismissed.

2. That the resolution adopted by a majority of the Board of Directors on January 19, 1948, removing the said Allen H. Andrews as Head of the Printing Department of the Koreshan Unity and as Editor and Business Manager of THE AMERICAN EAGLE, appears to be proper and the terms thereof

should be complied with and said Printing Department and publication continued under the supervision and control of the Board of Directors of said Unity.

3. That any remarks of the Court or oral observations heretofore made in this cause, inconsistent with the findings, opinion and orders herein set forth, are to be disregarded and are hereby set aside and overruled.

DONE AND ORDERED at Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida this 14th day of February, 1948.

/ s / LYNN GERALD
CIRCUIT JUDGE.

Through a disposition to assume the role of dictator and for flagrant violations of the Bylaws of the corporation, which brought him into opposition with all other members of the Board, Mr. Andrews forfeited the confidence of his fellow Board members, and was not re-elected to the office of president. In a desperate effort to regain this lost power, he has stooped to a campaign of slander and abuse against those who have labored strenuously to better the condition of the Unity. In his efforts to oust the Board, he has filed an almost identical suit which was brought against the Unity in 1935, when Mr. Andrews himself was president of the Board. Why at that time did he not admit that he was a "usurper"? Why should he have done so, he was president then! This suit was dismissed by Judge Whitehurst of the Circuit Court.

There has been no change in the procedure of appointing members to the Board, or of electing its officers, since the inception of the corporation in 1903. Why the attempt to declare the Board illegal at this late date? Simply because Mr. Andrews is fighting to regain a power--forfeited through his own wilful perversity. Through his ill-advised efforts to oust the Board, Mr. Andrews apparently has cast a boomerang with disastrous results to himself. Rule or ruin!

It is most regrettable that the internal dissensions of the Unity should be forced into court and the public print. The majority members of the Board of Directors have sincerely attempted to resolve such difficulties in a peaceful solution within its own body, and compromise overtures were made to that end, but without avail. This left no alternative but to "fight fire with fire" and to place before the public pertinent facts relative to the questions at issue.

In closing, we wish to assure the readers of the Eagle that we shall endeavor to continue the paper in its present form indefinitely.⁶

In addition to the editorial and court order, Bubbett also ran a front page news story of the affair, including the information, not before disclosed, that Andrews had attacked him physically. Headed in three lines of bold face type it read:

Unity Backed In
Removing
Eagle Editor

Allen H. Andrews' fight to regain control of the Koreshan Unity at Estero and continue publication of the group's weekly paper, The American Eagle, received a setback yesterday when Circuit Judge Lynn Gerald dismissed Andrews' petition charging starvation of his supporters and backed the Unity board of directors in the removal of Andrews as editor.

Meanwhile Andrews himself was out on \$100 bond on a charge of assault and battery on Lawrence W. Bubbett, president of the group that believes the world is hollow. Both men are over 60. Bubbett on Friday filed an information resulting in the charge as the outcome of an alleged altercation the day before during which he claimed Andrews struck and punished him. The argument came about over removal of some of the older members of the community from a frame building to one which had been renovated to their use. County Attorney John K. Woolslair said the case has been set for the May term of county court.

Main Issue Pending

The main question, whether the present board of directors is illegally elected and without authority as Andrews claims, still remains to be ruled on by the judge and a final hearing has not yet been held. A motion has been entered by the defense to dismiss the suit on grounds that the issue was settled in a previous suit in 1935 in which Andrews was the defendant against charges similar to those he now makes against the present board.

⁶Eagle, February 19, 1948.

In his order yesterday Judge Gerald held that the petition of Andrews and his pressman, Jesse Putnam, charging starvation and medical neglect of a minority faction in the Unity was not made in good faith and should be dismissed because competent doctors were available and Putnam actually had received the necessary food. The judge added that Andrews, the co-plaintiff, had authority "without limit or amount to procure and prepare food for the members."

He added that the board of directors' resolution removing Andrews as head of the printing department and editor and business manager of the American Eagle "appears to be proper and should be complied with."

Judge Gerald took exception both to Andrews' petition itself and to a controversial editorial in The Eagle headed "Surrender or Starve" which claimed opponents of the present board were being starved into submission and denied medical care. He held both petition and editorial were "in bad faith and without reasonable grounds for their support."

"The action of Andrews in using the columns of said publication for his own benefit in failing to make monthly reports of finances and operations and in locking the doors of the building housing the publication are improper and should not be continued," the judge declared. He added that the court has no power to interpose its authority for the purpose of adjusting controversies between directors of a corporation and the court will not interfere when it does not appear their actions are fraudulent or otherwise illegal or improper.⁷

At the end of the story Bubbett added a line attributing the story to the Fort Myers News-Press, apparently feeling the readers would feel it was more objective coming from another source than if it had been written by a member of the Eagle staff.

With this first issue under a new editor, the first of several typographical changes took place. The heads on the front page editorial and the Andrews story were set in twenty-four point bold face Modern Roman, a type not seen in the Eagle before. The condensed Franklin

⁷Eagle, February 19, 1948.

Gothic was not discontinued immediately, in fact it was used on the same page, but by-lines were added to the stories, heads began to be set multi-line and multi-deck and the by-lines and individual story heads are now in Cheltenham, and by the end of the year the main front page heads were set in a turn of the century novelty-style Roman.⁸

At first glance, this change in typography gave the impression of an "old-fashioned" newspaper, but Bubbett's use of heads for each story and his make-up style of placing several short stories on a page instead of one or two long ones, had the effect of opening up the page and keeping it from becoming too grey. He gradually began to run more items of general interest, still in a horticultural vein, but presented in a more pleasing manner, both in writing style and typographically.

In this issue also, under the Estero news wrap-up column, was a very detailed account of Jesse Putnam visiting Fort Myers for the purpose of seeing his doctor.

Bubbett continued to run the De Soto expedition series until the story was finished. He did move it to the top of the front page and move the centerfold map which had been accompanying it to page three. The type size on the editorial page went back up to a more readable twelve points. During the year that he was editor he did change to a lighter weight uncoated paper, but it was still of book quality and not newsprint. The only observable inconsistency with the aims stated by the Board during the dispute with Andrews was that the Eagle did remain a weekly and did not change to monthly publication.

⁸These type styles and faces verified by Prof. Wellborn, July 25, 1970.

The Lee County Directory, which had been a page seven feature for so many years ran for the last time in the issue of March 18, 1948, and the De Soto maps disappeared with this issue also. The issue of May 6, 1948, appeared with the nameplate printed in black and Bubbett explained editorially that this was an economy move to save money and the labor of the elderly work force by eliminating the extra press run necessary for the use of color. In this same issue however, was a national ad that covered three-fourths of a page, the largest size to ever run in the Eagle. It was placed by the Association of American Railroads who were faced with a strike during this period, and was very anti-union in content. This did seem a little out of tune with the early objectives of Koreshanity, but it was a legitimate advertisement that was to appear several more times in 1948.

One of Bubbett's innovations was the introduction of a comic strip during the summer of 1948. Titled "White Collar Farmer," it ran near the bottom of page four and seemed to be educational in intent for it showed a bumbling farmer advising others of the correct way of doing things and then getting into trouble by not following his own advice.

In the issue of October 21, 1948, the Estero news wrap-up was moved onto the editorial page for that issue. There were several of the usual gossip paragraphs about recent visitors and goings-on at Estero, and then one long one that began by saying that Dr. Baker Whisnant of Fort Myers had visited the Unity and while there gave Jesse Putnam a check-up. It continued to say that Putnam, now enfeebled by age had been moved to "comfortable, renovated and remodeled quarters," with "running water, a sanitary chemical commode, electricity and a radio." It went on to say that he was afforded help and attention by his neighbor in the house, and,

...was moved by the management to lessen the danger of a possible fall which might prove fatal to the old man in his feeble efforts to climb an extraordinary steep stairs to his rooms on the second floor of another house.

In this same issue, the Eagle "shrank" to six pages. The following week, November 4, 1948, the page size was also decreased, to ten and three quarter inches by fifteen and three quarter inches. Advertising was shrinking also. During the last calendar quarter of Andrews' editorship there was an average of 29.5 ads per issue. During Bubbett's final quarter there was an average of 18.5 ads per issue. Bubbett did run a public service advertisement--Smokey the Bear--which was something Andrews did not.

On December 30, 1948, Bubbett began running the following streamer above the nameplate in twelve-point Cheltenham Bold.

FLORIDA CITRUS, THE WORLD'S FINEST! BUY!--EAT!--SHIP TO YOUR FRIENDS!
IT'S GOOD! IT'S HEALTHY! IT'S PAR EXCELLENCE!

This was a short-lived innovation however, for the following week the Eagle went down to four pages, and, in the issue of January 13, 1949, the following editorial appeared:

THE EAGLE FOLDS ITS WINGS

Owing to a combination of circumstances over which it has no control, The American Eagle will be discontinued with this issue. Constant deficit and a drain, both in financial and man-power considerations (a condition which has existed throughout the years), dictate the necessity of this action.

The publication of The Eagle was merely one department of the Koreshan Unity, which has borne the burden of its production accomplished, for the most part, by members of the Unity who derived practically no benefit from their work. Some of these members have grown old and have had to be relieved. This necessitated the employment of hired assistance, with added expense. The labor of the various members was never charged to cost of production--which constituted a greater drain on man-power than publication of the paper warranted.

Had it not been for the support of The Koreshan Unity throughout the years, The Eagle would have ceased long ago.

Because of diminishing membership and the advance age of those remaining (whose average age is 77 years according to a Miami Herald report), the Unity has been compelled to discontinue, one after another, many of its various lines of activity. It was inevitable that the publication of a secular paper that not only did not contribute to the advance of the interests or support of The Koreshan Unity but was a constant drain on its finances and labor could be no exception to the necessity of diminished activity.

The Board of Directors of The Koreshan Unity considers its paramount duty is the conservation of the remaining resources of the Institution to the end of maintaining its existence and providing for the necessities of its members.

In the matter of unexpired subscriptions, in consideration of the paper's publication at a constant loss, we offer back numbers, according to stock on hand, in the amount of your unexpired portion; or, if requested, we will promptly refund the amount of the unexpired subscription. However, if our readers which to donate this amount, it will be greatly appreciated.

The editor takes this last opportunity of thanking each and every subscriber and advertiser for his or her support of The Eagle to its final flight.⁹

Thus, after almost forty-three years of publication and public service the Eagle had apparently passed away. Its death was made to appear even more final when later in 1949 the print shop containing the equipment, records, and many of the early editions, burned to the ground. It was thought at the time the fire was a result of arson, or caused by children living in the trailer park owned by the Koreshans, but since the Koreshans, did not wish to prosecute no formal investigation was made.¹⁰

⁹Eagle, January 13, 1949.

¹⁰Michel, Interview, June 25, 1970.

FIGURE VIII

VOLUME XLIII, NUMBER 39

LAST ISSUE OF THE "ORIGINAL" EAGLE

The American Eagle

AND HORTICULTURAL REVIEW

Vol. 43

ESTERO, FLORIDA, JANUARY 13, 1949

No. 39

Future Of Tropical Fruits

University Of Miami Studies Future Status Of Florida Citrus Products

There's a silly joke for a silly mood about the old lady who didn't like olives and refused to eat olives, because she might learn to like olives and if she learned to like olives she'd eat olives and she didn't like olives.

Now that's really not as silly as it sounds. It illustrates a very important thing about the foods which sustain civilization. Mankind had to acquire a taste for most of them, especially for olives. Tomatoes, for instance, were once regarded as poisonous. Potatoes, which became the cornerstone of European diet, were regarded with suspicion when first introduced and weren't really accepted until a famine forced people to acquire a taste for them.

University of Miami students are learning this lesson about foods. And the research workers at South Campus are teaching a lot of things to adults outside the university about the all-important subject of food. Recently, when Dr. Taylor Alexander, chairman of the university's botany department, took students on a tour of South Campus, some things were revealed which will become important in a world which is year-by-year taking up the netches in its belt. Besides helping to feed a growing population which scientists warn must soon look for new sources of food, research in the university's food laboratory is directed at broadening the economy of sub-tropical Florida.

Dr. Arthur L. Stahl, head of the food research project, explained to the students that because tropical fruits are always in production in benevolent climates with year-around growing seasons, little attention had been paid to their processing. Natives were accustomed to taking what nature proffered.

Another thing which has prevented many from availing themselves of the high nutritive value of tropical fruits in many cases has been their exotic taste. Nature is more lavish with flavor in the tropics. Palates used to blander foods revolt at piquancy and the perfumed flavor which many of these fruits possess.

When Miss Margaret Mustard spread a table of processed tropical fruits, however, the scientific aspects of the tour were a total loss until everything had been devoured.

Miss Mustard picked up a metal tube. It was unlabeled and might have contained anything from toothpaste to mulligee. She held a cracker daintily and gave the tube a squeeze. A greenish glob spread itself over the cracker. She handed it to a student who hesitated a mo-

ment, then took a mincing bite. "Ummmm," said the student and crammed in the rest of the cracker. "That's avocado puree," said Miss Mustard.

Avocado puree deserves a place at any buffet luncheon. In its straight form the students pronounced it good. But Miss Mustard said it could be varied to suit tastes by mixing in relishes and condiments. Used as the basis of a bread spread and flavored to suit the taste of children it could be slipped over as a fortifier of their diets. The avocado is a powerhouse of nutrition. Besides containing more protein than many meats, it rivals butter as a source of essential fat (food in its purest form), and vies with many fresh fruits and vegetables as a vitamin source.

Dried lychee nuts are often served in Miami Chinese restaurants. But the dried fruit is too close to the familiar prune to thrill most patrons. The fresh lychee, though, is some-

(Continued on page 3)

New Insecticide Will Get Extensive Tests In Fort Myers

Fort Myers has been chosen as the scene for the introduction to the public of a revolutionary new insecticide called Cordacide which requires no spraying or other application.

Fred Houghton of Simsbury, Conn., general manager of Cordacide, and his staff arrived here to make plans for the first public demonstration of the new product and for its introduction in local stores. He said Fort Myers was chosen because of its location apart from other cities.

Cordacide, made by Harscoth, Inc., well known manufacturers of fuses, works by fumes which kill insects but which are unnoticeable to humans. It is operated by removing the stopper from the tin container and one package is said to be effective for 30 to 90 days depending upon the location.—Fort Myers News Press.

Request For Florida Extension Bulletins Comes From Japanese

Gainesville, Fla.—In efforts to establish an advisory service for rural people in Japan, the Extension Division of the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, with headquarters in Tokyo, has requested reports and publications from the Florida Agricultural Extension Service.

Director H. G. Clayton recently received a letter from S. Miyake, chief of the Japanese Extension Division, which read in part:

"In the accomplishment of Japanese democracy, it is most important to democratize the Japanese society.

"We, extension workers, progress the extension work to the people and

for lack of references and literature to know the real activities in other countries, especially in U. S. A.

"So I shall be very much obliged if your station send the publications concerning Agriculture Extension."

Florida Affords Climate And Geographical Advantages For Industrial Expansion

The annual valuation of Florida's manufactured products, ranging in variety from ships and paper to cigars, food and novelties approximates \$350,000,000. Climatic and geographical advantages offer strong support for future industrial expansion. Water transportation from excellent Atlantic and Gulf ports convenient to established trade routes, rail service within 24 hours of 30 states, and complete air transportation to all the nation as well as South America make Florida a logical location for new industries. Never falling sunshine creates an average mean temperature of 70 degrees—ideal for workers in industry.

Ruskin The "Salad Bowl" Of The Florida West Coast

Ruskin, Fla.—Long known as the "salad bowl" of the Florida West Coast, this truck farming community is about to live up to its name in the strictest sense. Paul H. Dickman, head of Dickman Farms, and chairman of the prepackaging committee of the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, has announced that he will begin marketing soon, in consumer-type packages and ready for the table, both cole slaw and tossed salads.

Dickman said the cole slaw will consist of shredded green and red cabbage. The tossed salad will include shredded cabbage of the two hues, lettuce, small tomatoes, "Chinese cabbage," green pepper and possibly other vegetables. The company is awaiting the arrival of a vegetable shredder as the last unit of equipment needed for the new product.

Pirate Flagship Sustains Accident In Tampa Bay Harbor

Tampa, Fla.—The good ship Jose Gaspar, flagship of Gasparilla and his motley crew of pirates who invade Tampa each year during the Florida State Fair, was rammed accidentally by another ship in Tampa harbor recently.

Officials said she would have to go into drydock for repairs but say she will be ready for her annual trip up the bay on Gasparilla Day, February 7.

Dates for the Florida State Fair and Gasparilla Carnival are February 1 to 12, 1949.

Auto Journey In The Wilderness

Trip Reveals Interesting Flora And Fauna Of Everglades National Park

By WILLARD E. DILLEY
Acting Park Naturalist

An intriguing feature of many national parks is the change in vegetation and wildlife which takes place with each change in altitude. In some parks the elevation may vary as much as 6,000 feet or more. In the Everglades National Park the greatest difference in elevation is a mere eight feet, but just as surely as in other places each change in elevation is accompanied by a changing scene.

With both mind and eyes wide open let us direct our car down Ingraham Highway. Entering the park the road rises slightly and we find ourselves on an Everglade key. The growth is sparse, for little soil is present to sustain it. Repeated burning has nullified all efforts of natural processes to build a soil. The rough surface of exposed limestone makes walking difficult. This rock is known as Miami oolite and was laid down by tiny sea creatures many years ago when the area was an arm of the sea. The formation is not coral rock as many people suppose. Coral rock is a term correctly applied to the foundation rock of the Florida Keys.

The most obvious tree present is the Caribbean pine, the very same pine found in Cuba and other islands to the south of us. It is the tree which gave Isle of Pines, south of Cuba, its name. These tall, slender trees show the scars of many fires. Oldtime residents will confirm that originally this same land supported a fine stand of merchantable timber, but since the virgin forest was cut, fires and continued cutting have prevented a return to its former splendor.

Very little life is noticed in the open pine lands. If the day be quiet we may hear the thin song of a pine woods sparrow or the gentle tapping of a red-bellied woodpecker.

Descending a foot or so we cross an open slough carpeted with a thick growth of sedges. Like a field of grain, they wave with every breeze. Depressions such as this were formerly tidal channels where water had cut through a limestone ridge thereby producing the separate Everglade "keys." Now, with sea level much below the land, these sloughs provide natural drainage for the fresh water of the Everglades. Here rose gallinules, and limpkins, sometimes called "rying birds," make known their presence by a varied assortment of cries and calls. During weather such low spots harbor

(Continued on page 3)

CHAPTER SIX

THE EAGLE FLIES AGAIN

On May 1, 1965, just five weeks short of the fifty-ninth anniversary of the first issue of The American Eagle, Volume 44, Number 1 appeared in print. It was revived by the current editor, Miss Hedwig Michel, who had succeeded Lawrence Bubbett as president of the Koreshan Unity following his death in 1960.¹

Miss Michel was born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, where her family had lived since 1200. She was the owner and headmistress of a private school² and was also active in the theater, writing on the theater and drama for the Frankfurter Zeitung.³ Prior to the outbreak of World War II she found life under Hitler becoming unbearable and she began to think of moving her school to another country. One of her teachers had gotten a copy of Teed's Cellular Cosmogony from the library at Worms and after reading it, Miss Michel decided to move her school to Estero. In 1938 she had all her equipment loaded onto twenty vans bound for Antwerp to be shipped to America; however, the vans "disappeared" before they reached Belgium.⁴

¹Hedwig Michel, Letter, June 30, 1970.

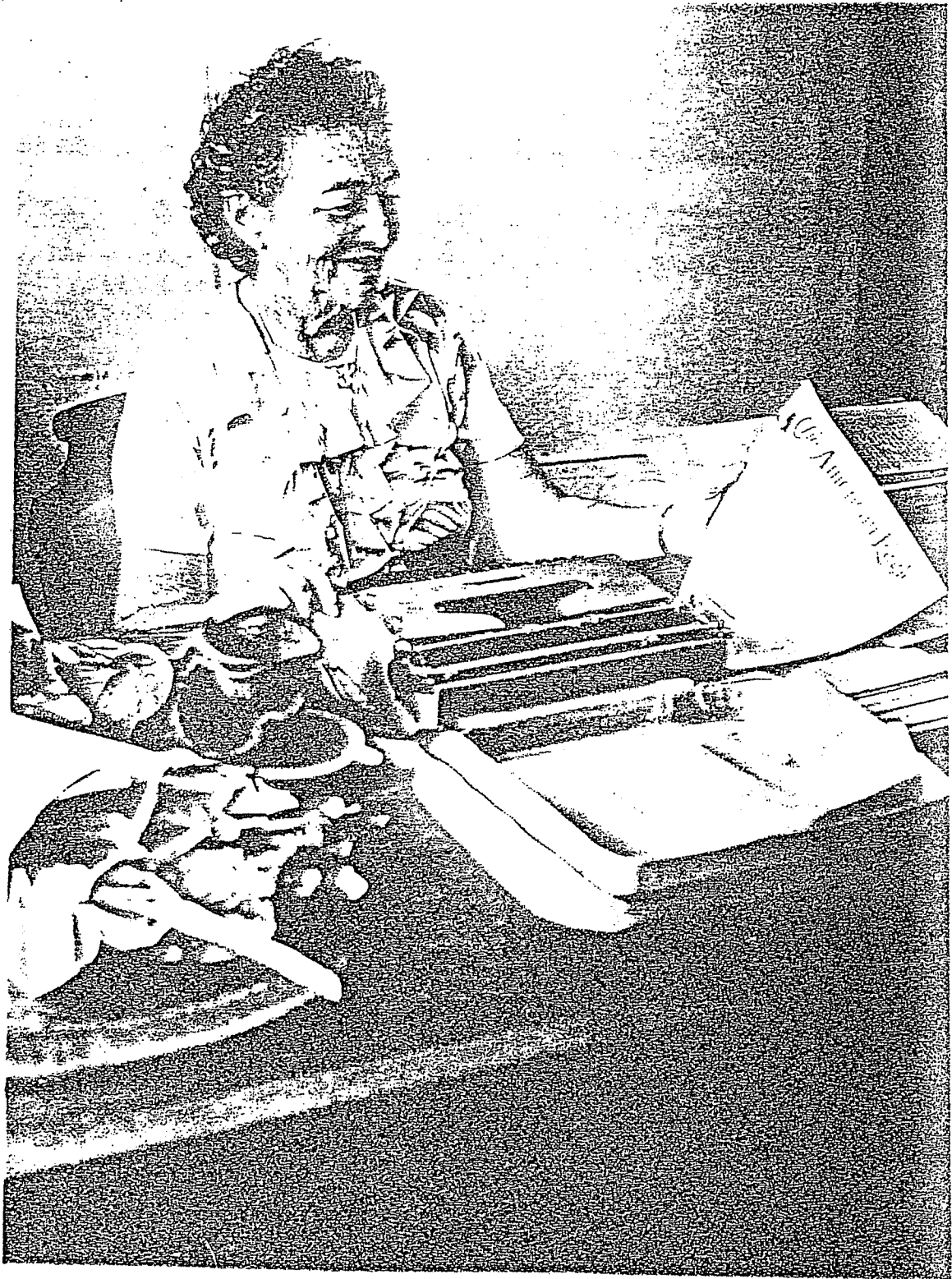
²Elizabeth Whitney, "Koreshan," Floridian Sunday Magazine section, The St. Petersburg Times, October 20, 1968.

³Michel, Interview, June 25, 1970.

⁴Whitney, St. Petersburg Times, October 20, 1968.

FIGURE IX

MISS HEDWIG MICHEL

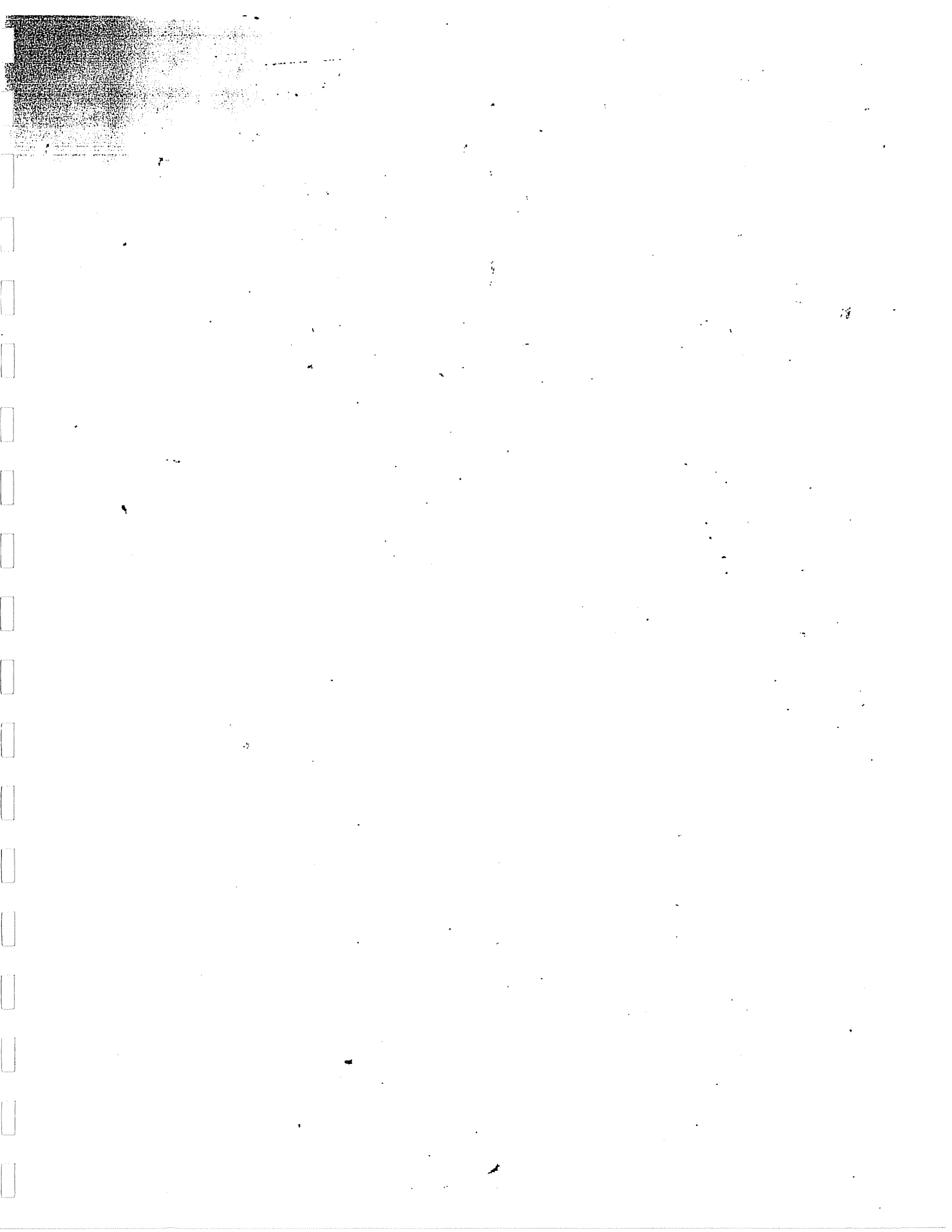


Her avocation had been tropical flora. She had maintained a tropical garden in a hothouse in her home in Germany and had visited many famous botanical gardens, so when she arrived in Estero in 1940, many of the plants and flowers there were already familiar to her. Too, from her journalistic experience in Germany, she wanted to work on the Eagle, but Andrews refused to let her. Currently, Miss Michel "is" the Eagle today, with the assistance of her secretary, Mrs. Evelyn Horne and her librarian, Mrs. Jo Daughtry, Miss Michel writes or edits all the copy, plans the layout and prepares the copy camera-ready, since the Eagle is now printed offset by an outside printer.

The American Eagle once again has its familiar red nameplate, but it is now issued monthly instead of weekly (but the masthead plainly states that it is a newspaper, not a magazine), and there is a new motto, "For The Wise Use of Natural Resources," just below the nameplate. It is printed on sixty to seventy pound coated book paper, and the eight pages are eleven and a quarter inches by seventeen and a half inches. Front page heads are either in bold face Spartan or Tempo Bold. Other heads are set in fourteen point Century expanded body type.⁵

The layout is flexible and may vary from issue to issue, some may be set in three seventeen pica columns, others in four ten and a half pica columns, and still others in two twenty-nine pica columns, or a combination of column widths lends itself to a more horizontal layout than the old Eagle and is more pleasing to the eye and easier to read. The body type is a modern ten point sans serif.

⁵These type styles, faces and sizes verified by Prof. Wellborn, July 6, 1970.





The American Eagle

FOR THE WISE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Vol. 50

ESTERO, FLORIDA, JUNE 1970

No. 62

"Bridging the Gap Between Our Human and Natural Resources"

Remarks of George B. Harlow, Jr., Director, National Park Service

Every day, on my way to the Interior Building, I drive along Constitution Avenue past a group of old white buildings commonly called "Main Navy." These were built as "temporaries" or "tempo" during World War I. A few weeks ago, on a helicopter flight over this same area, President Nixon ordered these old buildings to be taken down this year. I feel sure that they will be gone soon!

Thumbing through a National Geographic the other day I ran across an aerial view of these same buildings and a caption which said "Every lover of Washington hopes that these factory-like structures will soon be removed, thereby restoring the beauty and symmetry of the Mall with its monumental structures." The wheels of Government grind slowly - that Geographic was dated June 1971!

The caption to the picture also noted that 5,000 trees and shrubs had been destroyed during the original construction. As soon as the buildings come down our Park Service landscape crews will replace them with trees and shrubs and the attractive park ground of the Reflecting Pool will be restored. But, more importantly, each of those living plants will be contributing something to our survival by generating oxygen for us to breathe.

Plastic plants don't require much attention, but they can't make oxygen either. Without green plants and sunlight we would all perish, and the chain saw and the bulldozer are destroying millions of trees and shrubs every day.

Must we do it this way? Can't man and plants live together? Perhaps you think I'm an alarmist. I really do know that there are millions of trees left in our forests. But smog isn't a problem in the forest - you find it in our cities. What we don't know is what may be happening in our upper atmosphere. Something far more menacing may be taking place up there from the vast quantities of hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides and ash particles which we

have been pouring into the air we must breathe.

Predictions are that we may bring on either a "hot house blanket" or an ice age equally fatal to man. These are, indeed, only hypotheses, but they are based on sound, scientific inquiry.

For example, each year destructive hurricanes are spawned in the Caribbean Ocean, and move northward on to the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts, causing millions - or hundreds of millions - of gallons in damage and taking many lives. Just a few weeks ago, a scientist who has been studying the origins of these hurricanes announced his premise: that seasonal dust storms in Africa create a cloud of dust particles which are carried westward by prevailing winds into the Caribbean area.

The water vapor rising from the warm seas utilizes these dust particles, according to his theory, to build up droplets of moisture thereby triggering the violent storms which have, on occasion, swept down upon the South Carolina coast.

If such mighty acts of nature - which release more energy than an atom bomb - can be set off by what might be termed natural "smog" then we would do well to respect the incomprehensible ways in which our fouling of the atmosphere may create disastrous conditions for us.

Our pioneer ancestors had their own point of view about nature. They blazed the way and were forced to be uncompromising, and they rejected in nature that which was not of immediate and practical use - a philosophy borne out in a little poem published in 1692.

In such a wilderness
When we began to clear the land
Then with the axe, with might and strength

The trees so thick and strong
We laid them all along
These we with fire, most furiously
To ashes did confound.

In the past, we have tended to overlook such broad ecological implications of our actions. Instead, we too often relied on the "cost-benefit ratio"

for making decisions concerning resources use and management. Evaluating our inheritance in terms of dollars and cents we often depreciated - or worse still in some instances - ignored, the long-range social - and physical - consequences of our decisions.

The result, as we all know, has been the ravaging of the environment of this Nation with a speed and thoroughness unknown before in history.

There is no question that the people of South Carolina, as evidenced by the scope of this Tricentennial observance and their long standing careful attention to their cultural heritage, respect the accomplishments of their ancestors - both remote and immediate.

But they also are concerned - along with many other Americans - about the present and the future. More particularly, they are concerned about the alarming deterioration of our physical environment.

It is, therefore, a heartening thing to witness the zest with which the young people of this country - primarily college students, but also including high school and elementary students - are making preparations for a massive, nationwide "Teach-In."

"Earth Day" is scheduled for April 22, and through discussions, seminars, and other thoughtful means, our young people will be expressing their concern for the quality of the environment they will be inheriting from their parents.

All of us can take confidence that the 1970's seem destined to be that era in American history marking the all out national effort to preserve the beauty and history of this land.

On New Year's Day, 1970, President Nixon signed into law the National Environmental Policy Act, which created a Council on Environmental Quality.

And, in February, Federal intervention at the highest level prevented ecological disaster at Everglades National Park by blocking construction of a commercial jetport just outside the Park's boundaries.

(Continued on Page 7)

THE BIG PESTICIDE BATTLE

WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

Pesticides have been under fire before, but never as fiercely as now. Proposals for major new restrictions, even outright bans, are popping up all over the country. And the usually ponderous USDA is moving so quickly toward new and tougher policies that the reverberations can be felt throughout agriculture.

Chances are strong that some of your pesticide uses will soon be curtailed. You'll learn why from the following interview with Dr. Ned Bayley, USDA Director of Science and Education; Parke C. Brinkley, President of the National Agricultural Chemists Association; and K. R. Fitzsimmons, General Manager of the Agricultural Chemicals Div. of Shell Chemical Co. NED BAYLEY

Would you say the USDA is taking a stricter approach to pesticide regulations?

Yes. In the past we weighed three primary factors in registering and regulating pesticides. One was effectiveness - would the pesticide do the job? Another was safety to the user. The third was residue in food. We were always concerned with the pesticide's effect on total environment, but this wasn't one of our primary considerations. Now it is. How does this concern for the environment affect your policies?

We can't say at this point. We are beginning a chemical-by-chemical, use-by-use review. We'll have to see what needs to be done.

Why this new direction?

When legislation was developed for regulating the use of pesticides the issue of environmental contamination wasn't as much part of the public concern as it is today. The Department is responding to concern about contamination. There is considerable evidence that stricter and more comprehensive control of pesticides is needed as part of the overall effort to prevent further pollution of the environment.

Basically a meeting of the National (Continued on Page 4)

1. Distributed by special permission from Black & Veatch, Inc. (The Staff Farm Journal, Inc.)

Fifth Annual Southern District Conference National Recreation and Park Association Charleston, South Carolina

HENRY NEHLING The Patron Saint of Florida Gardens

Part Eight

By Hedwig Mischel

Planting Begon Under Hardships

They consisted of small specimens of *Magnolia grandiflora*, *Osmanthus americana* (American Olive), *Lobelia* Bay, *Wax Myrtle*, *American Laurel* (*Ocotea catesbeiana*), *Red Bay* (*Persea borbonie*), *Laurel Smilax* (*Smilax laurifolia*), *Sweet Bay* (*Magnolia glauca*), *Pieris nitida*, *Zenobia pulverulenta*, *Leucothoe racemosa* and several others.

The magnolias are now large and stately trees, the pride of the garden, at least 50 feet tall; the *Lobelia* Bays, though always found near water, have assumed a good size, being about 30 feet high, and the *American Olives* are dense and broad specimens. The *Wax Myrtles* have formed round and dense clusters of bright green, and the *Smilax* climbs up into the trees. We also collected little plants of the *Caroline Jasmine* one of our most beautiful and refined native plants. It covers at present quite a number of trees in my grounds, and when in bloom, the bright yellow flower-bells exhale a most delicious perfume which pervades the air of the entire garden. I also planted several *Hollies* (*Ilex opaca*), the *Dahoon* (*Ilex cassine*), *Wild Plum* trees, the *Prickly Ash* (*Fagara Clava-Herculi*) and a dense growing *Hawthorn* (*Crataegus*) with pendant branches.

Hollies and *Dahoons* are at present a feature in the garden, but the *Prickly Ash* became a nuisance by spreading over territory not belonging to it and it had to be removed. The common *Wild Plum* (*Prunus umbellata*) forms a very dense, reclining, broad and shapely tree, while the *Chickasaw Plum* (*P. angustifolia*) has formed dense thickets by underground runners. It is almost impossible to keep it in bound, and it should never be planted where space is limited. Deciduous trees and shrubs form only a very small and inconspicuous part in my garden. They should not be planted unless they are exceptionally beautiful. Such a small tree, one of the very best of leaf-shedding natives, is the *Fringe Tree* (*Chionanthus virginica*), common in many of our hammocks. Its leaves are large and leathery and almost evergreen, and when in bloom in early March it is a most lovely object, the pure white fringed-like flowers covering it like a sheet. This tree or tall shrub was also collected and carried to the garden.

The first planting was done under considerable hardships. The November sun was still quite hot and the road and the trails through the woods often invisible. Plant collecting in a dense hammock has its unpleasant features. Many of the thickets were almost impenetrable, and the extremely dense masses of *Saw Palmettos* in places were so tall that I at one time lost my way. This particular hammock had the reputation of being alive with huge diamond rattlesnakes. And there were ticks and red bugs, all with the wild desire to get into your flesh. Such things annoy one at times, and carrying home the collected plants seemed like a huge burden. But all my various adventures in the Florida hammocks and swamps were a source of pleasure after I had come home, and I always felt a strong desire of making these excursions again, even if I should have to undergo similar or worse hardships.

In Milwaukee I at once began to build a greenhouse, partly to imbue my sons with a love for tropical plants and to train them in their cultivation; partly for my own pleasure, but mostly for the purpose of growing the plants necessary for my Florida garden. Good friends helped along whenever they could. Mr. Henry Pfister, for many years head gardener of the White House, in Washington, sent me many plants which he thought could be grown successfully in Florida. I received seeds from many sources, particularly from Blumenau, Brazil, and from Buenos Aires, from La Mucala, Italy, and from Hong Kong and Darjeeling. The late Mr. C. Wreckle of Ocean Springs, Miss., and his enthusiastic son, Carlos Wreckle, in San Jose, Costa Rica, presented me with many most beautiful shrubs and bulbs. Carl Springer, at that time near Naples, Italy, one of the most enthusiastic and learned gardeners of our time, enriched my collection with all the various crinum he had brought together, and with all the varieties of *Amaryllis belladonna* he grew in his own garden in southern Italy. Mr. Erich Wittkugel of San Pedro Sula, Honduras, made excursions into the mountains, forests and tropical lowlands and collected for me many bulbs, but especially *Bromeliads*, *Orchids* and epiphytic Ferns, which he consigned to me in large dry goods boxes.

I opened with much anticipation and intense interest the packages of plants and seeds that came by parcel post from Trinidad, Jamaica, Caracas

(Continued on Page 8)

One innovation introduced to the pages of the Eagle by Miss Michel is the "Feuilleton." She used it on the front page of her first issue when she ran the first of a series on Dr. Henry Nehrling across the bottom of the page, she identified it as a "feuilleton" and on page two explained what the device was.

The FEUILLETON, of French origin, is a distinct part of Old World newspaper styling. "Below the Line" the Feuilleton is devoted to light literature, serial stories, criticism of performing art, music, architecture. The dividing line separates it from the rest of the newsprint.⁶

Another innovation took place with the January, 1970, issue. A picture of an Eagle, standing on a scroll of paper and clutching a pen in one talon, was added to the left "ear" of page one. Miss Michel said she came across three lithographs of the eagle in an envelope in an old trunk that had belonged to Dr. Teed.⁷ It appears to have been drawn by the same artist who drew the eagle that used to point to the Lee County Directory.

Since its rebirth in 1965 the main forte of the Eagle has been articles pertaining to the conservation of natural resources, but there are also articles of general interest, reprints of earlier stories such as the De Soto expedition and the Nehrling papers and articles on natural history and the exploration of space. Old features, such as Russell Kay's "Too Late to Classify," appeared once again as did "Last (now Month's instead of Week's) News Boiled Down" with its familiar wash pot sig and written by Mrs. Jo Daughtry, a Florida journalist for many years.

⁶Michel, Eagle, May 1, 1965.

⁷Michel, Interview, June 25, 1970.

The first Eagle was born because it was believed there was a need for the voice of the people to be heard. The present editor believes that need exists again, as she expresses in her first editorial, reproduced here.

PHOENIX OUT OF THE ASHES

According to an Egyptian legend every 500 years an eagle-like bird with red and golden plumage comes flying from Arabia into Heliopolis. Here, Phoenix, the sun-god, throws himself into the eternal flame at the altar, and out of his own ashes a young and more beautiful bird then rises, the symbol of resurrection and immortality.

Like this Phoenix, though not by miracle or legend from times immemorial, THE AMERICAN EAGLE of The Koreshan Unity in Estero, rises from the ashes. Resurrected as a monthly newspaper, the EAGLE flies again.

Originally a political weekly newspaper with the battle-cry "Screams for Lee County in Particular and Florida in General," the Eagle in later years developed a reputation as a Horticultural Magazine. Chronicling events of the rising 'last frontier' from 1906 to 1949 the old files of The American Eagle are goldmines to students and researchers in many fields, foremost history, horticulture, and agriculture and industrial growth of southern Florida.

The revived American Eagle carries the by-line "For the Wise Use of Natural Resources," devoted to Nature as a whole. The editors of The American Eagle invite correspondence on live topics from all sections of the country.

In our time we face many problems, many of them created by man. We need to solve them. Departments of government on all levels, private groups, and individuals are aware of the necessity to study and remedy present ills, to strengthen the foundation for future generations for them to live a more wholesome, natural life.

Conservation-education presents a wide field and we invite students from all walks of life, from the little red school house as well as from the ultra modern college to be our readers, our correspondents--Nature's helpers.

Conservation in Action is progressing. It's the people's work. Creative cooperation with Nature for the best of All is our program.

We'll count our blessings, too.⁸

⁸Michel, Eagle, May 1, 1965.

CHAPTER SEVEN

EPILOGUE

The Koreshan Unity exists today just as does The American Eagle, the exact number of members is not known, just as the exact circulation of the Eagle is not known, but there are members from Estero to Vero Beach to Washington, D.C.

In 1952 the members of the Board of Directors voted to begin negotiations to transfer part of their land to the State of Florida for the establishment of a state park at the Estero site of the first settlers. On December 15, 1961, Farris Bryant, then governor of Florida, officially accepted 300 acres of land with the accompanying buildings, historical accouterments and files of old documents for the people of the State of Florida.¹

New Jerusalem now belongs to the people.

¹Hedwig Michel, "Gift to the People," (Estero: The Koreshan Unity, n.d.).

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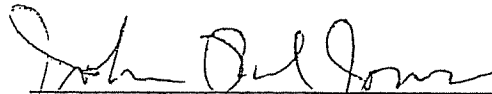
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Kenneth Edwin Anderson was born September 7, 1931, in New York City. In 1937 he moved to Fort Myers, Florida, and in August, 1949, graduated from Fort Myers High School. During the Korean War he served in the United States Marine Corps and later in the United States Army. In August, 1969, he graduated from the University of Florida and received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Journalism with Honors and a citation as the outstanding male graduate. He enrolled in the Graduate School of the University of Florida in September, 1969, and has worked as the Gainesville correspondent for The St. Petersburg Times and The Miami Herald and as an investigative reporter for The Gainesville Sun while completing his work toward the degree of Master of Arts in Journalism and Communications. He is a past president of the Florida Chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, a member of Kappa Tau Alpha and Omicron Delta Kappa. He has accepted an appointment to the faculty of Eastern Illinois University and will begin teaching journalism there in September, 1970.

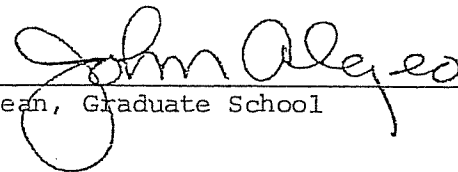
Kenneth Edwin Anderson is married to the former Catherine Tully of Peoria, Illinois. They have four daughters.

This thesis was prepared under the direction of the chairman of the 'candidate's supervisory committee and has been approved by all members of that committee. It was submitted to the Dean of the College of Journalism and Communications and to the Graduate Council, and was approved as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Journalism and Communications.

August, 1970

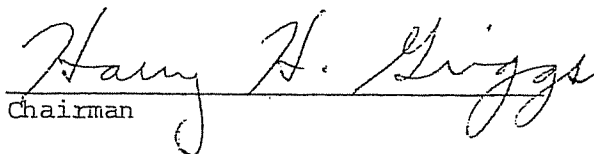


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