

# Retirement In Paradise Bay, Florida, Is A Busy Time For The Howard Ides

by Lena Ide

Will review for you our most recent busy week, starting with Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday was a beautiful day, temperature was 62 when we got up in the morning, then went up to 78 during the day. We attended the 11 o'clock service at our church, taking with us our three nearby widows, Mill, Liz and Gerrie. After church we ate at Morrison's Cafeteria where we lunched onto a line about 150 feet long and slowly approached the food area. This is the peak of the tourist season and every eating establishment in Bradenton has long lines of people waiting to be served. It appears these lines seem to move faster than at restaurants, therefore we prefer cafeterias.

After eating on Sundays we usually take a drive of forty-five minutes to one and one-half hours, so Howard took us to the Lambkin rose garden at Palma Sola. Mrs. Lambkin is the president of the local Rose Society and has many beautiful roses, some bushes being six feet high and six feet broad, with wood that is one and one-half to two inches thick at the base of the plant. She has roses of every color, shape and size, and they are a joy to behold. On the ground among the bushes are several bird feeders and we saw six or seven grouse scamper away from the feeders as we approached. These grouse are the same as you have up north and we see them occasionally in our own Park.

We came home by way of Anna Maria Island and Long Boat Key and arrived here about 3 p. m. There were many shufflers on the courts, so we changed clothes and joined them for an hour or two of fun.

The next day, Monday, April 4, was a rainy day. Temperature was 70 in the morning and we needed the rain. It was a good rain - not too heavy - just nice and steady. We were busy catching up on little odd jobs in the a. m. and at noon time, while eating dinner, we turned on the NEWS program. With amazement we listened to reports of the tornado that had swept through Florida at 8:30 a. m., all the way from St. Petersburg on the West Coast, across the state to Cape Kennedy on the East Coast, bringing death to 10, and injuries to 196 persons, with property damage estimated to be about six million dollars.

The rain continued all day here and quit sometime in the night. We heard no complaints about the rainy weather because we all felt very fortunate that we had been in Paradise Bay instead of being in the

path of the tornado. The next day, Tuesday, was cool and cloudy, with a temperature range of 64 to 66. I went to the Euchre party at the Recreation Hall in the afternoon, then we both went to the Whist party at the Hall in the evening.

On Wednesday I shuffled with the ladies of our Park from 9:30 to 11 a. m. After lunch our neighbors, the Topliffs of Michigan, invited us to go with them to visit the TROPICANA plant at Bradenton. These are guided tours and are booked months in advance, so we were very fortunate that Mr. and Mrs. Clarke left that morning for their home in Michigan and we were able to take their place in the group.

TROPICANA is one of our largest industries and is expanding very rapidly. They process oranges into juices, both fresh and frozen, and various other concentrates. Oranges are unloaded at the rate of two trailer loads every 15 minutes. From the trailer these oranges go on a belt through a washer, then a scrubber, then up an elevator to the processing rooms. These oranges are reamed instead of squeezed, which makes the TROPICANA product have less of the bitter flavor of the rind.

Huge blocks of fresh orange juice are frozen then stored for later use when oranges are not in season. We were allowed to walk into the interior of this vast freezer and see the blocks of frozen juice, each block equivalent to 20 gallons. The cold air felt like needles piercing my arms and legs. Needless to say we didn't stay long in that atmosphere, but turned and ran out through the falling frost which seemed like snow.

The oils that are extracted from the rind and the ground pulp are processed for flavorings and molasses. The remainder of the rind is cut up and dried in kilns for dairy feed. From the kilns it is aerated in revolving tubes that are larger than a box car. Then it is bagged into 100 lb. bags and stored in a huge warehouse 800 x 800 feet.

TROPICANA also makes the bottles for their juice products, so we next visited the glass-making department. Here we saw large kilns of molten glass being made into bottles of different sizes, such as half-pint, quart and half-gallon. The temperatures in this department were to the other extreme. It was very, very, HOT! We were required to wear a mask over our eyes. From these machines the bottles went on assembly lines to numerous inspection stations where girls inspected them for cracks or flaws,

then packed them into cartons. There were huge mountains of these cartons stored ready for use. We left this building and went to the loading platforms where nine cars can be loaded at one time for shipment by rail. TROPICANA products are sold in every state in the nation. We were given a cup of orange juice and our trip was completed.

We returned to our home about 4 p. m. and in the evening attended our weekly Pinochle party at the home of a friend in the Park.

The next day, Thursday, Howard went fishing with Liz. I stayed at home to do the family laundry. They caught four sheephead while fishing on the City Pier on Anna

Marie Island and were home by noon. After lunch Mr. Topliff came and asked Howard to go fishing with him, so again he went fishing, this time in a boat in Sarasota Bay. They caught three sheephead and one amber jack. So we ate fish for two days and had some to freeze for later use. This being Maundy Thursday, we took the three widows and all went together to Holy Communion at 7:30 p. m. at the Westminster United Presbyterian Church.

The next day being Good Friday, we all attended a beautiful service at our Recreation Hall at 10 a. m. where we "broke bread" with our fellow Park members. The tables were formed in the shape of a huge cross the full length of the building.

The Park owner supplied the hot-cross buns and coffee for the 225 persons present. After we had eaten, we listened to a reading of "The Robe" given by Mrs. Carson Prizer, who presented it in a most charming manner.

Later that same evening there were six of us got together for a friendly game of Pinochle.

Saturday is cleaning day at our house, so we spent the forenoon with the vacuum and the mop. In the afternoon there is Pot-luck shuffling in which one draws for a partner, plays one game, then draws for a second partner, and so on for three games. It is much fun and there are usually 16 or 18 courts in play each Saturday after-

noon. That is where I was from 1:30 to 3:30.

In the evening we played Canasta with a grand old couple from Canada. Mr. Austin is 83 years old and his wife is 79, but they are as spry and full of fun as many others in their fifties or sixties.

Then came Easter Sunday. We went to church with Gerrie and three other widows, six in all. We did not want to wait in line to eat at a restaurant as the lines are twice as long on a holiday, so we phoned our order to Col. Sanders Chicken House for a "barrel" of Kentucky Fried Chicken. We picked it up at 12:20 along with mashed potatoes and gravy, rolls and cabbage slaw, took it to Gerrie's home and had a delicious Easter dinner,

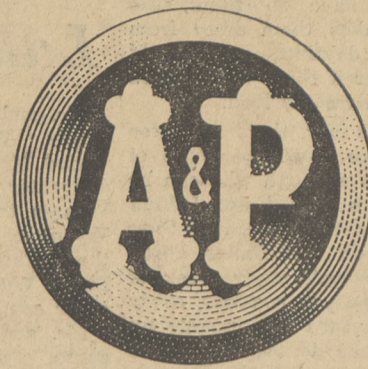
with ice cream for dessert.

In the middle of the afternoon we came home and found some visitors from Pennsylvania sitting on our porch waiting for us. It was Frank and Leoma Jenkins of Dorrence Street, Kingston, also Mrs. Ernest Wood of Dallas, and Mrs. Willard Saxe of St. Petersburg, formerly of Wyoming, Pa. The former are friends of my brother, Bob Gregory of Dorrence Street, Kingston, and he had asked them to look us up while in this vicinity. We were very happy to talk with these pleasant folk, and we soon found that we had many mutual acquaintances throughout Kingston, Lehman, Dallas, Shavertown and Trucksville, and thus learned the latest news concerning many of them.

Before they departed, Howard took them to the back yard to his tomato plants. He has three them growing in large pails, and they are 12 to 14 feet tall. They are tied to large trellises and have now outgrown the trellis, so ties them to a tree. He has picked 280 ripe tomatoes since Christmas. He also has a geranium that is 5 feet tall and it is loaded with blooms.

All in all it was a most interesting week and is typical of the busy and happy life in Paradise Bay. Y'all c'mon down and see y'hear?

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