

"Beautiful Spring Bayou 'The Venice of the South'"

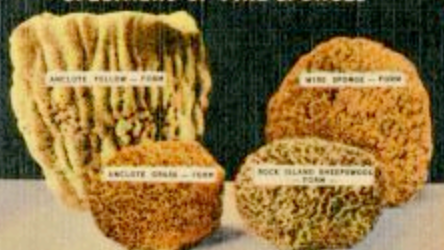
Jarpon Springs

FLA.
U.S.A.

by nicky

PLACE
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SPECIMENS OF FINE SPONGES



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Tarpon Springs, Fla.

ARPON SPRINGS, FLA., U. S. A., is the northernmost town of beautiful Pinellas County, has a high elevation, and contains twenty miles of water-frontage within its corporate limits, including picturesque bayous, reaching into the very heart of the city. It is bounded on the north by the beautiful Anclote River, on the east by Lake Butler, which is eight miles in length, and on the west, by the Gulf of Mexico.

Climatic conditions the year 'round are unexcelled by any other section, not only of this country but other countries of the world as well. It is warm, with plenty of sunshine in the winter months, while in the summer there is always a cool breeze off the Gulf.

The Tarpon Springs Sponge Industry is the largest in the World, with a fleet of 125 or more boats, with crews of some 500 men, 150 of whom are divers and most of whom are natives of the Isles of the Mediterranean. After the sponges are brought in by the diving and hooking boats, they are sold thru the Sponge Exchange, taken to the individual packing houses by the buyers, where they are cleaned, clipped and packed in bales for shipment to their destinations.

The sponge of commerce is only a skeleton of an animal that has adhered to the bottom of the sea, or on the submerged surface or in the crevice of a rock, or is sometimes attached to coral reef. They are obtained in two ways—they are hooked from the bottom by men working on the surface, and they are picked by divers who descend to the bottom in diving suits. Commercial sponges from the U. S. A. come chiefly from the Gulf of Mexico and the Straits of Florida, extending from Key West to St. Mark's Light near Apalachicola, in depths of from ten to one hundred thirty feet, and reaching from one to fifty miles from shore.

Of rare interest is the trip from the Sponge Exchange up the Anclote River. Boats slowly winding up the fifteen miles of this stream, so richly endowed by nature, reveal at each turn an endless array of semi-tropical beauty, and one must not miss this trip if he is to see the real beauties of Tarpon Springs and vicinity.

Excellent opportunities are afforded the fisherman, whether fresh or salt water be desired. A trip on the Gulf of Mexico for deep-sea fishing, or on the famous Anclote River for fresh-water fishing, will not soon be forgotten. Bathing is available in the waters of the Gulf at the Municipal Pier, or if fresh water is preferred, there are several popular swimming pools nearby.

One of the finest golf courses to be found on the West coast of Florida is located here. The Tourist club, with several hundred members, offers much in the way of entertainment and at the Tourist Club, which is a fine building,