

THE Legend OF THE
Bridal Chamber
AT FLORIDA'S SILVER SPRINGS

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**FLORIDA'S
INTERNATIONAL ATTRACTION**

**AS SEEN THROUGH
GLASS BOTTOM BOATS**

HOW TO REACH SILVER SPRINGS

BY CAR:

Eight of the nine federally designated highways passing thru Florida connect with Florida 40 to provide fast, smooth, and safe motor routes to the water's edge at Florida's famed Silver Springs. US 19, 27, 41, 129, 441 and 301 connect with Florida 40 at Ocala, six miles west of Silver Springs, while US 17 and US 1 are reached via Florida 40 eastward.

BY TRAIN:

To reach Silver Springs by train from any point in the nation, purchase a ticket to Ocala which is serviced by main-line Atlantic Coast Line or Seaboard Airline trains, or exercise a stop-over privilege. Greyhound station wagon service is available two blocks from the Union Station, while taxis will come at your call.

BY BUS:

To reach Silver Springs by bus from any point in the nation, buy your ticket direct to Silver Springs, or exercise stop-off privileges at Ocala. In either case, you would change to Greyhound station wagons at the FGL bus station for the 15 minute run to the Springs, unless you were on thru buses originating in Jacksonville, St. Petersburg, or Daytona Beach.

BY BOAT:

Cruise up the broad St. Johns river from Jacksonville to the Oklawaha and follow that beautiful stream about 40 miles to where it joins the crystal clear waters of the Silver river, just nine miles from Silver Springs. Any 40-foot craft with a draft up to 40 inches can dock at Silver Springs during normal low water from mid-April thru mid-September, while 60-footers drawing up to 50 inches can make the run between mid-September and mid-April, provided their super-structures do not exceed 20 feet!

BY PLANE:

Eastern Air Line services Ocala-Silver Springs on regular daily schedules. Call your nearest Eastern Air Line office, or ask any travel agent. If you own your own plane, you can land either at Taylor Field in Ocala, or at Silver Springs Aero Lodge airport which is within 2,000 feet of our entrance. This airport is a Class 1 port with hard sand runways long enough to accommodate all types of planes up to twin-motor private models. The east-west runway is 2,640 feet long, while the northwest-southeast runway is 1,800 feet long. Each is 125 feet wide, but cleared to a width of 300 feet. Gas and oil are available thru the day, and a repair shop provides minor repair service.



The Legend of the Bridal Chamber

Always as far back as anyone could recall, Aunt Silla had been identified with Silver Springs where she lived in a wooded cottage and hobbled about during the day, telling those she chanced to meet the tragic story of Claire Douglass and Bernice Mayo; and although she must have repeated it many thousands of times, her account never varied. She died a few years ago, professing to be in her 110th year.

According to the legend handed down by Aunt Silla, there stood near the site of old Fort King, sometime in the early 80's or before, the plantation manor of Captain Harding Douglass, wealthy and aristocratic cotton baron whose broad and fertile acres stretched away to the horizon upon either hand.

Bound by the indomitable will of Captain Douglass like every other member of his household was an only son, Claire, who possessed the poetic temperament of his mother, estranged from Captain Douglass. Claire found relief from the imperious nature of his father in hunting and outdoor sports which caused him to frequent the woods and waters of Silver Springs.

One day as he lolled upon the bank beside the deep, clear water, Claire heard a twig snap behind him and turned to catch a fleeting glimpse of what appeared a golden-haired wood nymph disappear down the path toward Aunt Silla's cabin; and although he gave chase and drew up panting in front of the cabin, she had gone entirely and the gnome-like features of Aunt Silla gave no hint of having seen her.

After similar meetings when upon closer view Claire seemed to recognize his forest wraith, he learned that this lady of his dreams with whom he had fallen instantly and desperately in love was no figment of the imagination as he half feared at first but a real and vibrant young woman of exquisite charm and beauty, despite her poor circumstances. She bore the name of Bernice Mayo and had but recently come from Sanford to make her home with an aunt in Ocala.

That she was Aunt Silla's "honey child" was due to the fact that the old colored woman once nursed her through a severe illness and accounted for Bernice being seen so frequently at Aunt Silla's cabin. There the latter was wont to read her fortune in the cards and foretell a future of wedded bliss in the big white house on the hill with a handsome young gentleman answering the description of Claire Douglass, for Silla was really quite fond of Claire.

Therefore it required only a little cajolery on his part to bring about a meeting with Bernice which soon ripened into mutual love and a constant companionship which had as its trysting place the

cabin of old Aunt Silla or the big Boiling Spring (now the Bridal Chamber) where they were wont to sit in Silla's boat for hours, watch the spring and dream.

Then came that day of all days when Bernice promised Claire to become his wife, when for want of the usual ring to bind their engagement, he slipped upon her wrist a little bracelet with which he had planned to surprise her. They were happy in their great love which promised to endure until death while they swore no power on earth could ever separate them.

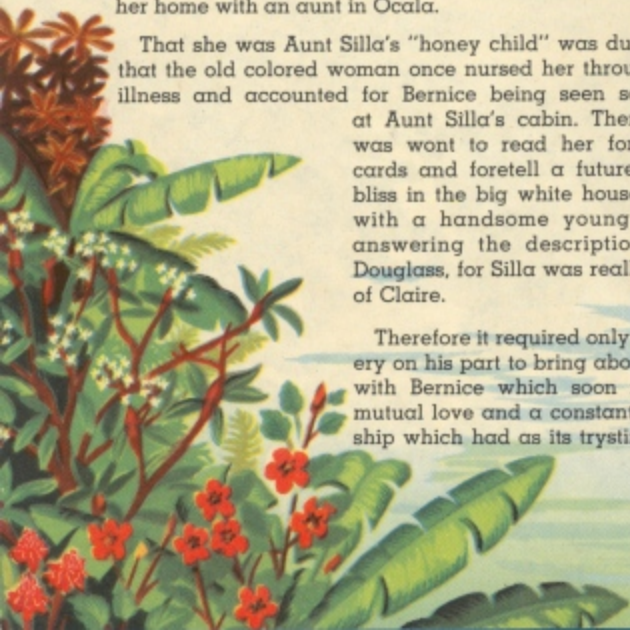
But they reckoned without Claire's stern father who objected strenuously to his son marrying a poor girl and contrived to send the youth away to Europe in company with a wealthy cousin and her chaperon in the hope that Claire would forget Bernice and marry his cousin who was nearer his own station in life.

When Claire took leave of his betrothed, he promised to write every day and return soon to claim her for his bride, but Captain Douglass continued upon some pretext or other to prolong his stay abroad and intercept the letters that passed between them with the result that days lengthened into months and when nearly a whole year had passed without word of her beloved, Bernice pined away and became ill of the all-consuming grief that ate her heart away.

Even sympathetic Aunt Silla was unprepared for the emaciated little shadow that appeared at the door when, realizing she was going to die, Bernice dragged herself to the cabin at Silver Springs where she had spent so many happy hours with Claire; and there upon her deathbed she exacted a promise from the old colored woman who knelt sobbing at her side — a promise so weird and awful that Silla shivered and drew her shawl closer about her shoulders as she sealed it with a kiss upon the fevered brow of the dying girl, whom she once saved from a dangerous illness but was powerless to aid now.

In the dead of night while only the stars looked on and the doleful hooting of an owl broke the eerie silence, Silla bundled the limp body of Bernice Mayo in a sack and carried it to her bateau moored to a tree at the water's edge. Tenderly and lovingly she deposited it in the boat and with her gnarled and withered hands paddled slowly to the Boiling Spring where she lowered all that was mortal of Bernice Mayo into the rocky crevice below. She had fulfilled her promise.

Upon the morrow, Claire Douglass returned. It was the date, they had set more than a year ago before, the day he and Bernice were to have been married had everything gone as they planned and their hopes not been frustrated by parental interference. Small consolation that, when he had not heard from her in a whole year although he had written regularly as he promised. He supposed she had found a new sweetheart in his absence, one she loved more than himself. Women were fickle like that, had he not often heard his father say? He would have



Chamber

One more look at the Boiling Springs he and Bernice had had so much to watch, before returning home to pay court to his wealthy cousin his father had chosen for his wife.

Aunt Silla sat with downcast eyes in her boat at the bank. Throughout the long night she had sat like that, scarcely moving, and she did not raise her eyes or respond to Claire's greeting when he clambered into the boat and steered toward the Boiling Springs where, allowing the boat to drift, he peered up down into the crevices of the rock eighty feet beneath him.

Suddenly he started in horror at the sight of a woman's hand protruding from the rocks, for upon the wrist he recognized through the crystal-clear water the bracelet he had given Bernice.

Straight down into the cavern he dove and though the pressure of the deep water pained his ears terribly and his lungs as if they would burst, forced himself to the bottom and into the rocky crevice until he could seize Bernice's arm. Vainly he strove to raise the dead weight of her but her body was caught in the rock and try as he would he could not dislodge it.

When he drew himself down beside her and clasped her dead body to him in an embrace that has defied time and centuries, for Aunt Silla swore that when he did so the rocks opened up to receive these unhappy lovers to the bosom of Mother Earth, then he closed again over their dead bodies; and people do say their bones still repose there.





Air View Of Florida's Largest Attraction



Viewing The Underwater Wonderland



SOUTH'S MOST UNIQUE,

Located at the head of beautiful Silver Springs, Florida, feels no hesitancy in proclaiming that it is the West — a great natural attraction.



THE GLASS BOTTOM BOAT

Your boat will hardly have glided away when the MAMMOTH ROCK LEDGE with its sheer, vertical walls, operated boat seems to float thru the air, revealing the BIG SPRING AND ENDLESS CAVERN from an average of 550,000,000 gallons of water.

RECEPTION HALL — Spectral rays scintillate through the sand-limestone walls.

BRIDAL CHAMBER — The legendary and famous chamber which emits a flimsy veil of shell in the stream. This stream is 81 feet deep.

LADIES' PARLOR — A thousand rainbows in a back-ground of alabaster pink. (62 feet deep.)

DEVIL'S KITCHEN — Springs bubbling chaotic appearance of smouldering campfires.

PREHISTORIC BONES — Remains of the prehistoric man's that once roamed Florida are close to the depth of 36 feet near fascinating GEYSERS.

BLUE GROTTO — A pool of ethereal blue,

See Silver Springs Before Leaving Florida!

Whether on business, to rest and recuperate under Florida's health-giving sun, or to visit relatives and friends relaxing and being restored to health under that same sun, you should know that no matter how you enter Florida, you can and should see world-famous Silver Springs en route to or from this glamorous state.

Altho hotel or cabin courts near Silver Springs invite you to stay thru any season, you should understand that Silver Springs and its indescribable underwater life can be seen and enjoyed in a minimum of 90 minutes; that all of its many and varied wonders can be covered in a maximum of four hours, rain or shine any day in the year.

Silver Springs thus is primarily a scenic wonder to be seen between airplanes, trains or buses stopping in nearby Ocala, or in your automobile while en route into or out of Florida, or as a one-day or week-end objective after you have reached your Florida destination and have "settled down" for the season.

Silver Springs is Florida's largest and most heavily patronized natural attraction. Over 800,000 amazed visitors see it annually. It is one of the few public parks proud to advertise that it does not permit the sale of liquor, wine, or beer on its premises, nor is gambling permitted in any form.

COLORFUL SCENIC SHOW

River, Silver Springs, Florida's famed underwater fairyland is to the South what Niagara Falls is to the East and Grand attraction that should be seen by every person ever entering

or here at Silver Springs, Nature has drawn aside the curtain mystery that shrouds other waters and, thru the magic of water as clear as air, has revealed the living panorama of a world unknown to those who have never seen beneath its surface! First-time visitors may doubt such extravagant claims as they look to the edge of the big spring that is the source of the river, at first semi-distant glance it appears only as a large lake like those "back home."

However, they have but to stand briefly on the wall overlooking spring itself to realize that here, indeed, is an amazing scene which Nature has spared no color nor bit of intrigue in painting a lavishly beautiful picture.

The beauty that is Silver Springs lies beneath its waters, beauty is seen thru the wide glass bottoms of silent and electrically operated boats carrying passengers from sunrise to sunset every day in the year.

Silver Springs is really a subterranean river springing from earth thru a vast cavern 65 feet wide and 12 feet high at its mouth and lying 50 feet below the surface of the circular basin forming the head of the springs and source of Silver River.

T RIDE

From the dock when the guide will point out to you the drop from 17 to 31 feet. Then, as your noiseless, electrically operated boat will come in quick succession the

which pours an every 24 hours, splashing upon the

athomless crevice a never-ending

mirrored against (set across).

cool, giving the

giant Ichthyosaur-early seen at a Silver Springs.

41 feet deep, and clearer than the air you breathe. Trick fish



THE "JUNGLE CRUISE" SPEED BOAT RIDE

While the glass-bottom and Photo-sub boat ride is the internationally known magnet that draws upwards of 800,000 persons to Silver Springs every year, the 50-minute thrill ride five miles down Silver River aboard the "Jungle Cruiser" is outstanding among the several other attractions.

On this ride you will board an open speed boat that will carry you over crystal-clear waters for nearly five miles thru scenery varying from dense tropical jungle lands to the handsomely landscaped parkway bordering the edges of many of the springs.

Aboard the modern new 80 passenger cruisers, captained by courteous and experienced guides who are veterans of the jungle area, you'll pass thru vistas filled with color and beauty both above and below the water. Climaxing the ride will be a visit with a tribe of wild monkeys introduced into the Florida jungle as an experiment many years ago!

At intervals you'll have pointed out "location" spots for some of the many movies that have been made at Silver Springs. You'll see the tree from which Johnny Weissmuller dove to "rescue" little Johnny Sheffield from the "man-eating" crocodiles. You'll see the thick, marshy, and thoroughly intriguing jungle thru which "Tarzan" and the natives moved in other scenes for the picture.

You'll see where Ewing Scott directed several scenes for "Untamed Fury," an exciting movie story of life among the alligator hunters, and will be told about how MGM recently filmed Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' "The Yearling" with Gregory Peck, Jane Wyman and Claude Jarman, Jr., in two locations near the springs.



ROSS ALLEN "MILKS" RATTLESNAKES

When you've completed your three boat rides, you'll do as have thousands before you — head for Ross Allen's colorful Florida Reptile Institute where that noted young naturalist and scientist will, at least hourly, daily, be your host for half an hour or more as he gives you a liberal education in what you should know about reptiles.

If you haven't seen Ross Allen in Grantland Rice Sportlights or newsreels during the past ten or twelve years, you've probably heard him on the Ripley "Believe-It-Or-Not" program, or "Hobby Lobby" or "We, The People," for his highly exciting "milking" of rattlesnakes and other poisonous reptiles has earned him international fame and numerous movie, radio, and magazine appearances or articles.

Ross Allen's short lecture and venom extraction climaxes a 40-minute tour thru the reptile institute during which competent guides will highlight the habits and characteristics of the scores of alligators, snakes, turtles, and other wild objects you'll see.

The Ross Allen Reptile Institute offers an ever-changing picture just as does the underwater scenery from the boats. Because of the great demand for snake venom, the institute pits often are crowded with poisonous reptiles from many parts of the world, all awaiting the attention of the steel-nerved young herpetologist. Ross Allen is virtually the sole source of supply of much of the venom now being used by America's largest laboratories.





Jungle Cruising Down Tropical Silver River



Ross Allen Milks A Rattlesnake

often parade in military formation.
DECORATED CHRISTMAS TREES — Covered to the DeSoto era is seen along with pe others.
TURTLE MEADOW — Turtle herds graze
GARDEN OF EDEN — Where coral and sl wax-like bridal wreaths to form a fasci
THE SUNKEN GARDENS — Where one see on earth, actually resembling forests vi
FISHERMAN'S PARADISE — Where the fi

THE FAMED "PHOTO-SUB"

Returning to the boat docks after forty "Photo-Sub" boats for a ten-minute ride o Peering thru plate-glass port-holes you underwater movies are made at Silver Spr



The Photo-Sub boats are an outgrowth o years ago. All major producers, and doze



ed with tinsel, a sunken mystery boat which tradition ascribes
 rified cypress logs, and large schools of catfish, bream, and
 upon unique woolly moss that covers the bottom at this place.
 k ferns of gorgeous colorings and beautiful markings vie with
 ating picture.
 is the most interesting subaquatic plants on display anywhere
 wed from an airplane.
 h play football. **CATFISH HOTEL** — Watch for the manager!



BOAT RIDE

fascinating minutes, you will transfer to the world-famed
 round the big spring, an experience you'll never forget.
 will instantly see why more than 90 percent of the world's
 tists.

You'll get a breath-taking panoramic view of the huge
 cavern that pours out water enough to supply New York
 City every day in the year!

You'll be amazed at the sight of persons swimming 400
 and 500 feet away; at hundreds of fresh and salt water fish
 calmly sliding thru the crystal clear water, some of them
 so tame they'll swim right up to the port-hole and seem-
 ingly size you up.

Your boat will pass over and along the bathing beach
 area where the forms of the expert and novice alike will
 amuse and delight you as they move thru the water as the
 floating in air. Occasionally a swimmer will dive into view,
 leaving behind her a shower of bubbles that gleam and
 sparkle like those in champagne.

Of the original barrel type boat designed for movie crews many
 of commercial concerns, have sent crews to Silver Springs.

HERE'S THE IDEAL WAY TO SEE SILVER SPRINGS

Board the glass-bottomed boat for a 50-minute ride that includes a trip in the famed "Photo-sub" boats
 used by the movie-makers; enjoy a delicious fried chicken or shrimp luncheon while relaxing in the
 Coffee Shop overlooking the boat docks; board the Jungle
 Cruiser for the 50-minute ride five miles down Silver River
 and back; spend 20 to 30 minutes with Ross Allen at his
 Reptile Institute — Indian Village; enjoy a swim in the
 refreshingly cool and clear waters of the springs; browse
 thru the several gift and curio shops or the conservatory;
 or stroll thru the handsomely landscaped park area; leave
 in your own auto at your leisure, or board late afternoon
 buses or taxis to catch trains or buses in Ocala for all points.

Should you decide to spend the night or longer at Silver
 Springs, you have your choice of seven motels or cabin
 courts. None are operated by or are under the control of Ray
 and Davidson, co-operators of Silver Springs' recreation
 area, but all are recommended. None is equipped for housekeeping. All are within walking distance of
 the springs, either down the main highway, or along trails thru the forest. Reservation is advisable,
 especially on week-ends, and from a week to 10 days in advance.

They are: Silver Springs Court Hotel; Cloister Court Hotel; Colton's Cottage Court; Craft Cottages;
 Gray's Motor Lodge; Wilmar Motel; Motor Manor.



Visitors have their choice of five restaurants serving the entire area: Silver Springs' own Coffee Shop overlooking
 the springs, and like the springs' park-recreation area, open daily from sunrise to sunset; Silver Springs Court
 Hotel Grill, Cloister Court Hotel Grill, Howard Johnson's Ice Cream Shoppe and Restaurant, and Silver Inn Drive-In.

YOU TOO CAN MAKE INTERESTING
 UNDERWATER PICTURES FROM THE
 FAMED PHOTO-SUB BOATS.



Underwater pictures do not depict action
 to be expected from glass bottom boats
 or the Photo-Sub cruise, but are presented
 to show the clarity of Silver Springs water.