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FRANK EVANS



Section Six

# The Sanford Herald

Section Six

AN INDEPENDENT DAILY NEWSPAPER

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# Chase & Company, Here Since 1884, Is One Of Sanford's Largest Home-Owned Businesses

**Sales Of Fruit And Vegetables Made To 800 Customers In Over 310 Markets**

One of the largest home-owned businesses in Sanford is Chase & Company, organized in 1884 by the late Sydney O. Chase and his brother Joshua C. Chase. The company has shown a steady growth during the 68 years of its existence. Their fruit and vegetables are shipped to all the states and provinces of Canada. In addition, their fertilizer and building materials are shipped to a wide area in the State of Florida.

The present officials (all of whom take an active part in the business) and executives consist of the following: W. A. Leffler, president; S. O. Chase, Jr., vice president; T. W. Jones, secretary; M. L. Cullum, general sales manager; R. A. Smith, treasurer and credit manager; D. L. Harper, traffic manager; J. M. Stinecoper, manager building materials; Clyde Ramsey, controller; and L. F. Richards, manager state market division.

These men and other employees take an active part in the city's civic, political and religious affairs. There are employees members of practically all of the eight or nine churches, the Rotary Club, the Kiwanis Club, the Lions Club, Junior and Senior Chamber of Commerce. One of the officials is now serving as City Commissioner and another will be a delegate to the Rotary International Convention this summer at Mexico City. Celery, cabbage, escarole, lettuce, green corn, cauliflower, citrus fruit, etc., are grown on the company's farms and groves within a radius of 30 miles of Sanford. In addition the company represents and handles the produce grown by many other growers in this section.

The vegetables are packed and processed at the company's Chaco Plant, located on Beardsall Avenue about three miles East of Sanford. This modern plant consists of a Celery Packing House, Celery Freezer, Miscellaneous Vegetable Packing House and Precolor; 20 car fruit and vegetable cold storage rooms; ice manufacturing plant and 100 ton ice storage; Machine Shop and Laboratory. Power for all these operations is furnished by the company's power plant containing three large Diesel Engines, totaling nearly 1,000 H.P.

The plant is served by nearly a mile of railroad siding on which it is possible to load 20 cars at one time and truck loading platform at which 15 or more trucks may be loaded at one time. Several thousand cars and truckloads of straight vegetables and mixed vegetables and citrus fruits are loaded here during the nine month shipping season.

The operation of this plant is coordinated by the use of two inter-communication systems, one of which furnishes music to the workers at intervals during the day.

Other modern improvements are the Electric Eye Counters; Electric Eye Scales; Fork Lift Trucks and palletized handling methods; Ice Crusher Blowers that take a whole block of ice at one time; chlorination of precooling water; Stretch Wrap Palletizing Machine. In fact, every known method is used to insure fast, effective, efficient processing.

The company operates three Citrus Packing Houses, one each at Sanford, Lake Wales and Lake Wales. The citrus groves served by these modern packing houses produce some of the finest fruit in the state and some of the groves have survived the severest freezes encountered during the past 30 years. The Sanford packing house provides the citrus fruit for the mixed car loading at the Chaco plant.

The sales department with five salesmen, two stenographers, telephone machine, Crisco, Teletype, Market News Service, three long distance telephones, one private line telephone and four local lines is a hive of activity. The telephone and teletype expenses amount about \$30,000 per year. There were made last year to over 800 customers in over 310 markets.

Traffic Department with its employees must be familiar with the most favorable routes for both truck shipments, the rates, schedules, diver-



One of the oldest celery and citrus shipping organizations in Florida is Chase & Co., some of whose employees and firm members are shown in the above picture, as follows, left to right: Mrs. Thelma Brewer, Mrs. Lorraine Flowers, Miss Dorothy Runge, Mrs. Hazel Cash, Miss Maude Ramsey, Mrs. Nellie Easterbrook, Miss Florence Bishop, and Mrs. Roselyn Barrios. Second row: C. W. Van Covering, A. L. Betts, R. A. Frank, Jr., T. W. Jones, R. A. Smith, M. L. Cullum, Robt. H. Reely and J. M. Stinecoper. Third row: J. D. Callahan, A. H. Heath, A. B. Duxbury, R. J. Hickson, Jr. and Lauren R. Johnson. Back row: Clyde Ramsey, D. L. Harper, W. A. Leffler Jr., F. E. McCoy and Charles Willis.

## PAPAYAS



W. H. Stevill, a former circulation manager of the Florida Times Union, inspects several of his 40 papaya trees which are heavily laden with this delicious and most healthful fruit. He attributes his outstanding success in the growing the papaya, figs, and citrus fruits to his practice of organic gardening. He raises each variety by the hundred thousands in crates and compost piles, and these master little gardeners keep the soil in his yard in good condition. The garden is next to his home at 1101 Elm Avenue.

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## BRISSON FUNERAL HOME

A. A. BRISSON, FUNERAL DIRECTOR AND OWNER

## Sanford-Oviedo Truck Growers Formed In 1913

Sanford-Oviedo Truck Growers, Inc., is a co-operative growing and shipping organization dating back to 1913 and including 14 growers of this area.

The organization, which William E. Vihlen is manager, packs and ships vegetables from more than 400 acres of fertile land in the St. Johns River Valley.

Celery, cabbage, escarole and peppers are some of the vegetables raised and marketed. Sweet corn is due to mature in this area about April, and is rapidly growing in importance. Of the celery plantings, about 80 percent are Pascal, said Mr. Vihlen.

C. F. Reese is manager of the washhouse and packing plant which is located near Rand's Sliding on the west side. During the busy season from 40 to 50 persons are employed there. Vegetable cutting crews number as many as 60 at times.

Additional wash chain equipment was installed this year at the plant at a cost of more than \$4,000. Joe H. Shaw is field manager, assisted by Lewis James. Mr. Vihlen estimated that shipments of vegetables by truck and rail by the company are about equal.

## TO BUY EQUIPMENT

From a food concession at the district 4-H club livestock show will be used by members of the River-view home demonstration club of Jacksonville to purchase new equipment for their club house, according to Miss Pearl Laffitte, Duval county home agent.

## MELON ACREAGE

Levy county's 1952 watermelon acreage will be about as large as last year's if present planting plans are carried out, County Agent T. D. Rickenbaker reports.

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## Seminole County Leads Florida In Celery Shipments

5,650 Carload Equivalents Shipped From Here In Year

Seminole County led all other counties of Florida in celery shipments during the 1950-51 season with nearly 4,000 cars shipped by rail, and about 1,650 carload equivalents in trucks, a total of 5,650 cars.

Palm Beach county was second with 3,040 cars shipped by rail, and Sarasota county third with 1,715 carloads.

The Florida rail shipments totaled 10,811 cars. Lake county shipped 808 cars; Orange county 600; Alachua county, 389; Marion county, 225 and Duval county, three.

In celery acreage, Seminole county with 3,325 acres, ranked second to Palm Beach county which had 4,275 acres. Orange and Lake counties together had 1,815 acres; Sarasota, 975 and Marion and Alachua counties, 460 acres, according to Florida State Marketing Bureau estimates.

The celery crop, which is not too susceptible to damage by cold, was favored by ideal growing weather this season. Last year Florida shipped 14,034 carloads by rail and truck, and the heaviest month was March with 3,338 carloads.

Since celery is an expensive crop to grow it is not widely produced in Florida. The land on which it grows, particularly in Seminole county, is generally costly as it requires artesian wells and underground tile for irrigation and drainage.

Some of the muck land acreage is not so expensive to grow celery on. In recent years the muck lands in the Lake Okechobee area of Palm Beach county have led Seminole county by a small margin in acreage.

Over a period of more than 30 years Sanford has been recognized as the celery capital of Florida and even of the United States, although in recent years it has lost a slight amount of prestige to the Salinas section of California and the Lake Okechobee section of Florida.

Sanford celery growers, however, pioneered in the techniques of growing and marketing celery. F. F. Dutton was among the first to build a washing, packing and precooling plant here.

Washing and precooling is now an almost universal practice in all celery growing sections of the nation. A number of years ago Sanford shippers during the summer months moved into the New York celery sections and changed what was a rough and dirty deal to a washed and pre-cooled deal.

During the 1950-51 season 260,000 crates of Golden celery brought an average price of \$2.75 a crate F.O.B. at the Sanford State Farmers Market, with total sales of \$705,372.

The January, 1952 report by Manager Sandy Anderson shows that 18,760 crates of Golden celery sold at an average price of \$2.57 a crate, while Pascal celery brought \$2.63 a crate for 16,091 crates.

Movement of celery from the Sanford area is heavier this season than last year, and on Feb. 14 the Federal State Market News Service reported that 349 cars had been shipped from here as compared with 295 cars at this time last year.

Yield of celery this season, especially of Pascal, which supplanted Golden in the growers' favor, has been very heavy, and quality is even better than last year, according to growers and shippers. Prices received up to the middle of February have, however, been slightly below the cost of production, but with a lighter movement from California from Feb. 15 and into March, growers have predicted that prices will improve.

The first commercial celery grown in Florida was produced in Sanford, and it is still the county's most important crop. While other sections of the state have more recently undertaken celery production, Seminole county remains the largest celery producing center. Growers and shippers of this county also control important

(Continued On Page Seven)

## HARVESTING SANFORD CELERY



The pungent smell of crisp, tender celery of unsurpassed quality fills the air as field workers cut and fill field crates with celery during the winter season in Sanford, the celery capital of America. The celery is taken to washhouses and pre-cooling plants, crated and shipped to markets throughout the nation and Canada. Much of the celery crop in this area is of the Pascal variety this year.

assistant division commander of the 31st Infantry Division from 1943 to 1946. General Hutchison was awarded the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Air Medal. He saw action in New Guinea, Netherlands East Indies and the Philippines and participated in more than 35 aerial fights in front line sectors.

Born on Sept. 17, 1894 in Cross Hill, South Carolina, General Hutchison is the son of the late Joseph C. Hutchison and Elizabeth C. Hutchison. He attended public schools and graduated from Wofford College, in Spartanburg, S. C. in 1916. During the same year he came to Sanford to teach mathematics and serve as athletic director at Seminole High School.

Following the outbreak of World War I General Hutchison enlisted in the Army in September 1917, and rose from private to 2nd Lieutenant in the first year. He was assigned to Saumer Field Artillery School, in France after

## Chase & Company

(Continued From Page Two)

Chase & Company State Market Division assembles vegetables from other sections of the state as well as from local growers in order to fill the requirements of the many

which he became an artillery instructor at Camp Hunt, near Boudaux. At the close of the war, he served as an executive officer in one of the batteries of the 23rd Field Artillery in France.

Returning to Sanford, in February, 1919, he was employed immediately by the Sanford Celery Truck Growers, a farmer's cooperative marketing association, and was made general sales manager on June 1, 1920. In 1935 General Hutchison resigned from the Sanford Celery Truck Growers and organized J. C. Hutchison & Company, which he still operates.

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hundreds of customers' trucks which are loaded at the State Market.

The Company's taxes are no small item of expense. Last year they paid \$224,000 to the United States government and \$50,000 to the City, County and State governments.

In order to effectively coordinate the many activities, the Company is licensed to operate Radio Station KBY 216 and Sub-Station KLF 601. With radios in six cars and trucks it is possible for all departments to keep in constant touch with the field cutting crews, farm foremen, icing trucks and citrus picking foremen.

As the Company approaches the peak of the present season's operations all department heads report prospects for additional volume of business to be handled by the end of the year.

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## Hutchison & Co. Is One Of Leaders In Celery Game

BeckHammock Wash-house Employs 75 Persons In Season

The J. C. Hutchison and Co., owned and operated by Major General Joseph C. Hutchison, is one of the leading celery growing and shipping organizations of this section.

Their washhouse here is located at Beck Hammock, and employs about 75 persons at the peak of the season. The company raises celery on both the east and west sides and also has acreage at Zellwood and at Belle Glade. In the latter two places the packing facilities afforded by the Florida Pre-Cooling Co. are used.

About 65 percent of the celery is shipped by rail, and 35 percent by truck, including shipments to Texas, according to General Hutchison, owner and operator of the firm.

He expressed the opinion that celery grown on the sand land of Seminole County meets higher standards of quality, and that this is due to the fact that it takes a month longer to grow than the muck celery.

The local washhouse is managed by Mark Steele. Collier Bruen is field manager. R. A. Cobb manages the office which has been located in the Sanford Atlantic National Bank Building since June, when it was moved from the Meisch Building after 10 years of occupancy.

Golden celery has been commanding a better price lately than Pascal due to scarcity, said General Hutchison. About 88 percent of the plantings in the Sanford-Oviedo-Lake Hart regions is Pascal. The Glades has the most golden, about 65 percent.

The company is using a celery harvesting and packing machine in its Belle Glade fields. Although now adapted for large acreage, the machine might be made smaller for use in the smaller fields, he added.

On Feb. 29, 1951, General Hutchison, Sanford veteran of two world wars retired as commanding general of the 48th Infantry Division of the Florida and Georgia National Guard.

## MAJOR GENERAL HUTCHISON



General Hutchison is founder and operator of the J. C. Hutchison & Co., producers and shippers of celery in the Sanford, Zellwood and Belle Glade sections.

chison, Sanford veteran of two world wars retired as commanding general of the 48th Infantry Division of the Florida and Georgia National Guard.

tween the two states, General Hutchison's outstanding ability and efforts during his long military service, which began in 1917, have contributed much to the growth and efficiency of the National Guard. He served with the American Expeditionary Forces in France in World War I and was commissioned a second lieutenant in April, 1918.

General Hutchison became a first lieutenant in the 12th Infantry Regiment, Florida National Guard, in 1921 and has served the state and nation since that time.

For his outstanding performance in which he served as as-

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# State Farmers Market Sells Over \$5,796,000 Of Produce In One Year

**Increase Of Over \$1 Million Noted As Nearly 2 1/2 Million Units Are Handled**

By WILLARD CONNOLLY  
More than 2,418,738 units of fruits and vegetables, valued at \$5,796,002 were sold at the Sanford State Farmers Market during the period from July 1, 1950 to June 30, 1951, according to Sandy Anderson, manager.

This was \$1,063,133 more than last season's sales and was the highest record made by the market since it was established here 17 years ago, he said. He predicted that if favorable weather conditions continue, business will reach \$6,000,000 or more by June 30 of this year.

In 1935, when Nathan Mayo, state commissioner of agriculture, authorized the building of the first market of its type here, he often referred to it as his "guinea pig" market.

Since that time, so successful was the "experiment" that 25 other state farmers markets have been built in Florida, and gross sales of all of the state markets totaled \$44,781,000 last year, said Mr. Anderson.

The Sanford Market ranks third in the state in the amount of business and in size, being exceeded only by the Pompano and Ft. Pierce Markets which are located in the rich Glades growing sections.

Business has continued at a rapid pace at the Sanford market since the first of the year, and the report for January, 1951, showed sales of 420,333 units at a valuation of \$1,181,018.

This, Mr. Anderson pointed out, was an increase in units sold of 174,530, and a valuation gain of \$479,921 over January, 1951. The top selling commodity was cabbage with 204,325 50 pound units selling for \$643,953.

Since July 1, 1951 more than 914,045 units, valued at \$2,466,052 have been sold. Sales for the latter half of 1951 were 493,710 units having a value of \$1,305,034.

One of the vital factors in the large business at the Sanford Market, in addition to its location in the rich producing area of the St. Johns River Valley, is the fact that within a comparatively short hauling distance from Jacksonville, 120 miles, a trucker from out of the state or a northern city, can obtain about every product he needs that is grown in Florida.

Much produce sold at the market comes from the rich Glades vegetable producing areas, including green beans, tomatoes and cucumbers. Other vegetables come from the Zellwood mound lands and the lower west coast including the Ruskin, Sarasota areas.

A trucker, for instance, from the Carolinas or Virginia, may pick up a load of more than 20,000 pounds of citrus fruits and vegetables, including celery, cabbage, corn, peppers and leafy green vegetables.

Most of the business at the market is transacted over the long distance telephone and when a northern dealer orders produce and sends his trucker after it with one of the big semi-trailers, most of the produce will be there awaiting him on the market platform. All that will remain to do will be for the trucker to contact the dealer, load the produce, ice it, have it weighed and head north again.

Dealers and brokers at the market include Harold Kastner, William Williams, Jack Flynn, J. Emerson of the State Produce Co., R. P. Robinson, Al Skinner (Continued On Page Six)

## TRUCKING AT THE SANFORD STATE FARMERS MARKET



Big semi-trailer trucks from as far away as Montreal, Portland, Los Angeles and Minneapolis jam the paved area of the Sanford State Farmers Market to get fruit and vegetable from all over Florida during the busy winter season. When the Market was new, small trucks like that in foreground backed up to the Sanford Fruit Co., had plenty

of room to maneuver about. The big new and modern jobs have to be carefully jack-knifed into position. The market, the first to be built in the state, ranks third in size among about 25.

Photo By Essex Studio

## Annual Income From 12,000 Head Of Seminole County Cattle Is Estimated At More Than \$600,000 Annually

By WILLARD CONNOLLY

More than 12,000 head of cattle are now grazing on the grassy pasture lands of Seminole County and within a 25 mile radius of Sanford are at least 8,000 more. The annual income from the marketing of these cattle by the ranches of this county is estimated at more than \$600,000.

A recent load of cattle sold in Gainesville at more than 225 per head, as pork and beef prices saw a general rise. Florida cattlemen annually slaughter from 20 to 24 percent of their cattle on their farms, and at this rate Seminole County's yearly quota would be more than 3,000 head, which at \$225 a head would amount to \$724,500.

The growth of the cattle industry in Central Florida is reflected in Department of Commerce census figures which show that in the fifth district which includes Seminole County, the number of cattle rose from 44,811 in 1945 to 77,972 in 1950.

Rising prices are indicated by the fact that in 1945 the value of all livestock and livestock products in the fifth district was \$7,341,921. By 1950 the figure had nearly doubled amounting to \$13,737,000.

During 1950, however, sales of cattle and calves all over Florida were the lowest in five or six years, according to the Florida State Marketing Bureau. This has resulted in a big increase in the total number of cattle on the ranches in Florida.

Some of the local breeders such as Barney Beck, a pioneer cattleman, have holdings of thousands of cattle and large acreage in nearby Volusia county, which according to census figures, has more than 15,500 cattle.

The success of cattle breeding in this area is attracting nationally known northern and western cattle breeders, who are acquiring land for this purpose in the lush St. Johns River Valley, the wide

## PRIZE BRAHMAN BULL



Although first introduced in this area during the Civil War period, it was only in recent years that Brahman bulls from India with the characteristic hump were brought to Florida in any quantity. Heavy, hardy, and able to stand high temperatures, the Brahman strain of cattle have been a big factor in increasing Florida's cattle production 64 percent between 1940 and 1950 and putting the state in 12th place in production of beef cattle.

Johns River Valley, the wide pastures of which afford fine pasture for grazing. One of the new ventures here is that at the Acorn River Ranch in southeast Seminole County where the recently formed Acorn River Cattle Co., has acquired more than 5,000 acres of fine pasture land formerly owned by A. F. Long, a pioneer cattleman of Chuluota. The company is managed by

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tract immediately south of Sanford and extending to Lake Mary Boulevard. He is planting the pastures in Pangola and other improved grasses.

Leading cattlemen in the Seminole and Sanford area include Barney Beck, Francis Meriwether, Henry Wight, the Cameron brothers, Charles Lee of Oviedo, Grover Lewis, Walter Prevatt and W. G. Kilbee of Geneva, Fred Dyson, W. R. Dyson, Nolan Fore, Charles Beck and R. L. Humphrey and Charles Bradshaw.

One of the major problems of local cattlemen is to find a winter grass tough enough to stand low temperatures, on which cattle can thrive during a three months winter period.

Some growers think that Fescue grass may be the answer and are trying it out. It has been grown on the Acorn Ranch and according to Mr. Lamonte when grown on muck soil can stand temperatures as low as 10 degrees, much lower than the minimums of Central Florida.

Mr. Meriwether, who has 500 acres of grazing land east and south of Sanford, has been conducting extensive experiments during the past five years with various grasses, including Torpedo, Coast, Bermuda, Indigo, Pangola, Bahia and Argentine grass. In addition, he has planted white clover, and has had success with crimson clover on sandy soil. He has a fine herd of Brahman cattle.

Henry Wight, another progressive cattlemen with large holdings in the Lake Jessup area southeast of Sanford, says that conditions during the winter months so far have been favorable for cattle feeding. Some cattle are now feeding on clover and others on tender grass, but most cattle are roughing it.

During the winter season most calves are fed cotton seed meal or calf type ration. Most ranchers in this area feed their bulls in separate pastures. A considerable amount of citrus pulp is used for supplemental feeding.

Natural grasses, seeded out by November, are apt to be tough, according to ranchers. Cattle feed on good natural grass on the St. Johns prairies from April until August, when floods usually drive them to higher land. This year they were not affected by floods.

The greater part of the grass in the prairies is natural Bermuda and switch grass. Popular summer grasses are Bahia, Pangola, bermuda and Torpedo.

Since local soil is apt to lack

calcium and phosphorus, trace elements are added salt and other minor trace elements which are deemed essential.

Since the passage of a State law barring cattle from the highways, many progressive ranchers have turned away from the open ranges, and as land grows scarcer, the tendency has been toward smaller, highly cultivated pastures. Growers are improving as much as they can due to the high price of land and high taxes.

Many local cattlemen have recently expressed favor for some form of flood control in Central Florida similar to that in the southern part of the state. In the Glades regions, humans as well as animals were menaced by floods and canals and dikes were built to give flood control.

Most of the local cattle are marketed in Kissimmee, Orlando, Ocala and Gainesville. During the past several years, according to the State Marketing Bureau, not over 35 percent of the total sales go through livestock auction markets. The balance go direct to packers, slaughterers and stock buyers, as these represent the outlets through which livestock in Florida is generally sold.

Florida was America's first cattle country for in the 18th century, Ponce deLeon, seeking a fresh meat supply as well as a fountain of youth, brought cattle here from Cuba.

Many years after the period of exploration, Spanish, British and American settlers found Indian tribes possessing herds of half wild herds, producing a gaunt, stringy, tough breed, well able to cope with hazardous surroundings, but not recommended as good quality beef. The term cracker is derived from the sound of the cattle drivers' whips.

During the 20s attempts to improve strains by introducing better breeds of range cattle from the West failed because the imported cattle were not immune to tropical tick fever. This disease became so widespread that Georgia refused to allow any Florida cattle to be sent across the state border.

In 1923, the State Legislature of Florida passed a tick eradication measure. Requiring cattle dipping most counties were soon declared free of any serious infestation. However, this condition lasted only a short time because the deer of the Indian reservations in South Florida were found to be tropical tick hosts.

The result in a conflict between cattlemen and sportsmen groups opposing the killing of deer. Finally the tick infested deer were killed.

While it is established that the industry was doubled in value during the last decade, only about 70 percent of the total beef consumed in Florida is produced here.

Nowadays Florida cattle compares favorably with range cattle elsewhere. Many, like cattle from Texas and the western states, are shipped to the middle west for fattening on corn and may return to restaurants as western beef.

During the early pioneer days anyone who desired to could raise cattle on the open Florida range. Among the very early pioneers in cattle raising in Orange county of which Seminole was then a part, were the Woodruffs who at one time had 1,500 head of cattle.

(Continued On Page Seven)



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# 77 Different Strains Of Celery Are Being Tested At Experiment Station

Work Goes On Under Direction Of Dr. R. W. Ruprecht To Aid Celery Quality

The search for new, edible and blight resistant types of celery is being continued at the Central Florida Experiment Station and branch farm on Celery Avenue where 77 strains sent here from Cornell University are being tested under the direction of Dr. R. W. Ruprecht.

The local station is co-operating with Dr. H. M. Munger of Cornell and with the experimental station at Belle Glade, in the production of these new types of celery. Planted from seed sent here from Cornell, the 77 varieties of celery will furnish carefully selected plants which will be sent back to the University in May for further experiment.

Since the celery is a biennial plant, it will be "rooted into seedling" by being placed for six weeks in cold storage.

Some of these new crosses of celery types are about ready for release. Dr. Ruprecht declared. Experiments last year resulted in a very edible type, Emerson Pascal. Due to adverse weather, plantings of this variety here went to seed, but excellent reports have been received concerning plantings in Michigan.

An acre is being devoted at the 25 acre farm, a mile east of the Experiment Station, to other new crosses of celery, especially to develop a blight resistant golden type and to improve Utah Pascal celery.

Work is continuing on efforts to breed mildew resistant cantaloupes which can be successfully grown in this section. One variety has been produced showing a well netted surface, which is harder and matures earlier, said Dr. Ruprecht.

Other experiments are devoted to producing new types of English peas with heavier yield and uniform maturity, and to breed new strains of other vegetables well adapted to this area. These include varieties of iceberg lettuce, Irish potatoes, cauliflower, broccoli, and cabbage.

The lowly cabbage has been king in this section this winter, bringing up to \$1.50 a 50 pound crate, and efforts to improve its quality are constantly being made.

Dr. Ruprecht is well equipped to head this experimental work at the station which is located on Celery Avenue east of the baseball park and which is a branch of the University of Florida Experiment Station.

He was born in New York State, attended school in Rhode Island and received his higher education at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and at Cornell University. In 1920 he came to the University of Florida to head the chemistry department at its experimental station. In 1937 he was sent to Sanford to replace Dr. E. R. Purvis of South Carolina, who had worked under him at the station.

Dr. Ruprecht has the title of vice-director in charge of the Central Florida Experiment Station. One of his outstanding discoveries during the early days of the local station was the cure of the disease

## CENTRAL FLORIDA EXPERIMENT STATION



Many important experiments in plant growth and the detection and cure of diseases in vegetables in this area are constantly carried on at the Central Florida Experiment Station on Celery Avenue. Left to right, front, are Dr. R. W. Ruprecht, director of the station; Miss Betty Michels, secretary; and Dr. J. W. Wilson, entomologist. In second row, left to right are Dr. E. Whitner, Jr., assistant horticulturist; John Patton, graduate student in entomology and Roy Gelsa-

ger, assistant chemist. In rear, are Dr. Philip J. Westgate, associate horticulturist and Dr. J. H. Christie, U. S. D. A. nematologist. Not shown in the group is Dr. George Swank, Jr., assistant plant pathologist. At upper right, Dr. J. W. Wilson, is examining celery to detect aphids. Middle right, Dr. Swank directs the application of fungicides on cabbage plants. At lower right, Dr. Westgate studies soil conditions responsible for poor growth in celery fields.

for the knowledge of the competent plant pathologist. Dr. George Swank, a graduate of Ohio State University, in close co-operation with other members of the staff is constantly trying out new chemical combinations for the control of plant diseases. One of these is damp-off, a disease affecting young plants.

This is Dr. Swank's second year here and he has already accomplished outstanding results in soil treatments for control of damp-off in seed beds. Dr. Ruprecht declared recently.

Dr. Swank often cooperates in research with Dr. J. W. Wilson, entomologist. A native of Georgia, Dr. Wilson did his undergraduate work at Clemson, and did several years of graduate work at North Carolina State College at Raleigh. He received his DSC degree at Bussey Institute, a branch of Harvard.

Elimination of insect pests is Dr. Wilson's constant goal. He has been jointly working with Dr. Swank to determine the compatibility of insecticides with various fungicides. This is being done in order to be able to advise growers what chemicals to use so that one will not cancel out the other. He has also been making residue tests to determine what proportion of sprays it is safe to leave on plants.

Dr. Philip Westgate, associate horticulturist, came to the station from Cornell University where he received his degree. During the past two years he has been testing various types and amounts of fertilizers for celery and other vegetables. He has made some striking public demonstrations of his work to growers, and has been much in demand all over the state to show his charts and explain his findings.

One of his main problems is to seek and remedy the deficiency of minerals in the soil such as iron, copper, manganese and molybdenum. He has found a lack of iron in many plants in this area. This iron has a close relationship with the production of chlorophyll, the green coloring matter in plants which is so necessary in plant tissues. For more than 20 years, Dr. Westgate's father was a director in the Hawaiian Experiment Station.

Working in co-operation with Dr. Westgate is Roy Gelslager, chemist from East Tampa. A graduate of the University of Florida in 1930, he came to the station on Oct. 15, 1930. He is now working on soil chemistry, particularly in relation to the growing of cabbage and

celery. Testing of soils to determine soluble mineral content is one of his routine jobs. One of these methods is by means of an electric eye indication which measures the salt proportions by their conductivity.

John Patton, of Lakeland, a graduate assistant from the University of Florida is engaged in preparing his master thesis and is working under the direction of Dr. Wilson. He has been concentrating on the celery mite or red spider, its life history and control. Recently he discovered a new species of never recognized before.

These eight legged members of the spider family are smaller than a flea, he stated, and feed on all sorts of plants.

One of the solutions effectively used to combat the red spider is Patathum in the proportion of one pound to 100 gallons of water. The red spiders generally found in this area suck the juices of the plants and cause them to die.

In a class by themselves are the nematodes which exist in uncounted numbers in all types of soil. These microscopic animals appear under a microscope lens like little transparent cels forever in motion. Laying on the roots of plants they retard growth, particularly of celery in this area.

Two of the workers at the Experiment Station are U. S. Department of Agriculture men. Dr. J. H. Christie and Vernon Perry are nematologists and in a small laboratory back of the greenhouse devote much painstaking study to the nematodes. Dr. Christie came here from Maryland. Vernon Perry majored at Alabama Polytechnic at Auburn.

It is estimated by these technicians that there are about two to four thousand nematodes per pound of soil. Some of these are parasites, feeding on insects; others feed on plants. To obtain specimens, soil is put into containers with four parts of water.

(Continued On Page 818)

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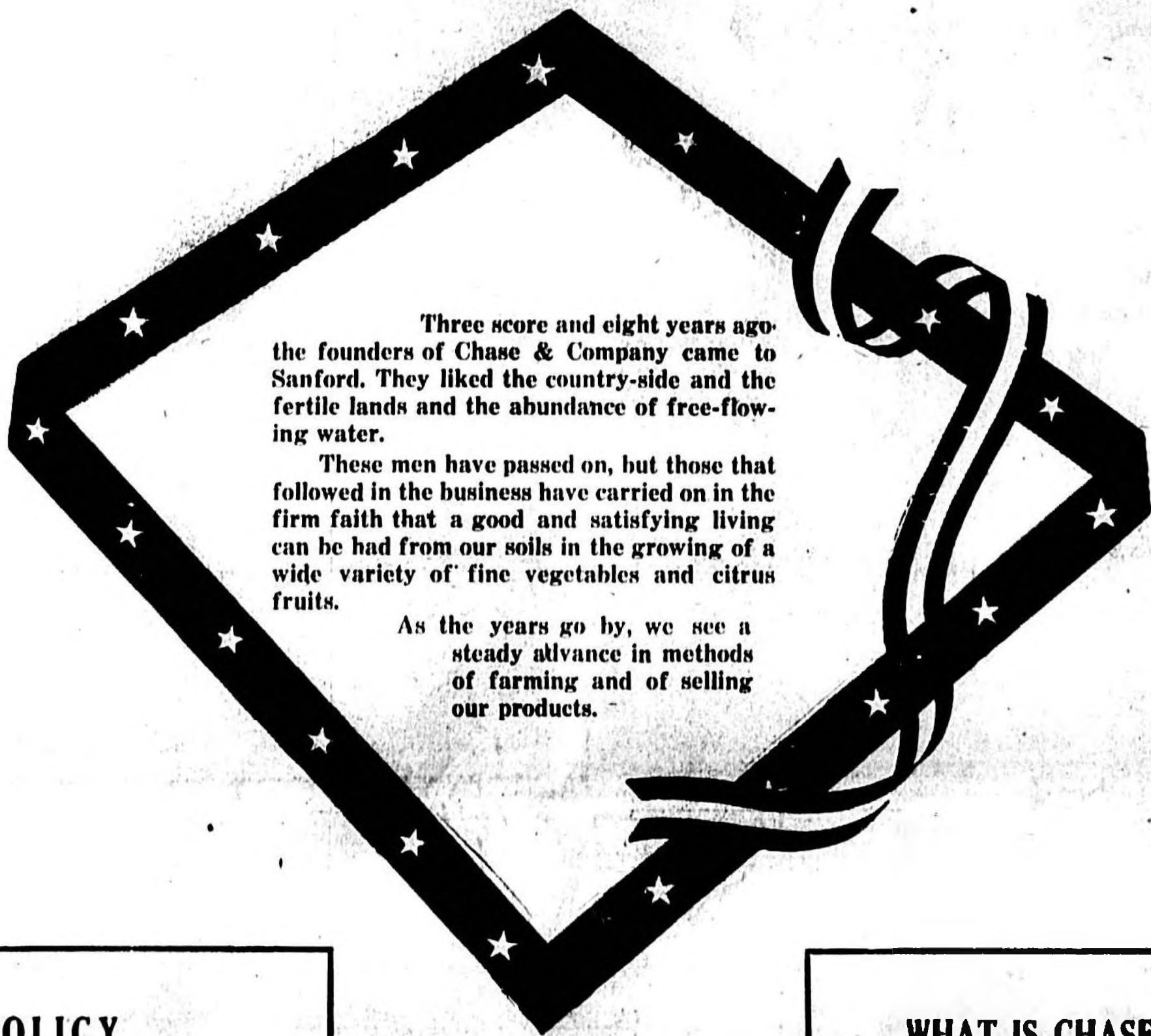
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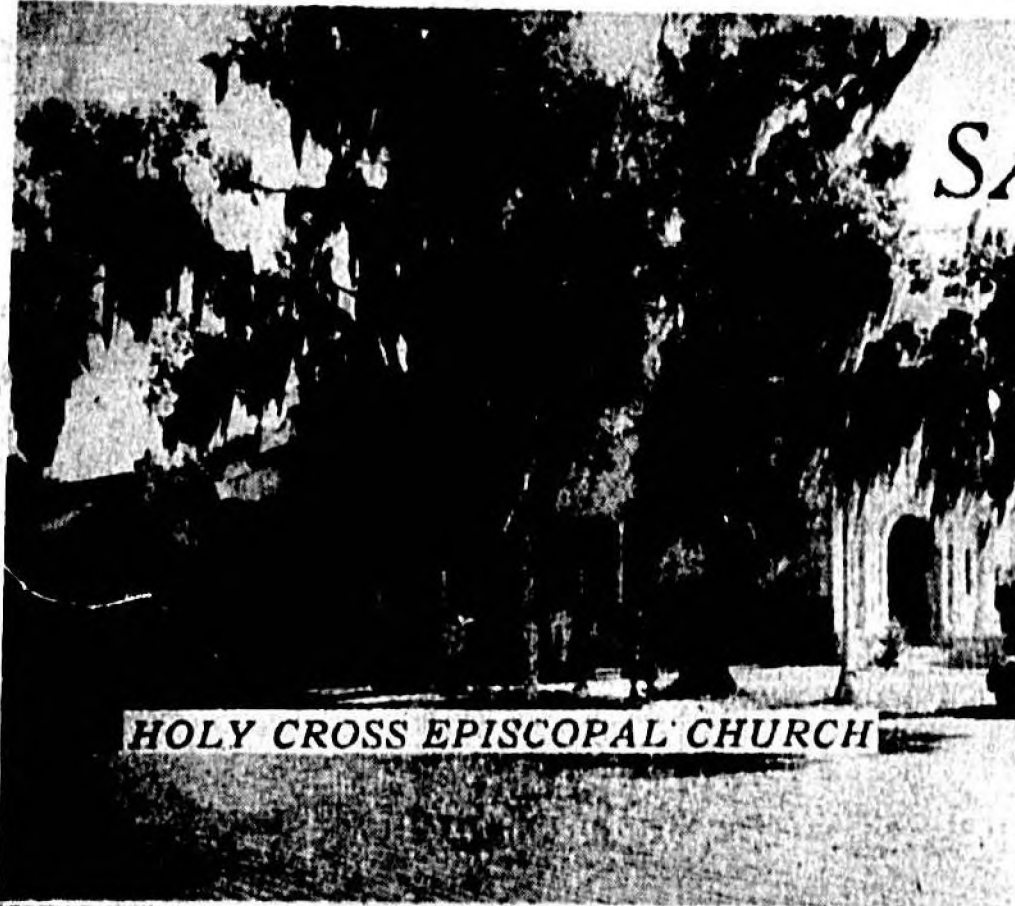
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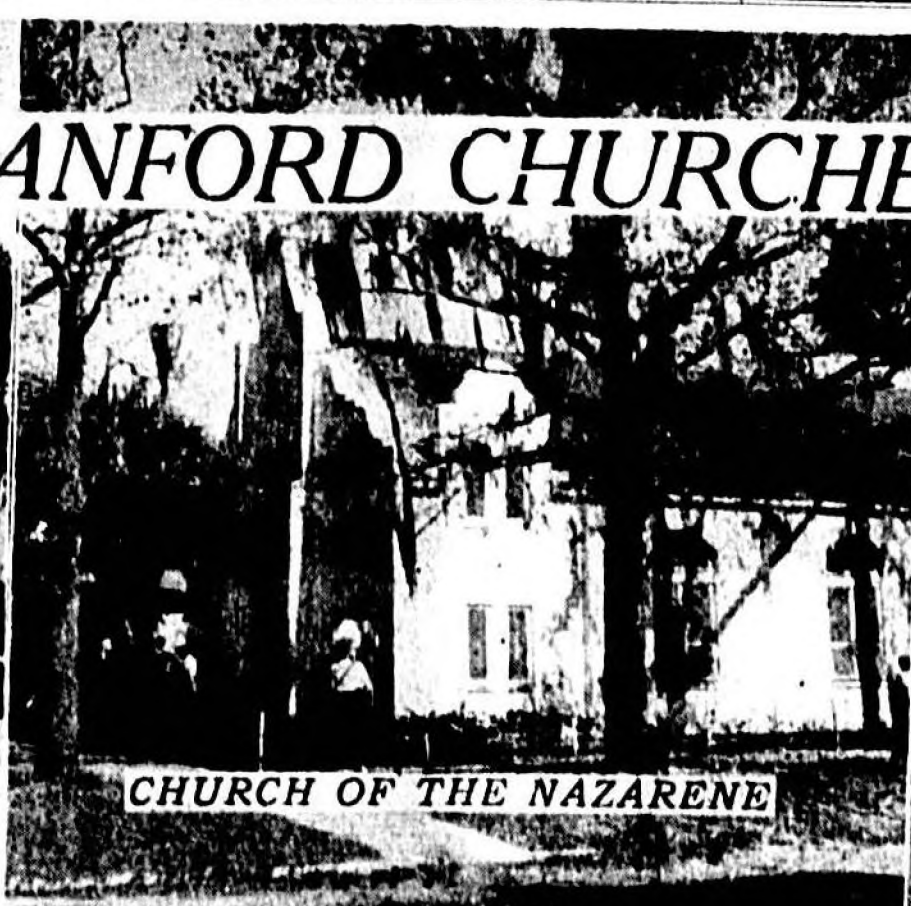
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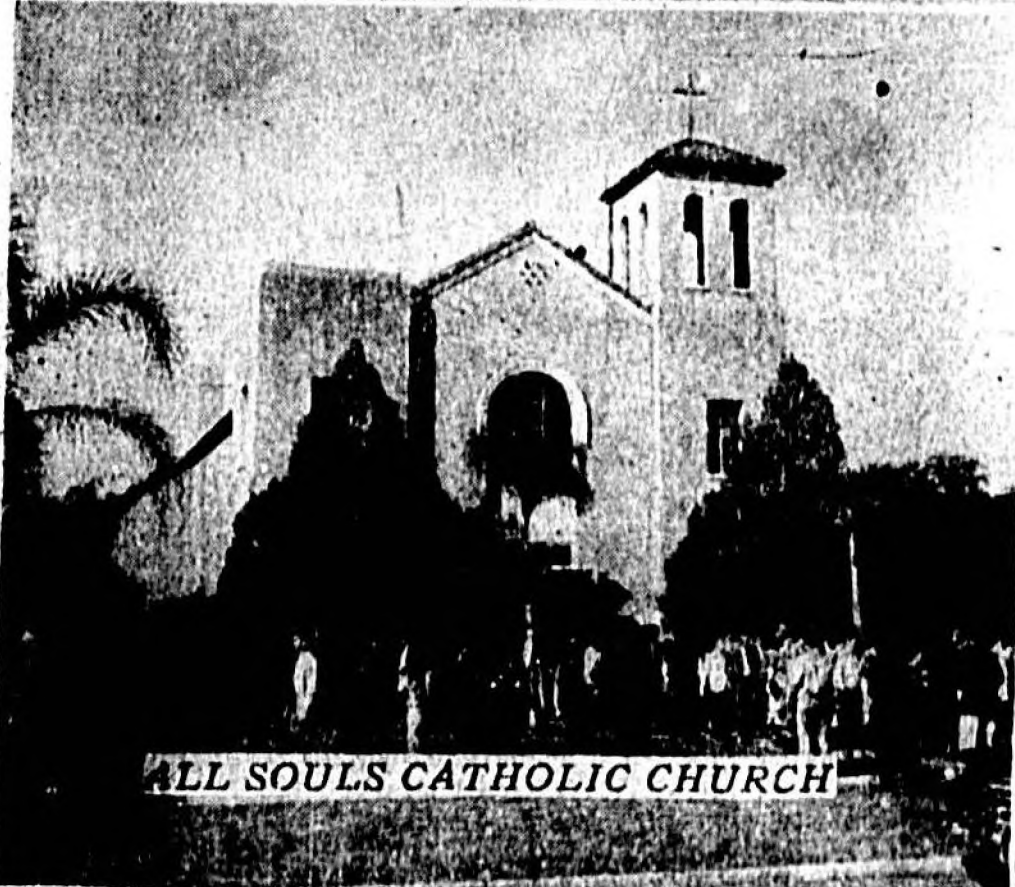
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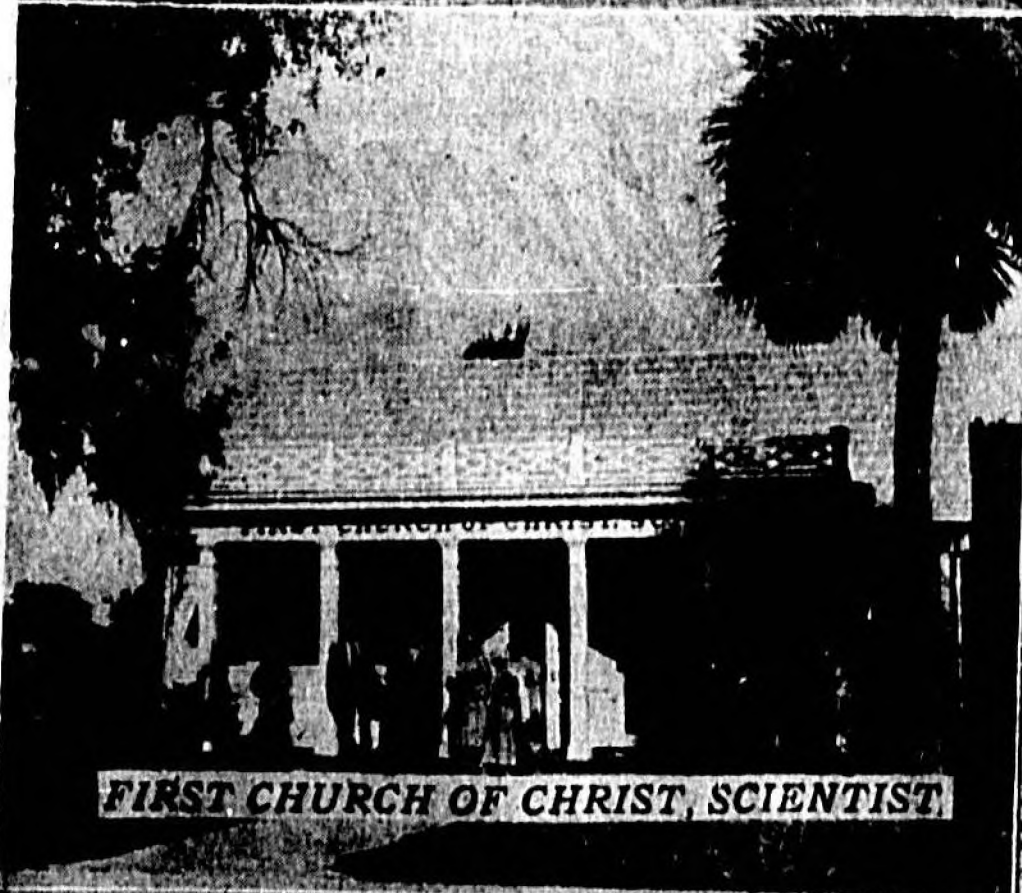
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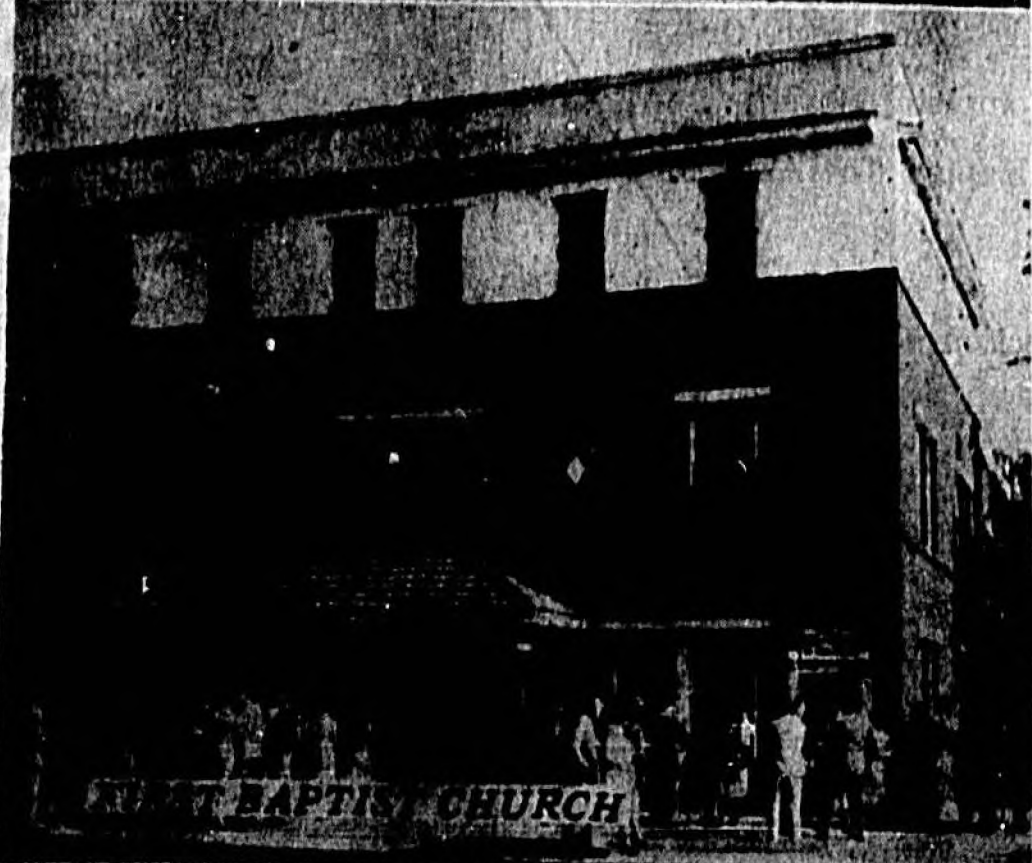
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