

JOSEPH H. HUMPHRIES, PROMINENT CITIZEN OF BRADENTON, DIES

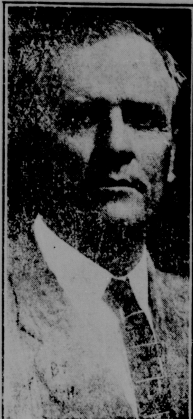
End Comes Monday Morning in Tampa

WAS MEMBER STATE SENATE

Also Former Postmaster Here and Founder Manatee River Journal

Hon. Joseph H. Humphries of this city, former state senator, former postmaster of Bradenton, founder and for many years publisher of the Manatee River Journal in this city, died Monday morning, 7 o'clock, at the home of his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Blunt, in Tampa. Death followed an illness of about a year and a half, during which Mr. Humphries gradually lost ground, although he made a determined fight to win back his health. His final illness lasted some six weeks, when he went to Tampa and entered a hospital, going later to the Blunt home where he died. Throughout his illness he had the constant attendance of his dear wife, who was with him when he died.

Claimed By Death



HON. JOSEPH H. HUMPHRIES.

Several weeks the initial publication of the newspaper he had made up his mind to found. On August 30, 1888, however, the first issue of the Manatee River Journal saw the light of day and the black of printer's ink, and from that day to the present has never ceased to appear regularly. It was the weekly issue of the Evening Herald.

This was to be Manatee county's best enduring newspaper. At the time of its establishment, C. V. S. Wilson was publishing his Manatee County Advocate at Manatee. Later Mr. Wilson left Manatee to found the Sarasota Times.

Some years before Mr. Humphries was the Manatee River Journal in Bradenton, a weekly paper had been printed there by Mrs. S. Cooper and Oliver J. Andrew. This paper, the Gulf Coast Progress, had been the original news sheet issued in Bradenton but had passed from circulation.

The Manatee River Journal appeared as a seven-column four-page weekly. Two hundred and fifty copies were printed at the first issue. The work was done by Mr. Humphries and W. C. Lightfoot, his printer, upon the small hand press imported from Bartow. The linotype machine was an untried one at the time of the automobile and the published and his assistant set up their type by hand.

TRAIN AND AUTO CRASH IN MANATEE AND CAPT. HOLDERLY LOSES LIFE; MRS. WOLLENWEBER IS INJURED

Capt. George Holderly, connected with the Alafia River Sand and Shell Company, is dead, while Mrs. Wanda Wollenweber, a trained nurse, is at the Larabee hospital, suffering from painful cuts and bruises, the result of a collision of a Maxwell coupe in which they were riding, and a southbound Seaboard Air Line passenger train at 4:30 Monday afternoon. The accident occurred at the Seaboard crossing in front of the county hospital, in Manatee.

Captain Holderly sustained a number of bad cuts on his head, one large cut being from the front of the hood to the back of the skull which is fractured; his left collar bone is broken, as is his right leg.

Mrs. Wollenweber has several bad cuts on the forehead, and bruises and cuts over the body.

Immediately after the collision the injured man and woman were rushed to the Larabee hospital in an ambulance, accompanied by Dr. T. M. M. Duffie, who was one of the first persons on the scene.

From what can be learned it seems that the accident was unavoidable as far as the railroad men are concerned, and it is thought probable that the heavy downpour of rain just at that time had caused the windshield of the coupe to be obscured and the driver did not see the approaching train.

The train was backing out of Bradenton on its way to Manatee. The flagman, standing on the rear of the last coach, was continually sounding the signal. He saw the car approach the crossing and had no idea that the driver would try to make it. As soon as he realized the automobile was not going to stop, he applied the air brakes, which brought the train to a quick stop.

Draged Under Train The rear coach of the passenger train smashed into the coupe, and when brought to a stop it was found that Captain Holderman had been draged under the second car, the woman being on the side of the track. The county hospital was called, and Dr. J. Duffie, who was on the Perkins garage on East Manatee Avenue was soon on the scene, accompanied by Frank Perkins, who assisted the trainmen in getting the injured man and woman into the ambulance, after which they were sent to the Larabee hospital. When taken from under the car, Captain Holderly seemed to be in a dying condition.

The automobile was practically demolished, and it is regarded as a miracle that the inmates were not killed outright. Both sides of the coupe were crumpled almost together, every glass was broken and the chassis badly wrecked.

Everything possible was done by the train crew, after the accident, summoning medical aid, and otherwise assisting the victims of what is deemed to be a terrible tragedy.

The couple were on their way to the negro quarters to take a bundle of laundry to a washerwoman for a lady who had recently been discharged from the Larabee hospital, where he had been for over six months recovering from serious burns, and who was being looked after by Captain Holderly. Mrs. Wollenweber is a trained nurse, and has been taking care of the lady for some time past.

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At first only local news was printed as no wires had been strung to the outside world, and had there been any press service had been organized in Florida to take care of out-of-the-way newspapers. Most of the papers were distributed by mail to the small list of subscribers.

The office of the journal was located in the attic of a two-story frame building situated just west of the present Bradenton-Palmetto bridge site. Here also was conducted the job printing establishment operated in connection with the paper.

At this time the total population of Manatee county would hardly count a thousand souls. Manatee, the oldest town, had a population of about 400. Palmetto about 300, while the settlement of Bradenton and Fort Myer together claimed some 123 residents.

Paper Brings Progress With the founding of an alert, regular paper the vicinity of Bradenton again became articulate and began to demand recognition from the outside world. So vociferously did the journal insist upon the importance of the Manatee river section that within a short time a daily mail service was instituted by the government. Daily boats from Tampa handled this contract for a while then the route for mail was changed to overlaid from the same city.

During the early struggling days of his paper it required two years to build his dependable circulation to 200 weekly. Mr. Humphries purchased and secured his supplies and newsprint from New Orleans. These supplies were delivered by the boat that called periodically to bring grocery stock and other necessities of life to the three cities. In these

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HALF MILLION DOLLARS IS NEW CAPITALIZATION OF BUILDING AND LOAN

DIRECTORS DECIDE TO ADD \$300,000 TO THE OLD CAPITALIZATION AND SELL MORE STOCK—ANNUAL DIVIDEND TEN PER CENT

Increase of capitalization from \$200,000 to \$500,000 was decided upon at the meeting of the board of directors of the Manatee County Building and Loan Association held in the office of President A. M. Garrison of the organization Thursday night. The B. & L. also declared annual dividend of 10 per cent for the year just ended.

The Manatee County Building and Loan Association is now capitalized at \$200,000. Only a few shares remain unsold. The requests for loans the past year have been in advance of association's means, and that is one reason why it was decided to issue more stock by adding to the capitalization, thus putting the association in position to make a greater number of loans to persons desiring to build homes.

Four loans were passed upon favorably at Thursday night's meeting, and provide for as many new homes in this city.

MACHINERY FOR BRIDGE WORK REACHES THE CITY

IS BEING UNLOADED DIRECT TO BARGES

Upon which it will be installed—Is Parts of Huge Derricks

The initial shipment of machinery to be used in the construction of the \$1,000,000 state highway bridge to connect Bradenton and Palmetto, has arrived, and it will be only a few days before work on the great structure will start, which will be well-timed news to the people of the entire section. This machinery came over the Seaboard Air Line Thursday, the cars being placed on the river bank where several of the big barges built by Dowling & Son are now moored, and upon which the machinery will be installed.

Work has also started on the 200-foot dock which will be built into the river from the foot of Broad street, where scores of workmen are engaged and present a busy appearance. Activities will increase from day to day, and it will not be long before the great bridge will be underway.

The machinery shipment is from Sioux City, Ia., and consists of parts for the big derricks to be used in unloading the cars, and the work of putting up the derricks is already under way. Within a short time additional shipments will be received, for the pile-drivers, the mixers, etc. Work is progressing rapidly on the remaining seven barges which are being built at the Dowling mill on the Bradenton river, and some of these will be launched within a few days and towed to the Seaboard tracks. The fleet will be ready for service shortly. P. A. Collins, superintendent, who will build the great bridge, is gratified at the manner in which the Dowling mill people turned out the barges, and is now making all arrangements to begin construction on the \$1,000,000 job.

GOES TO MEETING OF STATE ROAD DEPARTMENT

Hon. E. P. Green left Tuesday morning for Tampa, where he attended the funeral of the late Joseph H. Humphries, and from Tampa he went on to Tallahassee, where he will attend the regular quarterly meeting of the state road department. The road department will vote up its budget at this meeting but will not formally adopt it until the April meeting.

CLEVELAND BUSINESSMAN TO SPEND SOME TIME HERE

H. H. Hampton, one of the leading businessmen of Cleveland, O., where he is connected with the Van Swearingen interests, reached the city Monday, accompanied by Mrs. Hampton and daughter. They are pleasantly located at the Manatee River Hotel, and expect to remain here during the remainder of the winter season.

W. O. Bargin, L. M. Grims and S. T. Roper are a party from Lexington, N. C., who have reached the city, and who will be here for an indefinite period. They are registered at the Manatee River hotel.

BRADEN CASTLE CAMP BUILDS UP RAPIDLY

A HUNDRED OR MORE HOUSES THERE NOW

One of the picturesque and most interesting points adjacent to the city, and which is attracting the attention of many tourists alike, is the little city which is springing up at Braden Castle camping ground, where substantially-built homes are going up almost overnight. The song of hammer and saw are heard from early morn until late at night, and scores of winter visitors are on the ground awaiting the completion of their winter homes and occupying them as soon as building operations will permit.

This is the property of the stockholders in the Camping Tourists of America organization, one of non-profit, the main idea being to provide winter homes for the members in the most picturesque place in the state of Florida. More than 100 houses have already been built or are in course of construction, and the place gives the appearance of a regular town. Houses are located on well laid out streets in perfect alignment. Practically all of them have garages added to the structures, and the style of architecture is pleasing, practically all of them being uniform in appearance.

New Home for Houck One of the prettiest homes in that section is now in course of construction for W. J. Houck, president of the association, which is located directly opposite the old Braden Castle. This is a two-story high, well seven rooms, and all the conveniences of a most modern residence. Work is progressing rapidly and the structure will be completed within a short time. Within a short time work will be started on a clubhouse, which will be located near the waterfront. There are a number of clubs of various kinds, and a visit to the ground will be interesting to the horse-shoe, croquet, tennis and other enthusiasts. Sports of all kinds are being arranged for for the entertainment of the residents of this wonderful camping city.

Test City Also A little distance from the "city" is another camp, which, however, is a tent city. Here hundreds of campers are located for the winter season, pitching their tents in perfect military order, this site being under the supervision of the Braden Castle Camp officers. Daily automobile parties arrive there, and within a very short time the ground will have a capacity crowd of happy people, who are convinced that Florida is the best place in the Union, and Bradenton and vicinity the paradise of the southern states.

COUNTY AGENT ATTENDING MEETING AGRICULTURISTS

Ed. L. Ayres, county agricultural agent left Tuesday morning for Tampa, where he went to attend the meeting of the county agents of South Florida, in which he will take a prominent part. The purpose of the session is to map out a program for the work during the year, and will be attended by men well versed in Florida agricultural matters.

TOURISTS PUT ON GREAT ENTERTAINMENT

HAVE BIG TIME IN THE CITY CAMP

Evening of Merriment—750 Persons and 252 Autos In the Camp Now

The regular weekly entertainment at the Bradenton Tourist camp held Friday night was a most enjoyable affair. The program consisted of an excellent one, with only the talent from the campers represented. There was music, recitations and other features, thoroughly enjoyed not only by the "residents" of the municipal camp, but by many persons from the city who had been apprised of the affair.

The program was prepared by C. M. Clark, chairman of the committee, of Manatee, Ind., and included recitations by Miss Evelyn Richardson, and Mr. Kinsman, Mr. and Mrs. Webb and Mrs. Beatty, in musical numbers—piano, guitar and violin. Mr. Briggs with his athletic stunts kept the big crowd entertained to the limit; and Bradenton. Two years later, in 1915, however, this paper was discontinued.

In 1919 Mr. Humphries closed his long career as a newspaperman and publisher in Bradenton by selling his paper and printing plant to George E. Hosmer, who is now publisher of the Fort Myers Press. Fort Myers, Florida. Mr. Humphries retired to devote himself to the cares of his estate.

In 1922 Mr. Humphries organized the Manatee County Fertilizer Company, of which he was a large stockholder and the first president. He was in active management for a time, when his health began to fail, and he retired.

An Active Churchman Mr. Humphries was a member of the First Baptist Church of Bradenton and for many years a member of the board of trustees of that institution and an active worker in the ranks. He was re-elected to an office in the church at the recent annual election. He was a member of the building committee which constructed the present church and arranged for financing it. Also he held a similar position of trust in Tampa, when the First Baptist Church of that city financed and erected its first brick structure at the corner of Lafayette street and Plant avenue.

No citizen of Bradenton ever held more universal respect and liking of the people generally than Joe Humphries. His usefulness and value to the city were generally recognized and appreciated. His death will cause genuine regret.

Mr. Humphries was for several terms president of the Bradenton Board of Trade, and he has been for years a director of the Bradenton Bank and Trust Company and the Tampa Southern Railroad. He was a member of high standing and a prominent member of the Manatee River Kwanan Club.

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