

County Eyes Phillippi Drainage

Officials should take a long look at the Phillippi Creek watershed area before any more extensive subdividing is done there. It was stated at a county commission meeting Tuesday.

The speaker, Commission Chairman Glenn E. Potter, said the county must be assured flood control steps are taken before more pressure is put on the already hardpressed Phillippi Creek outlet.

His comments came after the board gave preliminary approval to plats for Ridgewood Estates and South Ridge, practically across Bee Ridge Road from each other and in the creek's watershed area.

John Grout, road supervisor, said the area's drainage is one of great concern to his department but added developers are aware that drainage problems must be solved before any more large scale housing can be instituted.

Grout recommended aerial surveys of critical areas.

Commissioners Tuesday also:

Accepted with regret the resignation of Charles Kent from the County Zoning Board of Appeals.

Accepted the apparent low bid, at 4.7 per cent, of Arch Avery for No. 4 Special Road & Bridge Tax District's \$30,000 bond issue.

Held public hearings on rezoning and use petitions but took no final action.

Decided to investigate a report by Fred Collins of Osprey that his access to his home from U.S. 41 had been cut off because the county had opened a ditch in the area and washout had occurred.

Creek Flood Study Slated

A capacity study on the lower portion of Phillippi Creek which may speed construction of a \$1.5 million flood control project on the county's nine major drainage basins has been authorized, Congressman James Haley reported Friday.

Congressional approval of the survey by the Army Corps of Engineers paves the way for immediate work on the project by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The engineers will determine how much excess water the urban section of the creek can handle and the remaining flood waters will be diverted to the Gulf of Mexico through other creeks in the 139,000-acre watershed.

The flood control project, financed largely with Federal funds, was obtained by the Sarasota County Soil Conservation District and the County Commission. Flooding of the Phillippi Creek area has reached an acute stage several times in the past four years.

Recreation Council Meets 8/14/59 NEWS

Builder Offers Swap To Dredge Phillippi

A proposal by a local contractor to dredge Phillippi Creek in the South Gate area, in return for which he would use part of the dredge material for county purposes and the rest for his own purpose, was made last night in the Sarasota County Recreation Council.

W. I. Shanabarger, the contractor, made the proposal at last night's meeting of the council.

The dredge material could be used to fill in mosquito breeding places and sanitary landfills.

The proposal was taken under advisement by the council.

Pavilion Plans Aired

Berenice Derr, president of the Siesta Key Chamber of Commerce, appeared to outline that organization's part in the forthcoming dedication of the Siesta Beach Pavilion. There will be a dance with an orchestra at the pavilion following the official ceremonies.

The Siesta Key Chamber will have its own celebration the night of the dedication, tentatively scheduled for Labor Day weekend.

Gov. LeRoy Collins, members of the State Park Board and the advisory board of the Oscar Scherer State Park at South Creek have been invited to attend the opening of that park on the same weekend as the dedication of the Siesta Beach Pavilion.

The Oscar Scherer State Park, comprising approximately 550 acres, will be the first state park opened during the Collins administration.

State Park Board Member John E. Robertson of Sarasota is to contact the governor today to see if he can attend.

The access road into the state park is almost complete and plans are being pushed for a bridge to open up another portion of the park which is not accessible.

Beach Outlay Backed

The council decided to go ahead with an additional \$3,000 in Siesta Beach landscaping to beautify the \$150,000 investment at the beach and augment the existing inadequate landscaping.

The landscaping plan will be expanded and larger and more trees put in to bring it up to standard, council members said.

The county spent \$50,000 for the pavilion and \$80,000 for the beach.

Faltz Nurseries will do the landscaping, the same firm which did the original landscaping according to a plan designed by Roy B. Hull,

former county planner.

After the first plan for the landscaping was completed at a cost of about \$1,500 it was decided that it was not adequate to complete the beautification of the plot.

9-22-59

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Weather Threat Seen

Flood-Peril Area Gets Dragline

County commissioners moved a dragline into the Bahia Vista area of Phillippi Creek just in time today to meet any threat that might arise from the easterly wave sweeping toward the extreme southern part of the state.

At an emergency meeting late yesterday the county commissioners decided to move the dragline into the area because of the expressed fears of so many Bahia Vista area residents that the next flooding along the creek would be disastrous to their homes and property.

County commissioners with Engineer Moseley Collins are giving serious consideration to that problem plus the one posed by the South Gate dam structure. There was a meeting on that problem late yesterday between South Gate representatives and Collins.

Commissioners said that if the Suncoast gets nearly as much rain as the Miami area did yesterday from the easterly wave it will be in bad condition drainage-wise and flood-wise.

Meanwhile, commissioners are seeking any or all aid they can

from state and federal sources for the solution of the vital Phillippi Creek flood conditions.

The U. S. Congress failed to pass authorization for the U.S. Corps of Engineers to make a flood control study of the creek. This left the study delayed until at least the second session starts in January.

The engineering study of the creek, if it is authorized in the next session, probably will mean the survey work cannot begin before spring.

News Of Special Interest Locally

The News

Sarasota, Florida, Wednesday, September 23, 1959

U.S. Engineers Called

Emergency Aid Sought For Phillippi Victims

Emergency aid to the flood-stricken Phillippi Creek area from a research team of the U.S. District Engineers is requested today amid fears that the tropical storm or hurricane lurking off the Florida east coast could be the knock-out blow to the area.

Immediate action by the research team is expected from Jacksonville, but meanwhile the big block in the creek is the South Gate dam, according to residents.

Packed Hearing

Cries of "blow the dam" echoed throughout the three-hour hearing yesterday afternoon in a packed county commission meeting room as residents of the threatened areas of Bellevue Terrace, Oak Shores and South Gate put up a strong appeal for action to alleviate the flooded conditions.

The dam referred to is at the rear of the South Gate Community Hall between the bridges at Weber Street and Tuttle Avenues.

Basic conflict between the county commissioners and the residents was over whether or not the dam should be destroyed, or widened and improved to allow more flow over it and reduction in the head of water.

Taking the lead in the group that wanted the dam destroyed was R. P. Farrell Jr., one of the developers, who said, "Everybody seems to think that dam should be taken out except the county commissioners."

The county, through its engineer Moseley Collins, had devised a plan acceptable in general with South Gate residents to widen the dam 85 feet over the present 65 feet making it possible for more water to flow over the spillway.

But the residents, many of whom had their homes flooded during last week's storm, said they wouldn't settle for that.

Number Of Moves

The county moved yesterday on a number of fronts to combat the Phillippi Creek flood threat.

1. It officially requested the U.S. Army Engineers research team to come here on an emergency basis.
2. It moved a dragline into the

Bahia Vista Street area of Phillippi Creek for removal of silting in the creek bottom.

3. It sought engineering studies by its consulting engineers, Smalley, Wellford and Naiven of the Phillippi Creek dam.

4. It contacted the State Road Department and other agencies for appropriate right-of-way studies of the area of Phillippi Creek at the South Trail bridges to determine if another cut-through could be made.

Phillippi Creek is not a small creek, said the county commissioners in letters to the heads of the various Congressional committees on flood control.

Haley Lives Near There

They said it is really a river with considerable subdivision and urban building on its route. Congressman James A. Haley lives in the creek area near Phillippi Shores Elementary School.

The Phillippi Creek flood conditions were not the only ones facing county officials yesterday. A delegation from the Central Avenue-39th and 40th Street area appeared to urge a bridge on Central Avenue between the two streets. Leading this group were artist William Hartman and his wife who appropriately enough showed pictures of the flooding conditions in their area.

Flooded 8 Times

They said they had been flooded eight times since March, but another member of the delegation said her home had been flooded that many times since mid-July.

"How would you like to have your children floating boats in the living room?" she added.

"We beg you to do something," said Mrs. Hartman and after receiving assurances from the commissioners that the matter would be explored she commented as she left, "We'll be back."

The matter was referred to the road and bridge and drainage committees of the board.

Hartman said they have been fighting the matter for six years and had gotten little or no satisfaction.

Could Apply For U. S. Aid

Phillippi Sewer Bond Report Given County

A report on bonds for a proposed Phillippi Creek area water and sewer district was made yesterday by Sidney Grover, local representative of the fiscal firm of Ira Haupt & Co.

Grover said the county may apply for help in floating bonds from the Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency in the

event at least three bidders do not offer 5 per cent or lower interest on the proposed issue.

County officials were slated to attend a meeting in Atlanta today with FHHFA officials on a loan to finance district plans and specifications.

The bond issue envisioned, Grover said, is a revenue bond issue, not a general obligation issue. The FHHFA may buy revenue bonds of the county at rates between 5 and one eighth and 5 and three eighths per cent, he said. It may buy general obligation issues at 4.75 per cent, Grover said.

Grover said his firm had not pulled out from its agreement with the county made last fall on underwriting the proposed issue.

THE NEWS

Sarasota, Florida, Tuesday, December 20, 1960

News 12-20-60

County Commission Acts To Relieve Phillippi Plug

A step in helping to unplug Phillippi Creek's mouth and permit more flow of flood waters was taken today by Sarasota County Commissioners in approving a bulkhead line at that point.

The action was taken to accept a committee report recommending the line and to have the necessary resolution prepared to make it official.

The bulkhead line recommendation goes to Tallahassee for final okay by the trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund who have final jurisdiction.

The motion was passed by the county commissioners sitting as the County Water Control and Navigation Authority.

The bulkhead line was requested by the Ringling - Shepard interests and agreed to by the county engineer and the county's flood control consulting engineers.

The location of the line will "pose the least damage to marine and wild life feeding and spawning grounds" said the report of the bulkhead committee of the water authority.

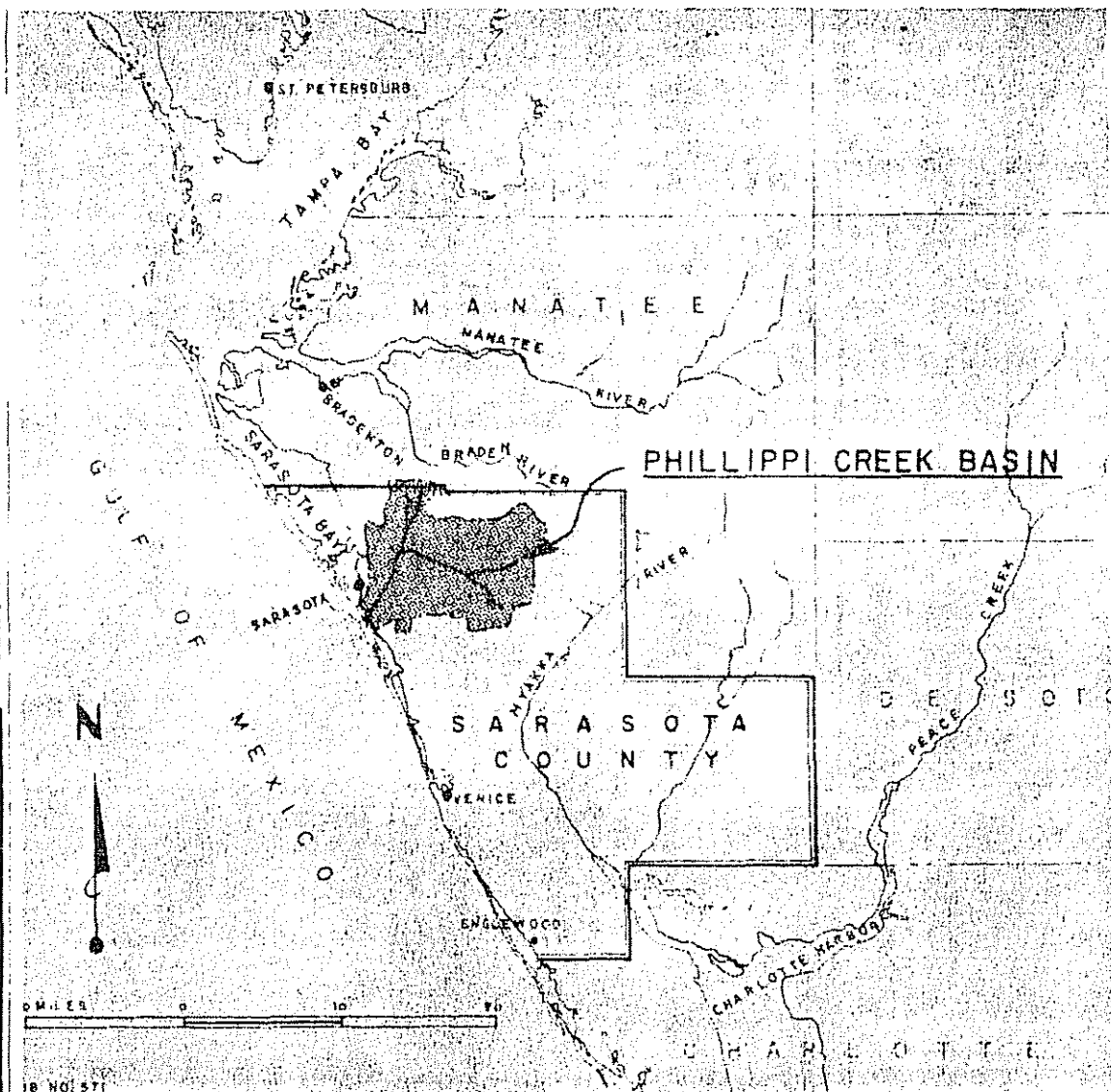
The county commissioners said the angle of the bulkhead line at the mouth of the creek and the easterly line of the inland waterway should be rounded enough as to pose no restriction to the outflow of water.

There was no application made for dredging and filling in the bay.

The county commissioners sit-

ting as the water authority also adopted a committee report recommending relocation of the bulkhead line at the Paulson property in Englewood to provide for spoil areas and to help bulkhead what is being considered as a future recreation area on the bay.

After the water authority adjourned, the county commissioners went into session as the Board of County Commissioners and heard a request for zoning for a 10-acre shopping center at Bee Ridge Road and Lockwood Ridge Road as outlined by James Simons. The board recessed to permit the zoning committee to confer on the plans for drainage of the area.



PHILLIPPI CREEK AREA — The shaded portion on this map shows the 58 square miles of Sarasota County which has been held dormant for home construction because of flooding of Phillippi Creek. The county presently is planning, and hopes to obtain federal assistance, on work which will alleviate the condition and allow renewed building in the area.

Financing Is Big Question

Phillippi Flood Control Discussion Set

By JEANNE MARSHALL
Herald-Tribune Reporter

Sarasota County's commission-ers today will discuss furtherance of the Phillippi Creek basin flood control program aimed at making available for home development an additional 58 square miles of land which has been classed as unusable because of floods.

The county's building department has withheld for the last two years permits for construction of homes in developments bordering Phillippi Creek until an adequate study has been completed showing what is needed to make the lands available for use.

The commission, cognizant of the flood problem after the September, 1959, flooding which caused damage to many homes and emphasized the problem facing the county, hired the engineering firm of Smally, Wellford and Nalven to bring in a comprehensive plan for the future.

The commission received copies of this plan which point out the need for concerted action.

The report notes increase "in both magnitude and frequency" in flood conditions in the creek basin.

The most important use of a preliminary analysis of the basin submitted to the Board of County Commissioners in 1958 was to enlist the aid of the Soil Conservation Service through the Small Watershed Act, the report says.

"As a result, federal participation has been offered to the county for the development of the Cow Pen Slough Watershed. This proposal incorporates certain improvements to the upper part of the Phillippi Creek Basin," the report notes.

Since the lower reaches of the basin, including Phillippi Creek, could not qualify for federal aid because the area is urban and not agricultural the report notes the U. S. Corps of Engineers could not get Congress to appropriate funds in 1960.

Further noting the history of flooding conditions in the area the report continues:

"The recurrent flooding problems reached such major proportions that in 1960 the Board of County Commissioners took the drastic step of halting the platting of new subdivisions in the entire basin.

"In a series of steps during 1960 and early 1961, the Board authorized additional and more refined studies of the Phillippi Creek Basin. These studies have been completed, and are reported on herein. The plans listed in the appendix have been formally presented to and accepted by the Board of County Commissioners.

"The step-wise procedure followed by the Board is in keeping with the principle of staging, which may apply not only to studies but also to design and construction. Staging permits budgeting of funds in an orderly manner. It is economical and provides flexibility, in that adjustments may be incorporated as future events occur and more refined knowledge becomes available. Each step reveals more clearly the next steps of most importance. Duplication of effort may be avoided, where federal

aid or subdivision engineering may enter the picture."

The consulting engineers' report made several general recommendations, including:

Constructing the proposed improvements to the creek and most of the major canals, an "obvious solution . . . equally obvious is the great cost."

Taking alternate measures in order to obtain earlier relief during the next several years. These measures would either be staged construction out of county budget funds or depending entirely on federal aid.

Studying methods of raising major funds locally to handle the cost of obtaining rights-of-way and construction purposes if federal aid does not materialize soon or enough or is insufficient to cover the entire basin.

Specific recommendations of the report included:

Rebuild or replace the weir or dam in Phillippi Creek at South Gate.

Install new weirs at the head of Phillippi Creek in Main A and Main B.

Set up a continuous program within budget limitations of widening and deepening Phillippi Creek, and Main A and Main B to the second weir.

Repeat the weir and excavation program selectively upstream giving the Clark Lakes canal high priority.

Reserve the right-of-way delineated by this study, allowing the wider right-of-way alternative for Phillippi Creek without bulkheads.

Establish a comprehensive drainage plan.

Maintain strict building restrictions in flood hazard areas and establish good working relations with the city and state to assure full cooperation to coordinate the county's comprehensive drainage plan.

Explore the possibilities for alternate financing, particularly in the field of loans from the Housing and Home Finance Agency.

\$2.5 Million Phillippi Creek Drainage Plan Goes To Commission, Start Seen In 3 Years

A two and one-half million dollar comprehensive drainage plan to control flooding in the Phillippi Creek basin from Sarasota Bay to Oak Shores was presented Tuesday to Sarasota County Commission.

Commissioner Fred Haigh recommended that copies of the report prepared by Smally, Wellford and Nalven, county consulting engineers, be sent to City Commission for joint study.

County Commission will meet again Friday at 9 a.m. with the consulting engineers to discuss the lengthy and involved report.

John Miner, who lives in the Phillippi River section, appeared before the board and asked it to "please get going as soon as you can."

Miner noted that the clamp-down on building in the much-flooded area has caused area builders to suffer and the economy of the county had also been hurt.

Haigh assured Miner the board is "so keenly aware it hurts."

Haigh said the Phillippi Creek drainage problem was the key-point of the board's correspondence with district and state legislators in Washington.

Smally, Wellford and Nalven estimated the earliest date for beginning the drainage project for the 58-square-mile Phillippi basin would be between three and five years.

Their report noted that since it was extremely important to obtain earlier relief, the commission should consider several alternatives until that time.

The firm suggested beginning

county funds or handling the project independent of federal aid.

Don Smally explained that federal aid on the project would not cover any costs for obtaining rights-of-way and that some governmental machinery would have to be established by the board to help finance the project.

He urged the board to set up

"flexible enough machinery" when fund studies are begun.

The engineer pointed out that the framework established for fund raising could be used for construction purposes if federal funds were delayed or insufficient.

He recommended either obtaining funds on a countywide basis

or through the formation of a drainage district.

Haigh asked Smally to have a representative of his firm at a special subdivision committee meeting of the county planning commission at 3 p.m.

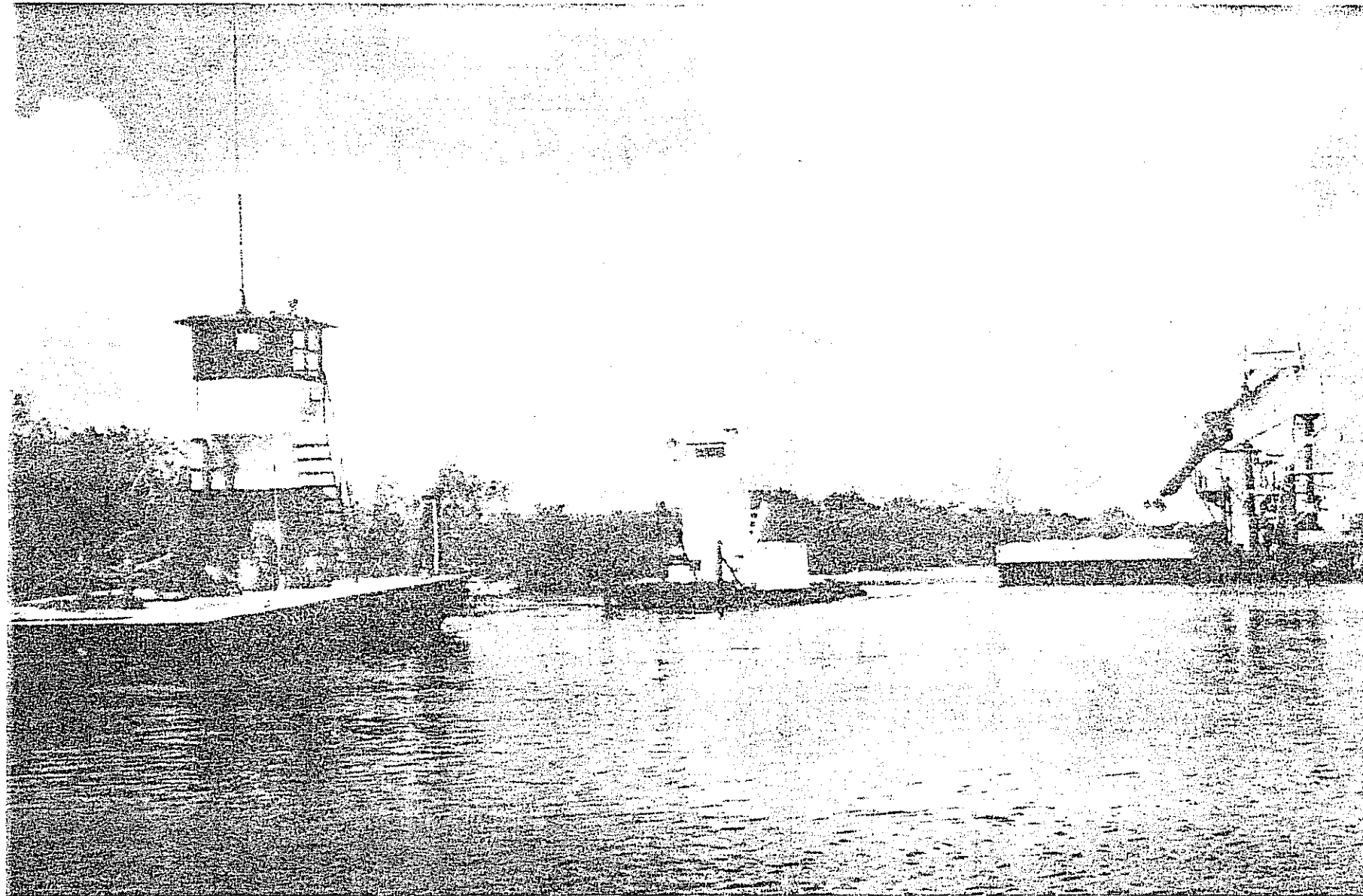
"This comprehensive drainage program is one phase of this drainage problem we can start in

on immediately, Haigh noted.

The board authorized sending a copy of the report to the U. S. Corps of Engineers.

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Phillippi Creek Dredging Is Speeded



Dredging Equipment At Work At Mouth Of Phillippi Creek

Boating enthusiasts who use the Phillippi Creek area are hopeful that dredging operations at the mouth of the stream will improve boating in that area and eventually lead to widening and deepening for a mile or so upstream.

Edison Shell Co., which has a contract with the county for removal of the spoil in order to obtain shell base for a roadway at Myakka Park, has four large pieces of equipment in operation.

The firm will dredge the mouth of the stream for a distance of 900 feet upstream and in so doing will alleviate a birth of navigable water at low tide.

County Engineer Mosley Collins, who inspected the work during the early part of this week, said the dredging will prove of considerable value to boating enthusiasts and will also help relieve flooding situation at the junction of the stream with the bay.

Collins said that at low tide there is less than 15 inches of water in the creek at the mouth and he said once this is opened up there will be enough water for larger boats to move upstream to US-41.

Fred Lutz, operator of Lee's Landing said that a large number of boaters are looking forward to the day when they can travel down the creek to the inland waterway and bays and not have to worry about getting stuck on sandbars.

Lutz said owners of larger boats have to travel in and out of the stream at high tide in order to have enough water for clearance. He said that it was his belief that once the mouth of the stream is opened up, there will be an increase in the number of fish and shell life.

From the spoil placed on a barge at the dredging operation it was evident that the spoil consisted mainly of coquina shell and that there was very little oyster or clam life being disturbed by the operations.

Whether Edison Shell will derive enough shell to do the job at Myakka State Park is unknown.

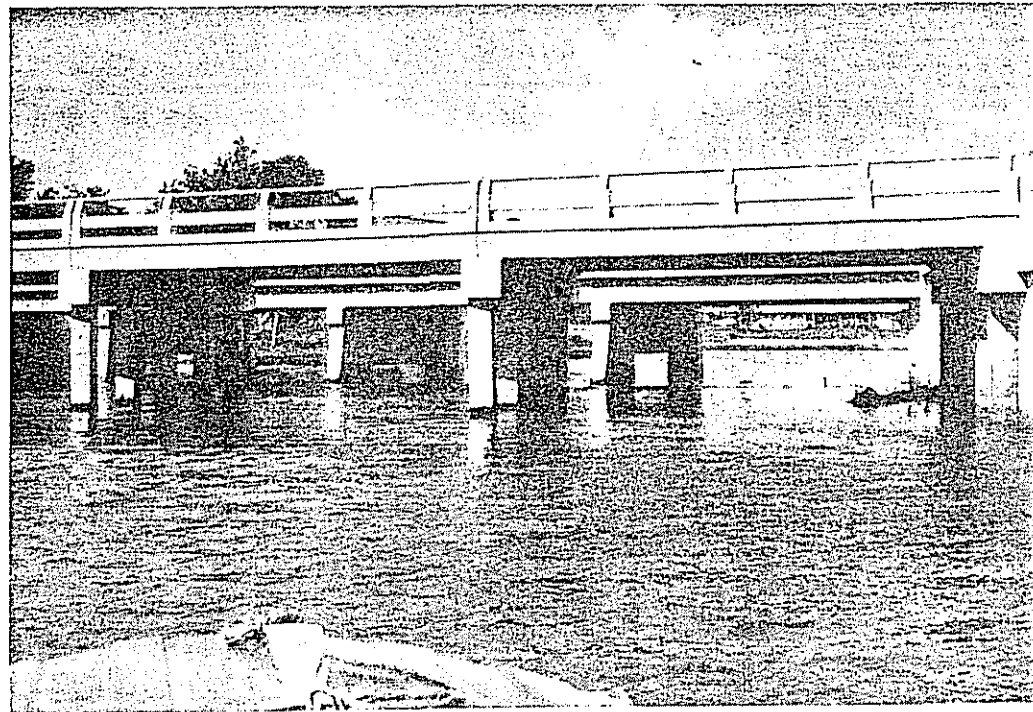
Meanwhile, boaters are making plans to enjoy the creek facilities to a greater extent than at any time in the last 20 years.



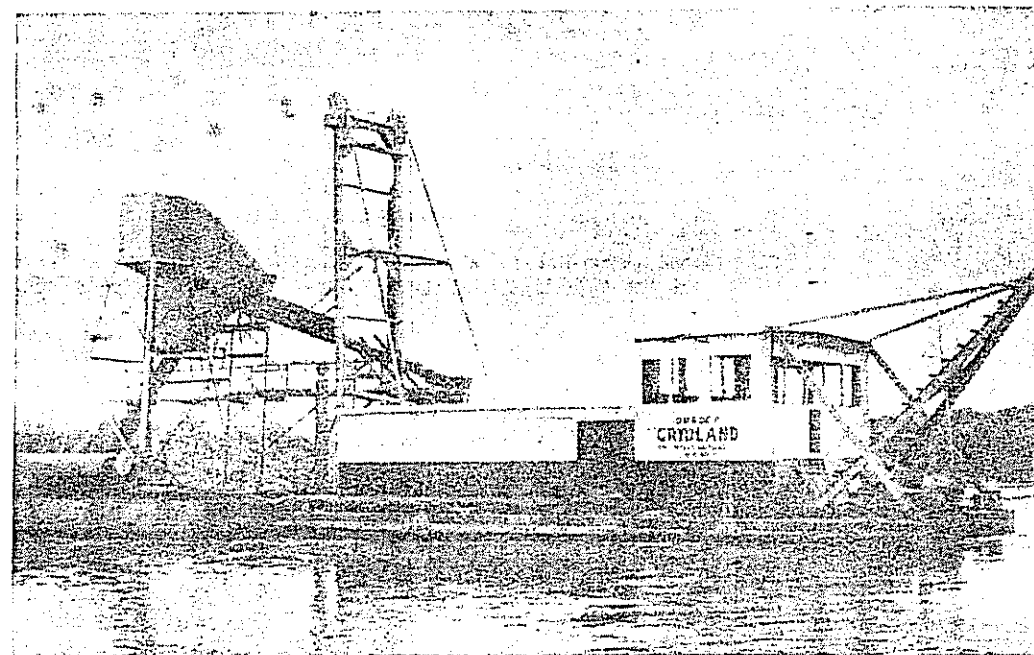
Spoil Piled On Barge Ready For Removal



Giant Bit Which Cuts Spoil From Bottom



Dredging May Help Deepen Water Under US-41 Span



Dredge Almost Blocks Stream During Operation

Phillippi's 7-14-61 Oyster-Shell Dredging On

Oyster-shell dredging has begun in Phillippi Creek and Sarasota area boaters are hoping the mouth of the creek will be made more navigable and widening and deepening may some day be realized a mile or more upstream.

Four large pieces of equipment have been put into operation at the mouth of the creek by Edison Shell Co. of Fort Myers, the firm which has a contract to supply oyster shells for road work in Myakka River State Park.

By dredging at the mouth of the creek and 900 feet upstream, the firm will alleviate a low tide problem encountered by boaters trying to navigate that portion of the creek.

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Hatchet-Burying Comes To Naught

Sarasota Board And South Gate Group Fail To Agree On Phillippi Flood Control

Attempts to bury the hatchet between the Sarasota County Commission and the South Gate Community Association directors came to naught Wednesday as the two groups fell back to rewrite the latest proposal for a Phillippi flood control project on association land.

A heated committee session Wednesday afternoon between three commissioners and several directors of the association left Commissioner Boyd Gernhard "not too optimistic at this point."

Gernhard said the necessity to begin flood control work immediately in the area may force the county to consider one of two other sites upstream from the South Gate weir area.

Gernhard told Association President Stanley Wilson the commission resents the "air of suspicion" reflected by several letters from the association to the board.

The county has asked for a deed to a strip of land 50 feet wide and 1,000 feet long to construct a weir to alleviate flooding situations in the area.

The commission committee met with the directors Wednesday to iron out some of the objections to

the county's proposals voiced by the association.

Although Gernhard described the differences as "very minor" at the meeting, he said the problem is "pretty ridiculous in the light of how quickly we must act because the rainy season is right on us."

"We've been writing letters for two weeks about this business," Gernhard said. "It's probably cost the taxpayers \$2,000 already. We can go on forever like this."

Gernhard explained the South Gate weir is needed as part of a major three-part flood program the county can afford until funds are available for the two million dollar comprehensive drainage program.

Tom Culler, a resident of the South Gate area, protested the attitude of the association directors.

"You talk of only three or four people on Seclusion Drive getting the benefit of this flood relief," Culler said. "I've had 36 inches of water in my home and even if this new weir does not help my situation, I would favor it just because it might help a neighbor up the street."

Commissioner Johnson Warren explained the board is considering the entire county's needs in encouraging the weir's installation as soon as possible.

"This has to be a love your neighbor type of program," Warren noted.

Culler said the people in the South Gate area have indicated a "growing feeling that there are certain people sitting like fat cats trying to bargain while their homes may be endangered."

Wilson said the main purpose of

the association in insisting on specific detailed arrangements with the county is to protect the association in the future.

"We are merely looking out for the best interests of the association," Wilson explained.

County commissioners will review the revised proposal Friday morning before submitting it to the association, Gernhard said.

Wilson said the association directors would meet "as quickly as possible" to consider the revisions.

South Gate Agreement On Flood Control Near

Agreement is near today in the solution of the Phillippi Creek flood control plan at South Gate.

The South Gate Community Association notified the county commissioners that it will offer a 50-foot strip along Phillippi Creek and give a perpetual easement for another 25 feet.

The association said it wants to

make sure the county will repair erosion and flood or equipment damage within the easement area.

The association asked that no special assessments for bulkheads or other improvements be charged except those imposed on other properties in any district created by the county.

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Other points requested by the association include that the county shall restore the property to its original condition, no future ingress and egress will be permitted across the association property or the easement for removal of alluvial deposits above the weir in the creek, the present weir or dam

be rebuilt or replaced and if funds are insufficient to make the old dam conform to the height of the new weir. The work shall be done by the end of 1962.

The association stipulated that material dug from the creek be stockpiled on the east side of the swimming pool pump house as requested by the South Gate Community Association.

The association requested a time limit of six months from the effective date of the agreement to complete all work on the easement property and on association property, except the work on the old dam.

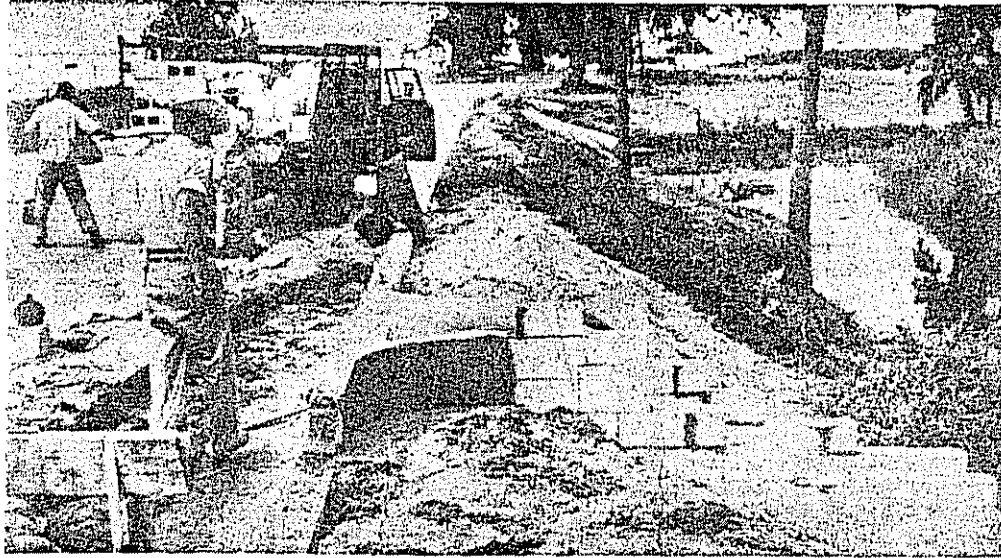
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County Engineer Moseley Collins and Donald J. Smally of Smally, Wellford and Nalven, the engineers who studied the flood problem held several meetings with the association to work out the agreement.

Stanley Wilson, president of the association, said in the notice to the county that unless the conditions are accepted by the county without major or significant changes there is no further need for discussion.

"The cost of the things that the association asks is so insignificant by comparison with its contribution to the county that we consider the conditions not simply fair but extremely generous" Wilson concluded.

The county commissioners are expected to act on the latest proposals from the association as soon as Chairman Warren Henderson brings the notice to their attention.



WORK UNDER WAY ON SLUICEWAY—County workers were busy Wednesday erecting sluiceway on Tuttle Avenue between the South Gate Circle and Bee Ridge Road. This feature is designed to help carry water from the roadway into Phillippi Creek.

South Gate Dam Work Begun

8/17/61
The much-delayed county work on the South Gate dam on Phillippi Creek got under way this week as public works department crews began surveying and staking out the area near the South Gate recreation center.

More than a month and a half of meetings and letter exchanges between the county and the South Gate Community Association preceded this week's activity.

Jack P. House, public works administrative assistant to County Engineer Moseley Collins, said the work being done is preparatory for the \$25,000 weir project.

The South Gate dam is part of a \$2 million drainage project for the Phillippi basin under the county's comprehensive drainage plan.

belonging to the association be-
deeded over for the project.

Although final legal transactions
between the county and associa-

tion have not been officially signed, Association President Stanley Wilson said he didn't expect any snags in the agreement.

"Our attorney is studying the final agreement and is conferring with County Attorney Richard Nelson," Wilson reported. "I fully expect to get a report from our lawyer and sign the agreement soon."

The county engineer has urged the settlement of the agreement as quickly as possible in order to complete the project before the flood season begins.

^{NEWS} Flood Area ^{8/17/61} Agreement Scheduled

Final agreement is expected to be completed today on the flood control work in the South Gate area of Phillippi Creek, said Stanley Wilson, president of the community association there.

Wilson told THE NEWS that surveyors are working today to lay out the 25 - foot easement along the creek in the vicinity of the South Gate Community Center.

The total work is expected to take about six months on the creek banks to permit greater flow of water and unplug the bottleneck that exists there now which has caused water to back up during heavy rains.

The present dam in the creek will be made to serve as weir or the dam will be torn out. A weir is a spillway to allow water to run over at a controlled rate.

'UNFEASIBLE' 8/22/61
J Duanel

Engineer Rejects Phillippi Project

Any full-scale flood relief involving the Phillippi Creek at the South Tamiami Trail would not be economically feasible at this time, according to a final report delivered to the County Commission this morning by J. E. Greiner Co., consulting engineers of Tampa.

The firm offered several interim alternatives, however, and noted that future development in the area would make the "ultimate plan" feasible.

Limited control is possible by county development of Phillippi Bayou cutoffs, according to the report. It also recommended following the Smally, Wellford, & Naiven proposals for relief upstream from the South Trail mouth of the creek.

A long-range plan involves

new 30-foot bridges and a change in the channel to eliminate the present "dog-leg" near the South Trail Bridge. This U-bend, the report states, gives high resistance to normal hydraulic flow.

The Greiner report noted that rainfall runoff is more damaging from a flooding standpoint than storm tides and that eliminating the U-bend would not increase the peril from storm tides.

There was no action on the Greiner report since the board just received it this morning for study.

8/23/61

2 Bridges Proposed Phillippi Creek Flo

Two new bridges of 30 feet in length have been recommended to bridge a proposed cut-through of Phillippi Creek to Phillippi Bayou to alleviate flood conditions in the creek, according to a final report released today by the engineering firm which studied the problem.

The report from J.E. Greiner Company of Tampa calls for a cut-through north of the southernmost bridge on the South Trail over Phillippi Creek.

The report recommends seven steps to alleviate the flooding condition caused by the creek bottleneck at the South Trail bridges.

The first step is to secure the right-of-way for the changes in the creek channel, the second to pro-

vide the addition of the Phillippi

The recommendation right-of-way while the plan earn money for

The recommendation reported in the and presented missioners by Moseley Chiller

The report study of the U bridge crossing a U-bend then tleneck of water engineers.

The report v the county com ture meeting.



SLOW DYNAMITE — Removal of the dam on Phillippi Creek in the South Gate section has nearly been completed by county public works crews in preparation for construction of a new

wier. County Engineer Moseley Collins said the demolition crews provided the "slow dynamite" requested by flooded-out residents of Oak Shores asking for the dam's removal two years ago.

Phillippi Creek Project Gets \$16,000

Federal assistance to begin studies of the Phillippi Creek flood problem was designated for Sarasota County Wednesday

by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

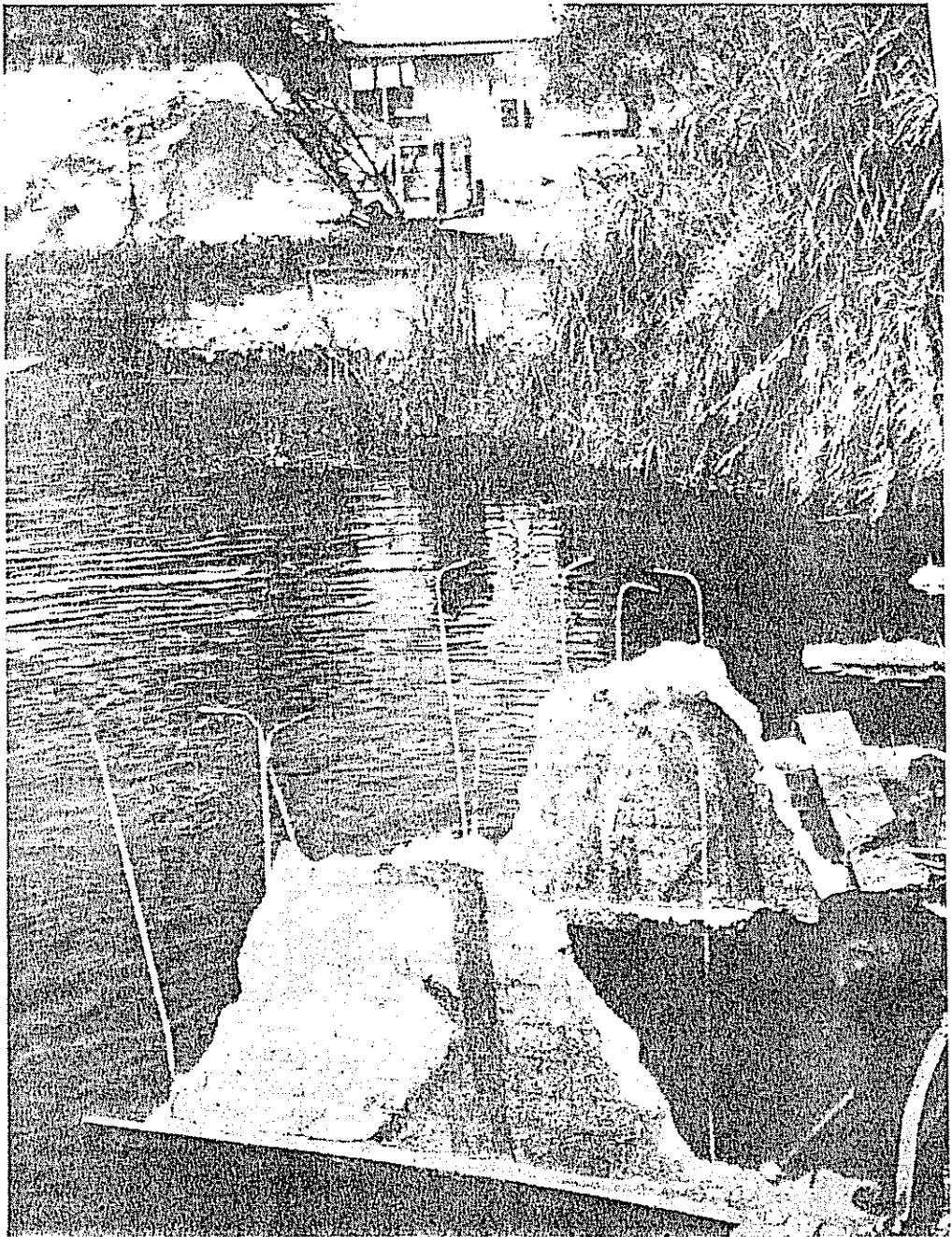
According to a telegram to Sarasota County Commission Chairman Warren Henderson the Senate committee set aside \$16,000 for Phillippi Creek.

County Engineer Moseley Collins said the \$16,000 allocation was probably designed for an engineering analysis of the ex-

isting situations by the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers.

Collins said the Senate action was the first step in the procedure required in getting federal assistance in the mammoth flood control plan for the 58-mile flood basin.

According to an Associated Press report, the Phillippi Creek allotment was one of two projects approved at Senator Holland's request which were not in President Kennedy's budget or included in a similar appropriations bill passed by the House.



DAM REMOVED—The dam in South Gate on Phillippi Creek, blamed by residents of the creek valley as a factor in flooding of the area, has been nearly demolished by county crews. Ruins of the dam stand where a new flood control structure will be built, helping to relieve flash flooding of the creek basin.

\$16,000 Will Start Federal Flood Job Here

The Phillippi Creek watershed project is going to get a start with a \$16,000 federal appropriation.

An Associated Press report from Washington said this was one of two items approved at the request of Senator Holland of Florida which were not in President Kennedy's budget.

County Commission Chairman Warren Henderson was advised of the action by telegram.

County Engineer Moseley Collins said that the item was a problem for preliminary engineering studies of the big project, which will ultimately cost several million dollars.

STUDIES APPROVED

County Moves Journal 11/8/61 On Water Jobs

Only Myakka and Big Slough remain of the 13 water basins in this county to be made a permanent part of water management programs in the future.

By resolution, the county commission this morning adopted to the water management overall program surveys covering 11 of the basins. These are the Phillippi Creek Watershed study and the Sarasota County Coastal Basins Flood Control and Water Management Study.

In other business this morning the board:

Made official note of the elec-

tion of Earl H. Bauer, Clarence Marks and Albert J. Lundwall Jr. to three-year terms on the Englewood Water District.

Approved an \$8,525 bid by West Coast Shell Corp. on 20-foot precast span for Harbor Drive.

Approved a special exception covering a golf course in Venice East Subdivision.

Referred to committee a rezoning petition of W. A. Blackburn to pave the way for a marina at Blackburn Point Bridge and a boat works to be operated by John Holmes, who now has a boat works on the South Trail near the Eclipse Plastics plant.

Sarasota Herald-Tribune

SECTION TWO

Friday, June 1, 1962—15

AT US-41

Phillippi Land Deal Is OK'd

Agreements for county purchase of property for a flood relief breakthrough at Phillippi Creek and US-41 were completed Thursday, with County Commissioner Boyd Gernhard and county engineering representatives slated to go to Tallahassee Monday to press for immediate construction of a new 50-foot bridge opening there.

The county commission will purchase land just east of the highway and fronting on the creek from Henry R. (Danny) Chapman for \$17,500—subject to cancellation of an existing lease on the tract and an easement from Chapman permitting the county to deposit the soil that will be dug out for the new creek channel on creek bottom

areas owned by Chapman near the planned cut.

The move represents the first step in creating a new 200-foot opening to provide a more direct outflow for the creek in an area where the stream makes a U-bend and crosses under a narrower highway bridge several hundred feet to the north.

An estimated \$100,000 is available for the work at the present time, according to Gernhard. \$40,000 from state primary road funds, another \$40,000 from secondary road funds allocated for use in Sarasota County, and \$20,000 from the county.

The current primary appropriation is due to expire at the end of June, Gernhard explained, and the Tallahassee trip will be made

to get the project started before that date.

County Engineer Moseley Collins and representatives of two engineering consulting firms — Smally, Wellford and Naiven and the Greiner Company of Tampa, will accompany Gernhard.

The first stage in the construction of the new channel to relieve the flood bottleneck will be made just north of Montclair Drive. Subsequent widening of the opening will require the relocation of that road, which serves as access to the adjacent residential subdivision, and will require the acquisition of additional property by the county.

The first 50-foot opening will lessen the flooding problem in the areas west of the bridge, where the waters of Phillippi Creek have been held back during periods of heavy rainfall. The stream drains nearly 60 square miles in a rapidly urbanizing area of the county where new subdivision developments have been restricted by the county commission pending flood relief work.

Engineering consultant Robert Naiven has estimated that the first new bridge opening at the highway will reduce the flood hazard at that point by "more than 25 per cent."

Details of the land purchase were discussed Thursday by Gernhard, Chapman, Commissioner Johnson Warren, and Richard Nelson, attorney to the board of commissioners.

Planned by the county, but not specifically included in the purchase agreement, is the filling of a small area of the creek just north of the property being acquired from Chapman.

That property is owned by Chapman and leased for a marina. Also planned is the deposit of fill along the south shore of the creek, east of the highway and adjacent to Montclair Drive, abutting property also owned by Chapman.

The Chapman land at US-41 has been appraised by the county at \$19,600 — \$2,100 more than the price being paid.

ALSO VENICE BID

Phillippi Request Goes To Committee

By BOB WATT

A hotly contested rezoning request to permit high rise apartments on an undeveloped tract across Phillippi Creek from a South Gate residential area was referred to two committees of the County Commission after a public hearing Tuesday afternoon.

Also deferred for study by the full five-man commission was a controversial request, Petition 300, for redesignation along the route of the projected inland waterway.

The board heard 13 pleas for zone changes during a session that lasted more than four hours, with a hearing deferred until today on one additional petition at Spring Lakes subdivision.

Strong neighborhood opposition was expressed to the proposal for an apartment project on portions of a triangular tract bordered by Bee Ridge Road, Tuttle Avenue and Phillippi Creek. The petition, requested by owner Floyd Johnson, was supported by attorney George Dietz and developer Sandy Rocke, who suggested a modification of the original proposal to offset objections for the R-1 residential owners across the creek by holding the tract's creek frontage in its present R-2 category.

Dietz first suggested that the remainder of the triangle, except for a small residential area of four lots near Bee Ridge Road, should be designated for C-1A commercial uses. Rocke later indicated that R-3, which would also permit multiple residences, would be acceptable for the center of the tract, with commercial strips along the road frontage and a single row of single-residence lots along the creek right-of-way.

Although an artist's conception of a proposed commercial and apartment complex showed buildings of approximately five stories, Rocke said that the project could be accomplished with structures rising only three stories high.

A South Gate resident, W. G. Schindler, said that the architect's sketch would be "in harmony with Skid Row" rather than with the presently developed surrounding areas.

Carl King, a resident of the subdivision and a representative of the firm that originally developed it, said that zoning for the triangular area should now be governed by the improvements that have been made in the adjoining areas. He also called attention to the lack of specific planning submitted by the proponents of the zoning change and stated that "zoning prior to planning is out of order."

Cross-questioned by Haigh, King agreed that he had said, after an earlier hearing on the petition before the planning commission, that a residential buffer strip along the creek bank would answer many of the South Gate objections.

When Haigh pointed out that this compromise had been altered, by the petitioners, King repeated his opinion that the county commissioners were being asked to take over the developer's functions in planning for the tract and that definite plans should be submitted by the petitioner.

Because the site borders an area where a widened right-of-way for the creek will be needed to meet the county's comprehensive drainage plan, the rezoning petition was referred to both the public works and zoning committees for study.

Referred to the board as a committee-of-the-whole was Petition 300, covering all land south of the Venice airport to the head of Lemon Bay, between the South Venice subdivision and the Gulf of Mexico.

The petition was initiated by the planning commission, at the suggestion of the joint City of Venice-County of Sarasota zoning advisory committee, requesting that all property in the area now zoned A-1 and A-3 should be changed to R-2, R-2B and R-3.

Finn Caspersen, head of the advisory committee and brother of the owner of most of the property, said that the proposal was made to meet the desire of the City of Venice to have the county eliminate all agriculturally zoned areas adjoining the municipality because of the undesirable uses permitted in such zones.

Caspersen said that the committee had, at his suggestion, sought the R-2 and R-2B classification for part of the O. W. Caspersen holdings.

He said that there have been what one planning commissioner called suggestions of "collusion" between the Caspersens and the planning commission and that, rather than "lean over backwards," he wished to change the request and have all the Caspersen property rezoned to R-3, which permits motel-hotel developments.

Caspersen stated that there had been "no particular objection" to the original A-1 zoning established in 1957. He explained that no development planning had been possible until it was known just what route would be proposed for

the inland waterway, that he had not known exactly where it would be routed until a condemnation suit was filed recently, and that a pre-development survey for the area is now being prepared.

Approval of Petition 300 was recommended to the county commission by a split vote of the planning board, with Commissioner John Mikos and Lynn Morey dissenting.

Approved by the commissioners, after hearings were closed, were a change from M-1 to M-2 at Palmer Farms, C-1A for property along US-41 south of Venice between Tulip and Shamrock Drive, zoning for a proposed garden apartment development on Fruitville Road, commercial zoning requested by L. F. Gardener at Nokomis, commercial designation for US-41 lots at Osprey Park, and a zoning change for a mobilehome subdivision north of DeSoto Road.

Denied was one petition, initiated by the planning commission, to rezone property near US-41 and Center Road, near Venice Gardens. Action was also delayed, pending committee study, on commercial rezonings requested on Bee Ridge Road near McIntosh and on US-41 near Osprey.

Partially approved was another petition, initiated by the planning board, at Park Boulevard in Venice, where part of the requested area was changed to R-1A and the balance to R-3.

Referred to a committee of the whole commission was the zoning change south of the Venice airport, in an area where the inland waterway is expected to be routed.

Granted was a special exception for a church near Ashton and Swift Roads.

THE NEWS

SARASOTA, FLORIDA, TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 1962

as Train Smashes So

Phillippi Creek Project Backed

State Road Board Member Warren Cason said Monday afternoon he would attempt to find as much primary road fund money as reasonable to help finance the necessary cut-through at Phillippi Creek and U.S. 11, according to County Commissioner Boyd R. Gerhardt.

The commissioner and other commissioners went to Tampa Monday afternoon for a conference with Cason.

★ ★ ★

Gerhardt said Cason, in the

meantime, said he would go ahead and have the necessary bridge design plans prepared on the priority list so when funds are available there will be no holdup due to plans.

The commissioner was accompanied by Donald Smally of the county consulting engineering firm of Smally, Wellford and Nalven and Commissioners Johnson Warren and Warren Henderson.

★ ★ ★

Estimated cost of a 50-foot wide

cut-through of Phillippi Creek across the highway is \$127,000, according to the SRD figures.

The ultimate plan for a 200-foot wide cut-through would cost \$227,000 and is too costly at this time, according to county officials.

★ ★ ★

The cut-through of the highway at the creek is to relieve the bottleneck of water caused by the S-turn in the creek bed at that point, according to the engineers.

Gerhardt said the conference

with Cason was a brief one during which time Cason outlined the SRD position.

The original financing split between the county and the state for the highway cut-through and bridges gives the county close to \$100,000 as its share of the total, with about \$30,000 from the state primary funds.

Should the cut-through be made there will have to be two 50-foot bridges constructed to span the new channel.

Sarasota's Flood Control District Will Be Largest In Urbanized Area

The proposed flood control district for Phillippi Creek and four other water basins surrounding it will cover 75 square miles and

about 75 per cent of the population of Sarasota County according to county engineers.

The district as planned will extend about 10 miles inland from Sarasota Bay and include Mathe-ny Creek, Elligraw Bayou, Holiday Bayou and Clower Creek.

It will be one of the largest fully urbanized flood districts in Florida when and if it is completed.

The boundary lines as drawn on the preliminary map of the district are tentative and can be changed in the final form, said Donald Smally, engineer with Smally, Wellford and Nalven, county consulting engineers.

The district as outlined in preliminary maps would begin at the Manatee - Sarasota County line, extend south along the bay to Whitaker Bayou, cut inland

around downtown Sarasota, jog out to the bay at Hudson Bayou and inland again along U.S. 41 to The Stickney Point area.

It would go east as far as Dike Road and the Fruitville celery fields.

Primarily the district encompasses the Phillippi Creek section and its smaller subsidiary basins, like Elligraw, Hudson and Whitaker Bayou.

The plan developed by Smally, Wellford and Nalven involves cooperation from the city of Sarasota.

The district can be created by a resolution of the county commissioners under a special act for Sarasota County.

Any tax or bond financing plan would have to be approved by the property owners in a referendum.

10-9-62

A

BY DEVELOPER

10-19-62

County Halts Fill In Phillippi Creek

By JEANNE MARSHALL

A formal stop order was issued by Sarasota County Commissioners Thursday to halt filling of Phillippi Creek by Phillippi Gardens developer Reid Farrell.

Commissioners told Farrell the action was for his protection as well as for the county.

County Atty. Richard E. Nelson advised the board sitting as the Sarasota County Water and Navigation Control Authority to issue the stop order until the facts could be fully researched.

Farrell argued Thursday morning he operated in good faith when he contracted for the filling work after the county approved a plat for the subdivision's eighth unit in June.

The developer said the filling work had been limited strictly to the confines of the recorded plat and did not restrict the flow of Phillippi Creek.

Residents in the area complained to county officials that the filling was illegal and interfered with the creek's flow.

Although Farrell said he was not issued a stop order by County Engineer Chuck Morgan Wednesday as reported by Commissioner Boyd Gernhard, Gernhard said he personally overheard a telephone call Wednesday when Morgan advised Farrell to stop work until the county attorney could be consulted.

Nelson told the WNCA members Thursday he could tell them what the law relating to dredging and filling was "but not what the facts are since the facts keep expanding."

The attorney explained if the developer did not have a dredge and fill permit his first impression was that he was violating county regulations by filling in Phillippi Creek.

"He is charged with knowledge of the Water and Navigation Control Authority law," Nelson said.

Nelson said when Farrell submitted the subdivision plat for

approval former County Engineer Moseley Collins was aware a permit was required.

WNCA Chairman James Spanos explained the stop order was issued in a "friendly manner" because the work was not done maliciously.

"Our only position is for this board to issue a stop order," Spanos said. "If we're wrong, we're wrong."

Spanos said the WNCA should establish a bulkhead line all along Phillippi Creek and Commissioner Fred Haigh asked that the authority meet for the specific purpose of establishing a bulkhead line along the seawall line from the bay to the head of Phillippi Creek at Oak Shores.

Farrell pointed out to commis-

sioners he has already given 1,000 feet of right-of-way to the county for the widening of Phillippi Creek. He said he was also ready to dredge the creek at his own expense in front of his property and not wait for county or federal funds.

No formal action was taken beyond the stop order until authority members research the matter.

Phillippi Fill Accord Made

Agreement was reached today in the controversy between the county and a private land developer over filling in the Phillippi Gardens section on Phillippi Creek.

Reid D. Farrell, president of the Phillippi Creek Homes, Inc. agreed to allowing approximately 2,400 cubic yards of dirt to be removed from the development property.

This will in effect widen the creek at that point. The county

will pay an estimated \$600 for the work.

County Engineer Charles O. Morgan said the agreement would be of benefit to the county.

He suggested that Farrell do the work with equipment already in the area.

Permit Needed

The work is contingent on Farrell getting a dredge and fill permit.

Farrell became involved in the

controversy when some creek front property owners objected to filling at America Drive and Phillippi Creek. The filling was done by Farrell's company to straighten out a meandering creek line.

Objections were based on the grounds the fill would restrict the water flow and aggravate flood conditions upstream from Phillippi Gardens.

Meanwhile, Smally, Welford and Nalven, county consulting engineers, wrote the county commissioners pointing out the dangers of lack of control over filling in the creek.

The engineers said, "The county must maintain complete control over its drainage-ways in order to avoid accumulation over the passing years of a legacy of problems prohibitively costly of solution."

"This control should be exercised over all filling, alignment and re-alignment, bulkheading, structures and all related aspects," the engineers said.

The engineers said the Phillippi Gardens fillin was "out of phase" with the present program of creek improvements and should proceed

only after the acquisition of right of way on the opposite side of the creek, at the same time as re-alignment and widening of the creek to 200 feet.

Waterway Dredging Reaches Area North Of Clower Creek

Dredging of the Intracoastal Waterway has now reached the area just north of Clower Creek north of the Vamo section, Sarasota County Recreation Director Bud Davis said Wednesday.

Davis, who was assigned by the county commission to keep track

of the dredging progress, said the overall schedule through the county is a "little bit behind."

He explained dredges had run into some unexpected rock areas, particularly around the Bird Key spoil islands in Midnight Pass.

Dredging is expected to be slow-

er south through the Stickney Point section because of rocks, Davis said.

A spoil deposit on Siesta Key near the county beach has now reached a height of eight feet, according to the recreation director.

Davis said the area had been divided into two spoil areas to include property west of Midnight Pass Road on the beach but the dredging contractor had limited the deposits to the portion east of the road.

Davis said the county had nothing to do with the height of the spoil banks except by direct contract with the dredger for spoil areas on county property.

"They can go as high as they want to if there is no height limitation in the contract," Davis explained. "It was either some of these heights or spoil islands."

Davis said it was up to the individual property owners to distribute excess spoil deposited on their land. A great portion of the spoil is valuable for sale as fill material.

Davis said the dredgers are co-operating with requests to keep damage and noise to a minimum.

Phillippi Creek Hearing Agenda Is Being Drawn

Representatives of civic and community associations in the Phillippi Creek watershed have been asked to attend the Nov. 30 public hearing on Phillippi Creek flooding.

County consulting engineers and county commissioners mapped out the agenda for the meeting Wednesday morning.

Persons wanting on the agenda have been asked to contact Commissioner Warren Henderson or administrative assistant Arthur Rasmussen at county offices by Monday.

The hearing has been called by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

for 10 a.m. Nov. 30 at Lido Casino.

District engineer Col. J. V. Solohub of Jacksonville will preside at the hearing.

Congressman James Haley, State Reps. John Hasson and Russell Jordan and State Sen. Ed Price have been invited.

Data received at the hearing by the Army engineers will be used in presenting an engineer's report for the federal government seeking federal funds for the flood control project.

HERALD-TRIBUNE ADS
BRING RESULTS

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Hearing Set In Phillippi Flooding

All civic and community associations within the Phillippi Creek watershed were asked today to have representatives at a public hearing Nov. 30 to review the flood problem in the area.

Sarasota County Commissioners met this morning with the county engineer and Smally, Wellford and Nalven to prepare an organized agenda for the hearing.

The U. S. Corps of Engineers will conduct the hearing at the Lido Beach Casino beginning at 10 a.m.

The builders exchange, bankers, light industry council, city of Sarasota, a chamber of commerce, state legislators and congressmen will be invited to attend.

The Oak Shores Civic Association and the South Gate Community Association have indicated they will send spokesmen.

The hearing will be conducted according to the rules of the U.S. Corps of Engineers with Col. J. V. Sollohub, district engineer from Jacksonville, presiding.

Time will be allotted on the agenda for representatives to show the benefits expected from flood controls.

County Commissioner Fred Haigh said statements should show "positive benefits" so the engineers may have some idea of the cost-benefit ratio.

There will be a history of Phillippi Creek floods given by Smally, Wellford and Nalven.

Charts and maps will depict the watershed area.

The official statement of the county will be given by Chairman Warren S. Henderson of the county commissioners.

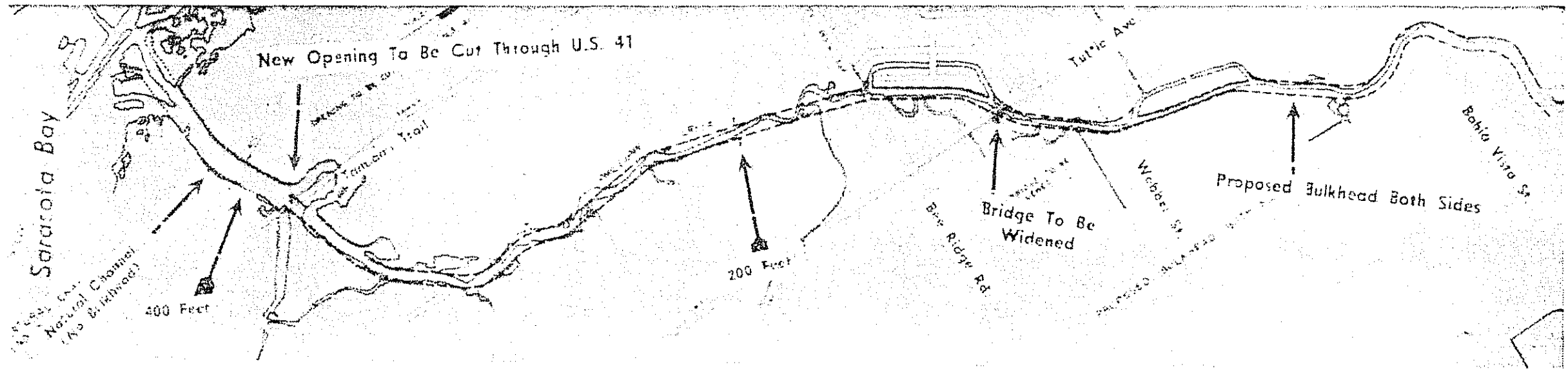
Floods on Sept. 20-21 forced some residents to evacuate portions of Oak Shores and Bellevue Terrace.

The Oak Shores group will present a list of the number of homes that were flooded and the depth of the water.

Invitations have been prepared for Congressman James A. Haley and State Reps. Russell Jordan Jr. and John Hasson, State Sen. Ed H. Price Jr., will be invited.

Stress will be given to the advantages to the local economy from flood controls in the creek.

No decision is expected at the hearing, but data collected will be compiled into a report by the engineers.



PHILLIPPI FLOOD BASIN — Sarasota's most influential and most significant inland body of water, the Phillippi Creek, holds the key to the area's proposed big flood control basin. A \$3.5 million bond issue has been recommended to alleviate future flooding along the banks of the creek. The biggest share is for improvements on the Phillippi: \$2,114,000. That figure is for excavation, structures and bulkheads and rights-of-way — out of a total estimated cost of \$2,903,000 for seven flood basins. Engineering, and legal fees, financing and

contingencies, make up the difference. It has been proposed that a self-taxing flood control district be set up to finance the project with the sale of 20-year bonds. The map above shows the route of the creek and proposed improvements to better facilitate the flow of flood waters. The other basins are: Whitaker Bayou, Hudson Bayou, Matheny Creek, Elligraw Bayou, Holiday Bayou and Clower Creek.

County Acts To Dredge Phillippi

2-26-63

Amid reports of rising water in Sarasota County, the county governing body today took action to prepare for dredging a portion of Phillippi Creek.

The county commissioners at their morning meeting in the courthouse voted to give approval to a plan to dredge and fill made by Phillippi Homes Inc.

Commissioner Fred Haigh moved that a resolution be prepared favoring the proposal. It would mean removal of silt in the creek which has acted as a block to water flow, according to engineers.

The action was taken by the county commissioners sitting as the county water and navigation control authority.

Heavy rainfalls since midnight caused a rise in Phillippi water levels during the morning hours today. A close watch was being kept on the water level by residents and the county.

Henry R. Chapman, a creek area property owner below the place to be dredged, said he favored the work because it would improve the overall flood problem in the basin.

Reid Farrell, developer of Phillippi Homes and his attorney, James Drymon, presented the plan.

Farrell said the work would eliminate a back-swirling action which has existed near the development south of Bee Ridge Road. He said the creek is 18 to 26 feet wide at its narrowest point in this section.

Chapman said he has lived on the creek a long time and he said although the immediate effect may be to release water in the long run it would be an asset.

Robert Power, another creek front property owner, said "I can see another flood coming" as he pointed out the window to the falling rain.

Leslie Miller, chairman of the citizens flood control committee which recommended action to

(Continued on page 5)

190-Foot Phillippi Creek Opening Sought By County

3-8-63

By JEANNE MARSHALL

Hopes to widen Phillippi Creek to an ultimate 190-foot channel at the US-41 bottleneck if primary and secondary road funds can be used from the county's share of gasoline taxes were expressed Thursday by county commissioners.

Engineering studies from the State Road Department estimate the cost at \$250,000.

Commissioners expressed cautious enthusiasm over the cut-through proposals from the SRD, pointing out financing would be a major factor in determining how wide an opening could be provided.

County Engineer Chuck Morgan told the board there was a possibility primary funds would be available but the road department had made no definite commitments.

"The whole thing hinges on what the county can afford to do based on the legality of the use of primary and secondary funds," the engineer explained.

County Attorney Richard Nel-

son also pointed out widening the creek to a 190-foot channel would call for acquisition of additional right-of-way at the highway bottleneck.

He said the pending condemnation suit at the cut-through involving property owned by Henry (Danny) Chapman has been held up several months waiting for plans and specifications on the project from the road department.

The attorney indicated adding additional condemnation or amending the suit would slow down the current condemnation suit, pointing out the project would also be delayed if the SRD were asked to process another suit.

Nelson and Morgan said they had not been able to confer with SRD officials yet on the legality of using primary and secondary funds for the project.

Commissioner Johnson Warren said latest figures from the county land agent set an appraisal of \$25,000 on the balance of the property at the bottleneck to widen

the creek to a 200-foot opening.

The county negotiated unsuccessfully a year with Mr. and Mrs. Leon Novak to purchase right-of-way.

Board members learned from Leslie Miller, chairman of a citizens flood district committee appointed by the commission to develop flood control plans, that Miller and Commissioner L. L. Parker have an appointment Sunday with the Novaks to discuss purchase of the property.

Nelson warned the commission and Miller the retired aviator's assistance in the matter was "welcome but not binding on the county commission."

"If he undertakes to assist the county he does so at his own risk," Nelson said.

Miller said he was invited to meet with the property owners by Parker and understood only Parker would be there in an official capacity.

The board agreed the county engineer should be included in the delegation to meet with the Novaks.

Flood Unit Maps Plans For Hearing

By JEANNE MARSHALL

Members of the citizens flood control committee appointed by the Sarasota County Commission to study flood program proposals met Thursday to prepare for Tuesday's public hearing on the proposed Phillippi Creek Flood Control District.

The committee generally agreed a "selling job" would be needed to convince freeholders in the proposed district they should vote in favor of the district and a district tax levy for flood relief.

The 38-square-mile Phillippi basin has been designated by the county commission as the first of several districts for self-taxing flood control programs.

Engineering estimates place the cost of correcting drainage in the Phillippi basin at \$2.5 million to be financed on a 20-year district bond issue basis.

Major work proposed includes widening Phillippi Creek from Oak Shores and the Intracoastal Waterway with a channel width of 200 feet maintained to US-41. Concrete seawalls would be installed to bulkhead the channel.

Steering committee members Thursday agreed to wait to begin a campaign to seek support of the project until after Tuesday's public hearing.

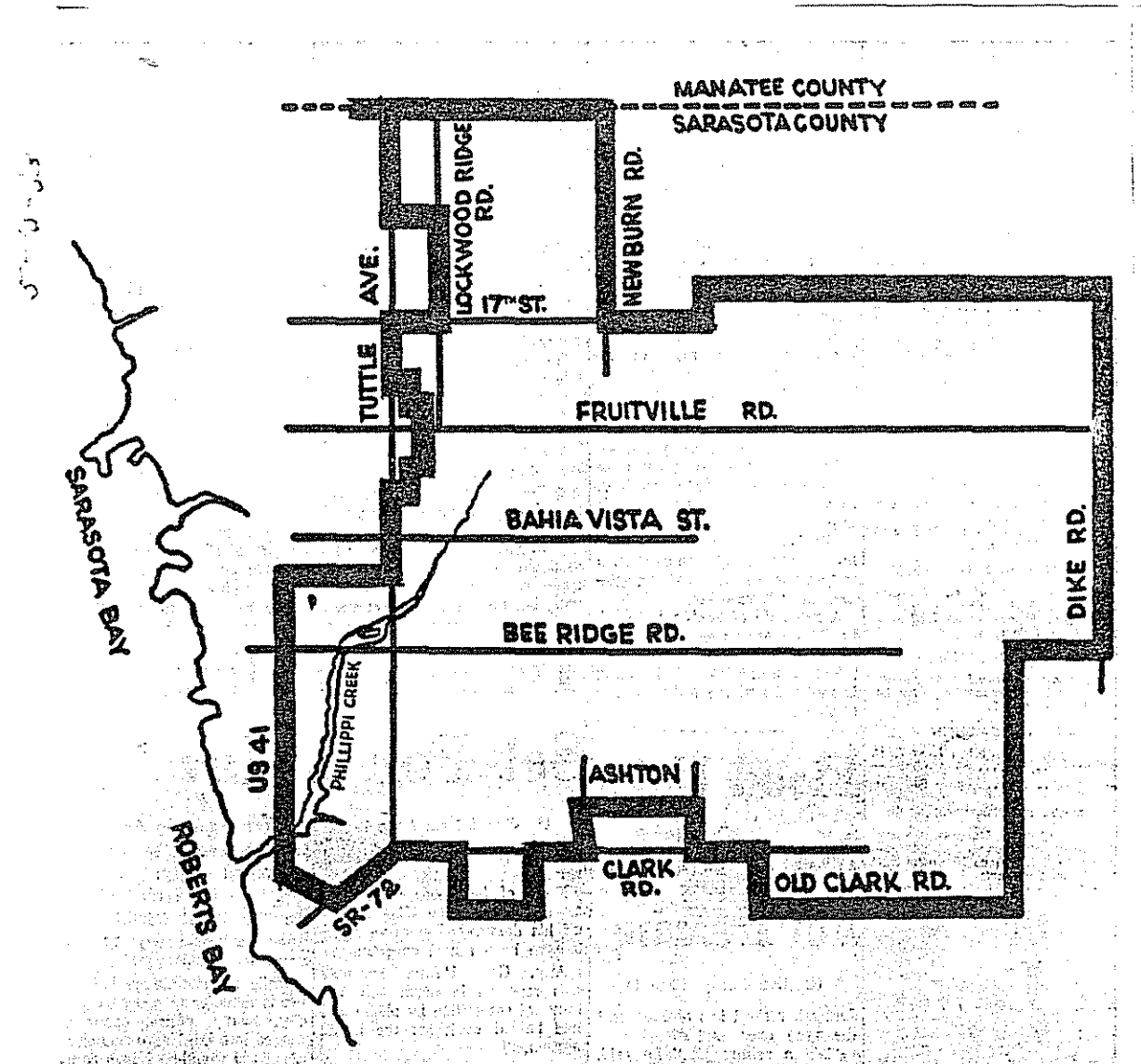
"Certainly an informed public is more apt to support the bond issue," Rolland King told other members of the committee. "Since the county commission is not in the business of promoting its own bond issue I feel our only choice is to go into Tuesday's meeting and fully support this district. We have to have a crusade to enlighten the public."

He pointed out repeated flooding is limiting the growth of the area.

"Either we solve our drainage problems or growth will come to a grinding halt," King noted.

Leslie Miller, co-chairman of the steering committee, said the

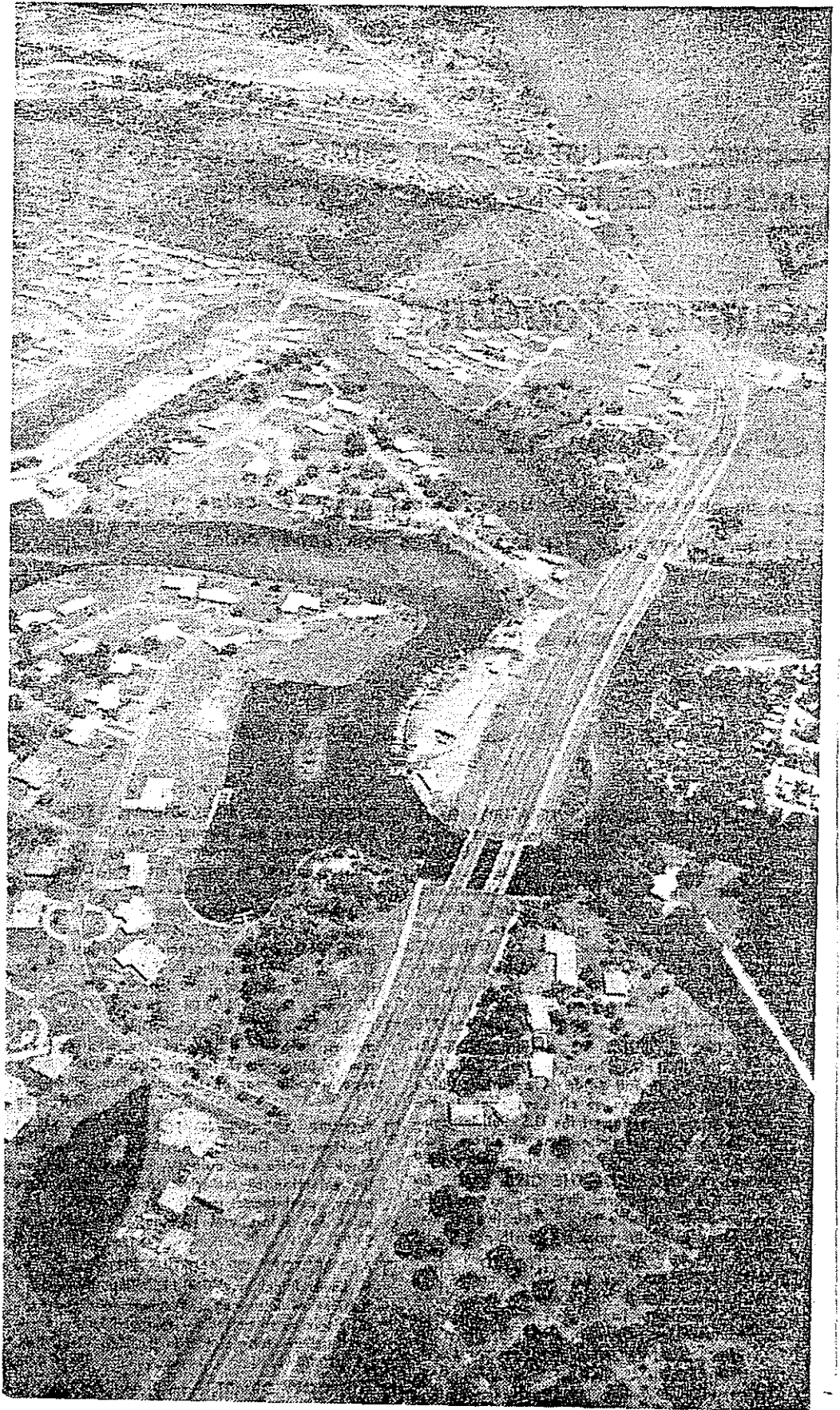
(Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)



This Map Shows Boundaries For Proposed Phillippi Flood District

NO CONTINUATION
AVAILABLE

7-14-43



Herald-Tribuna Staff Photo—Torrington

PHILLIPPI CREEK BRIDGE—This aerial photograph shows US-41 looking south from the double bridges at Phillippi Creek. The wing of the plane appears in the upper right section of the picture.

Dec 4, 1963
Washington Gets Flood Control Report—

\$7.8 Million Phillippi Creek Plan Wins Backing

By PAUL HOGAN
Tribune Staff Writer

SARASOTA — A report that could result in a \$7,854,800 flood control project on Sarasota County's Phillippi Creek has been sent to Washington for approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The program outlined by the Jacksonville district office of the corps and approved in the Atlanta division office would mean federal participation reaching \$4,593,600 for work on the oft-flooded creek.

The report is now before the board of engineers for rivers and harbors in Washington, for final consideration.

Keeps Close Watch

Congressman James A. Haley of Sarasota kept a close watch on the study and reported to local authorities last week that it would be released this week.

The program outlined by the corps is considerably larger in scope than the \$2.5 million job planned here by local engineers, although their planning was admittedly for a phased operation.

Local interests, in the form of a taxing district or the county commission itself, would be asked to supply an estimated \$3,263,200 for the project as outlined by the corps.

Discussion Scheduled

Receiving the initial report yesterday, county commissioners elected to set a discussion on it for 11 a.m. Thursday.

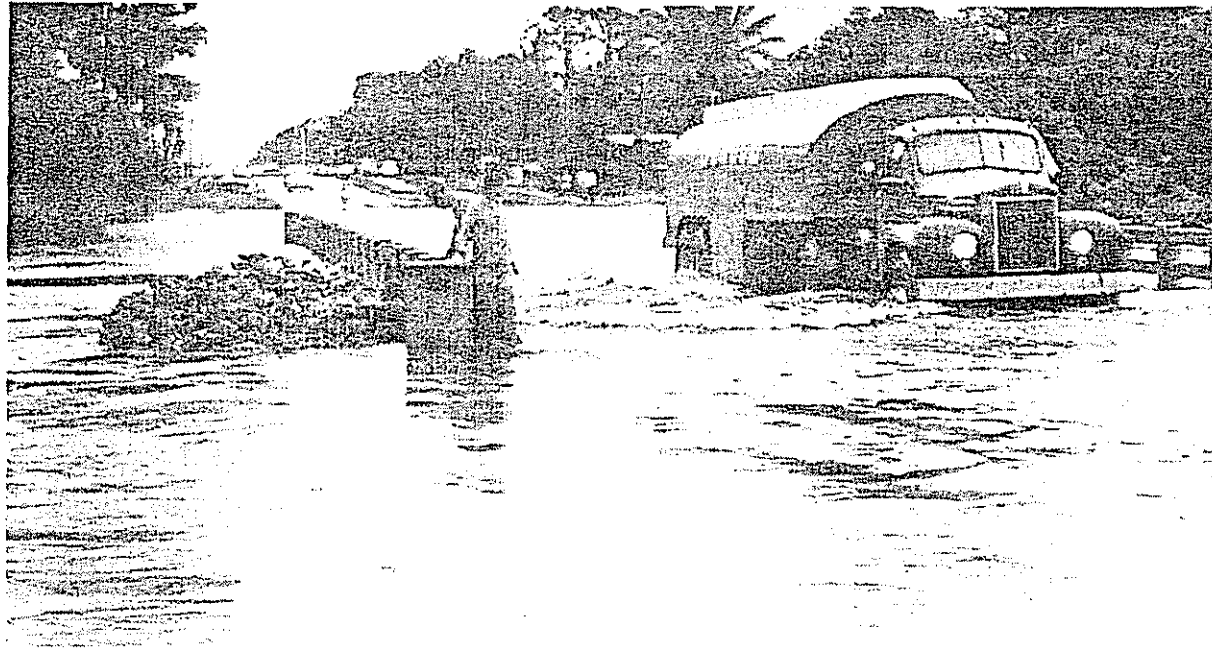
"The report is favorable," the corps said simply in its announcement on the study of the creek that in September 1962, flooded some 500 families out of their homes.

"Phillippi Creek has flooded urban and agricultural property on four occasions in the past six years causing extensive damages," the report said.

Play Restricted

"Shoaling of the creek channel is restricting recreational navigation. Land drainage and the conservation of runoff are being practiced for agricultural benefit and for the prevention of salt water intrusion from the Gulf of Mexico.

"The reporting officers find



THE FLOODS MAY STOP—Sarasota's Phillippi Creek, here pictured as it flooded the Bee Ridge Bridge during a heavy rain period, may no longer be a high water menace if an Army Corps of Engineers report which was sent to Washington today is approved and control measures taken.

conditions which could be improved economically by a plan which includes improving 15 miles of creek and tributary channels, seven water level and erosion-control structures, inlet structures for lateral drains leading to the creek and modification of 18 bridges," the report continued.

"Benefits from flood control increased land use and improved recreational boating would average about \$475,200 annually, and the cost of construction and maintenance would average about \$379,100 annually resulting in a cost to benefit ratio of 1 to 1.3," the corps said.

Local Part

If the project were to be adopted as a federal project, some local agency would be required to post 22 per cent of the contract price now estimated to be an amount of \$1,165,500 before work begins.

The local agency would also have to supervise and maintain the finished facility and main-

tain and construct lateral drainage facilities that are necessary to realize the benefit made available by the improvements to the creek, the report noted. The local government must also provide the rights-of-way for the project and assume the costs of re-constructing or relocating all highway bridges involved.

Tax District Considered

Local officials who have kept in close contact during the corps' study said that the plans follow closely those designed for a flood control project here.

The scope of the federal plan is larger, however, they add.

County commissioners have been considering for some time creation of a taxing district in the 60-square mile Phillippi Creek basin to finance such a project.

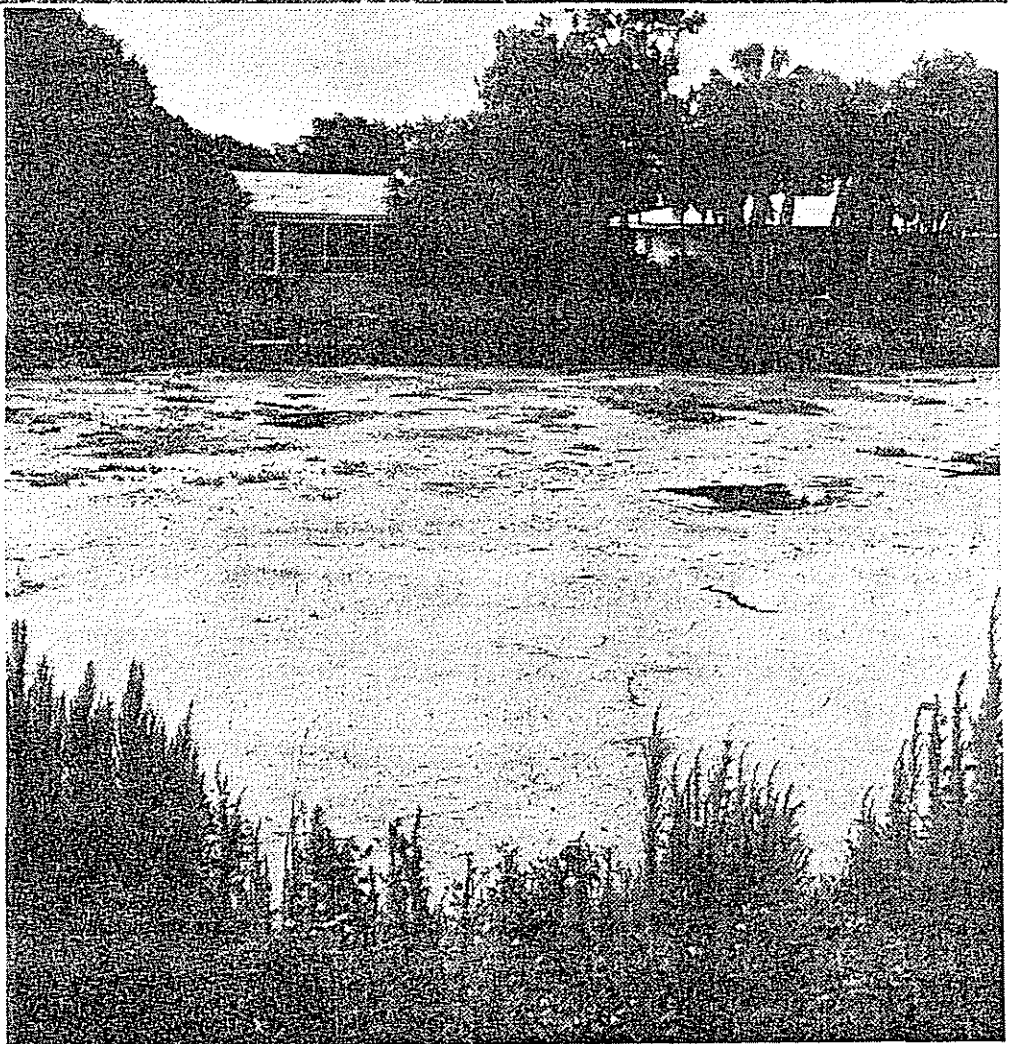
The corps report must be approved by its Washington headquarters then be adopted by Congress as a federal project and then receive a federal appropriation from Congress before money can be spent here.

Phillippi Creek Has Its Problems



7-5-64

DUAL PERSONALITY— Phillippi Creek, like some people, has a dual personality. It can be peaceful, as shown in accompanying photos, or dangerous, with high water and flooding. Tranquility pictured is deceitful, too, for the movement of the water is slow and a heavy cover of algae has formed. Top photo shows the flood gates which some property owners have asked the county to remove so that algae will wash out. Engineers claim that the creek lacks pressure to flush out the unwanted algae. Photo at right shows the creek with heavy, green algae forming a floor across the body of water. County officials are seeking ways to solve the problem for reasons of weed and mosquito control.



DESPITE MRS. MEADE'S OBJECTION

8/23/64

Phillippi Control Referendum Set Nov. 3

By BILL FRITTS

Refusing to be dissuaded by arguments of the supervisor of registration, Sarasota County commissioners Thursday voted unanimously to hold the Phillippi Creek flood control referendum on the Nov. 3 general election date.

The project, technically called the Sarasota County Flood Control Project No. 1, has a price tag of some \$8 million, of which the county will pay \$3.5 million.

However, according to a financing plan devised by Barcus, Kindred & Co. of Chicago, a Phillippi Creek benefit tax district would be created which would bear all the local cost, with the county as a whole sup-

porting the program to the extent of one mill in any year in which a deficit might occur in the district.

Mrs. Meade Opposes

Mrs. Virginia H. Meade, supervisor of registration, opposed the tie-in of the referendum with the Nov. 3 election principally on the grounds that it would cause confusion and delay, especially with the paper ballots that are proposed since it is physically impossible to get the question on the regular machine ballot.

"I am not against the drainage program," Mrs. Meade said. "I would be willing to pay a tax. But I believe having the paper ballot will just add con-

fusion to the normal confusion that exists in a presidential election. I think the average voter will get so annoyed and so confused that he will say, 'Just let me get into the machine and cast my vote and get out.'"

She added:

"We must think of the individual. This is a nightmare that I don't want to pass on to him. My concern is the voter, getting him in and out of the poll. I don't want any part of any more confusion in the general election than we already have. I just personally don't think it's the right thing to do with the general election."

"The only thing I'm against is the date."

Commissioner Masel Huston replied that the flood control program "is the most important project Sarasota County has been faced with in its history," and that everything that elected officials could do to bring it into reality should be done.

He termed it the first major step in a county-wide drainage program—"which we've got to have if we're going to keep growing."

Commissioner Boyd Gernhard said he agreed with Huston, that "this is the most vital thing that has ever happened to Sarasota County." And the present situation, he added, was "a sort of now or never situation."

The Nov. 3 date was recommended Monday by a flood control steering committee because of its voter drawing power, being a presidential election, and because of the requirements of the law. More than 50 per cent of the registered freeholders in the county must vote on the one-mill endorsement in order for it to be legal.

41,000 Registered

Gernhard noted that in hospital and school board elections it was possible to get out the required percentage of voters, but he seriously doubted that it would be for a flood control project.

In speaking of voter registrations and the number of ma-

chines the county now has, it was brought out that registrations may well reach 41,000 for the Nov. 3 election, which is about a 20 per cent increase over 1960.

But 40 voting machines have been added since 1960, making a total of 99, which is a more than 65 per cent increase.

These ratios, Gernhard thought, ought to favor less confusion than in 1960, even with the paper ballot.

Mrs. Carl Warner addressed the board, saying she had worked with large classes of instruction and workshops and felt that it would be possible to organize the polls in such a way as to minimize voter confusion. She

recommended that the voter go through the voting machine first and then obtain a paper ballot on the flood project.

She said she'd be willing "to give up a day's pay" to work at the polls.

One spectator rose to say that he thought the commissioners "were beating a dead horse," that all of the talk was useless since the project would be rejected by the voters anyway.

Committee Criticized

He criticized the composition of the flood control steering committee, saying it had no representative of the working man, or of retired people or the average citizen.

"Why shouldn't it be for it?" he said.

He contended that people would vote against the drainage project because it would tend to raise taxes, and that it was only one of a number of districts planned for the future. The taxpayer, he said, could see nothing in all this except more taxes.

Chairman L. L. Parker suggested it might be better to hold a special election a week or 10 days after the Nov. 3 election, expressing concern at "overloading" the voter which would tend to drive him away.

"I've seen these people standing in line and they get tired of it and say to heck with it and walk away," he said.

On the motion to set the date for Nov. 3, however, he voted for it.

Proposed Enlarging, Deepening Of Phillippi Creek 'Feasible'

A Sarasota engineer said Tuesday that, from an engineering viewpoint, the proposed current solution to Phillippi Creek's flood problem is the most feasible one.

Donald Smally, of Smally-Wellford and Naiven consulting engineers, explained the flood problem — and proposed solution — to members of the South Gate Community Association, and answered questions from the audience on the project.

After studying the flood situation, first apparent in 1958, various experts and engineers — most recently the U.S. Corps of Engineers — have stated that the "enlarging, straightening, and deepening of Phillippi Creek" would solve the flood problem, Smally noted.

Estimated cost of such a project in 1962, according to the Corps, was about \$8 million, of which the federal government would pay \$4½ million. Local sources would have to come up with the other \$3½ million.

The County Commission, according to Smally, is trying to set a precedent and let the residents in the proposed district pay for their own problem — on a varying assessment scale according to the amount of damage done by past flooding. Plus having the freeholders' pledge of one mill.

"Since assessment bond programs are not easy to sell," Smally noted, "the commissioners want to make the deal more appealing by simply assuring the payment of the bonds."

Smally set up roughly three classifications of landowners in the proposed 60-square-mile district, and listed their tax assessments as follows, if the district is approved:

1.) Landowners in the district who have not had water in their houses from the creek's flooding, but have suffered because of lower real estate values and generally wet conditions during times of flood.

These landowners would pay about \$50 a year, either all at once or \$2 yearly for 20 years.

2.) Landowners who have had water in their houses and suffered extensive damage. Assessments would be roughly \$400 to \$500 per house, or about \$30 to \$40 a year for 20 years.

3.) People who own acreage in the district, both cultivated and uncultivated, and they would be assessed about \$20 per acre.

Other information about the proposed solution to the Creek's flooding, according to Smally:

—If the district is approved, but county freeholders won't pledge up to one mill, the commission will probably go ahead with the current solution but assess district landowners more.

—If the district proposal is turned down, the project would "hang in limbo" until the commission decided what to do.

—About three to three and one-half feet will be taken off of the flood elevation if the current proposal is put into effect.

—It will be "about three or four more years" before the flood control program is finished if the issue passes Nov. 3.

—The Corps of Engineers does not contemplate putting in concrete retaining walls along the

bank as part of the control program.

—There would be no access to the bay by boats except from the lower dam down.

—Maintenance of the creek will be easier for the county if it is deepened "because deeper water means less growth."

—All of the present commissioners, as well as candidates

for the commission, unanimously agree that the current proposal is the best solution.

—A one mill tax levy on a \$20,000 home would mean about \$7 in taxes if the full amount was ever needed.

—The project, as planned by the corps, is designed to take care of ultimate, maximum growth, not just present needs.

11-18-64

CHAPMAN BIG OBJECTOR

County Action On Phillippi Cut-Through Brings Howl

Sarasota County commissioners' announced intention to proceed with the Phillippi Creek cut-through produced some 'reverberations' Tuesday at a commission meeting.

William J. Chapman, 5379 Montclair Place, said it was "outlandish" to spend a half-million dollars on the project, and that the recent referendum,

turned down at the polls, "didn't give a mandate to go ahead with the project."

"The people turned it down," Chapman added, "and I suggest you listen to the people."

Chapman said he was not opposed to flood relief, but that it should be done "without hurting others." He advocated that the elimination of the oxbow bottle-

neck at US-41 should be accomplished by widening the Phillippi Bayou outlet some 200 feet south of the proposed cut-through.

He said this would be less expensive, because the county already owns the right of way, and such a solution would not block Montclair Drive.

As presently proposed, the cut-through would slice through

Montclair Drive, cutting off that access to US-41. Residents in the area would have to reach US-41 via a circuitous route, crossing the bayou in its northeast sector.

Chapman said that the Phillippi Creek flood control project had been "pushed and jammed down people's throats—but they have rejected it . . . We don't ask you to do nothing, but we do ask you to take into consideration other people."

Two other property owners disputed Chapman's statements and urged the commission to proceed with the project. They were Mrs. June McCalla, secretary of the Oak Shores Improvement Association, and Eric W. Forsen, 2404 Nassau St.

Forsen told the board he was "very much interested in what you're doing," and that he hoped it would "press this thing as fast as you can," starting with the cut-through and going upstream whenever feasible.

Mrs. McCalla voiced opinion that the people who voted against the bond referendum did so mainly because of the tax money aspect, not because they were basically opposed to a flood control project.

She said she wished there had been more public hearings on the subject, and felt that the way the bond program had been set up was perhaps too complicated and worked against its approval.

She noted that there were only 66 houses in Oak Shores Subdivision that were flooded in 1962, compared with an overall figure of 500, and protested that Oak Shores was unfairly bearing the brunt of bad publicity.

She also thanked the commissioners for providing the Oak Shores "escape route," which is an extension of Wood Street.

Commissioners listened to the arguments, but took no action.

Phillippi Creek Marine Life Kill Turned Down

By BILL FRITTS

A complete kill of all marine life, plant and animal, in Phillippi Creek from the weir north to the Oak Shores area to get rid of the algae that is choking the stream was turned down Monday by Sarasota County commissioners.

County Engineer Charles O. Morgan suggested the drastic measure as being the only sure way of getting rid of the noxious algae, although he admitted that it would kill all the fish and all other animal life in the target area.

The commissioners, after discussing it about a half-hour at a Public Works Committee meeting, wound up with no solution although they finally decided definitely that they did not want to risk an overall chemical blot-out of life in the stream in that area.

It was stressed by Commissioner Fred Haigh that the eventual solution—though years away—would be the construction of the Phillippi Creek flood control project. Seventeen weirs, or dams, are planned as part of the project, he said, and this would deepen the water to the point where algae could not grow.

The growth of the algae, it was brought out, depends very greatly on sunlight—the photosynthesis action. The system of weirs, he said, would deepen the water beyond the photosynthesis level; thus deprived of sufficient sunlight the algae could not grow.

Mel Williams, mosquito control director, agreed with Haigh that this was so.

Williams also said that, in his opinion, the massive kill with Kuron—the brand name for the deadly chemical—would not be very effective in the present situation. The reason was, he said, that there was too much movement of the water in that area.

Commissioner Masel Huston blamed almost all the trouble on the weir, which lies just north of the Tuttle Avenue bridge and was placed there originally for conservation and irrigation purposes.

The weir, he said, was holding back the water, creating still water which enabled the algae to grow even faster and strengthen its grip on the area.

"Frankly, in my opinion," he said, "that weir has created the whole problem. I think we're actually cultivating the growth of this stuff with that weir."

It wasn't enough just to remove the boards, he said, since the dam proper still blocked sea water from getting into the area.

Sea water, it is known, prevents the growth of the algae, which presently lies like a green carpet over the creek north of Tuttle Avenue bridge.

Morgan said that the fish would start to come back within a month, and he further doubted that "many fish of any consequence" were in the creek anyway.

He said the trouble was that the algae (there are several

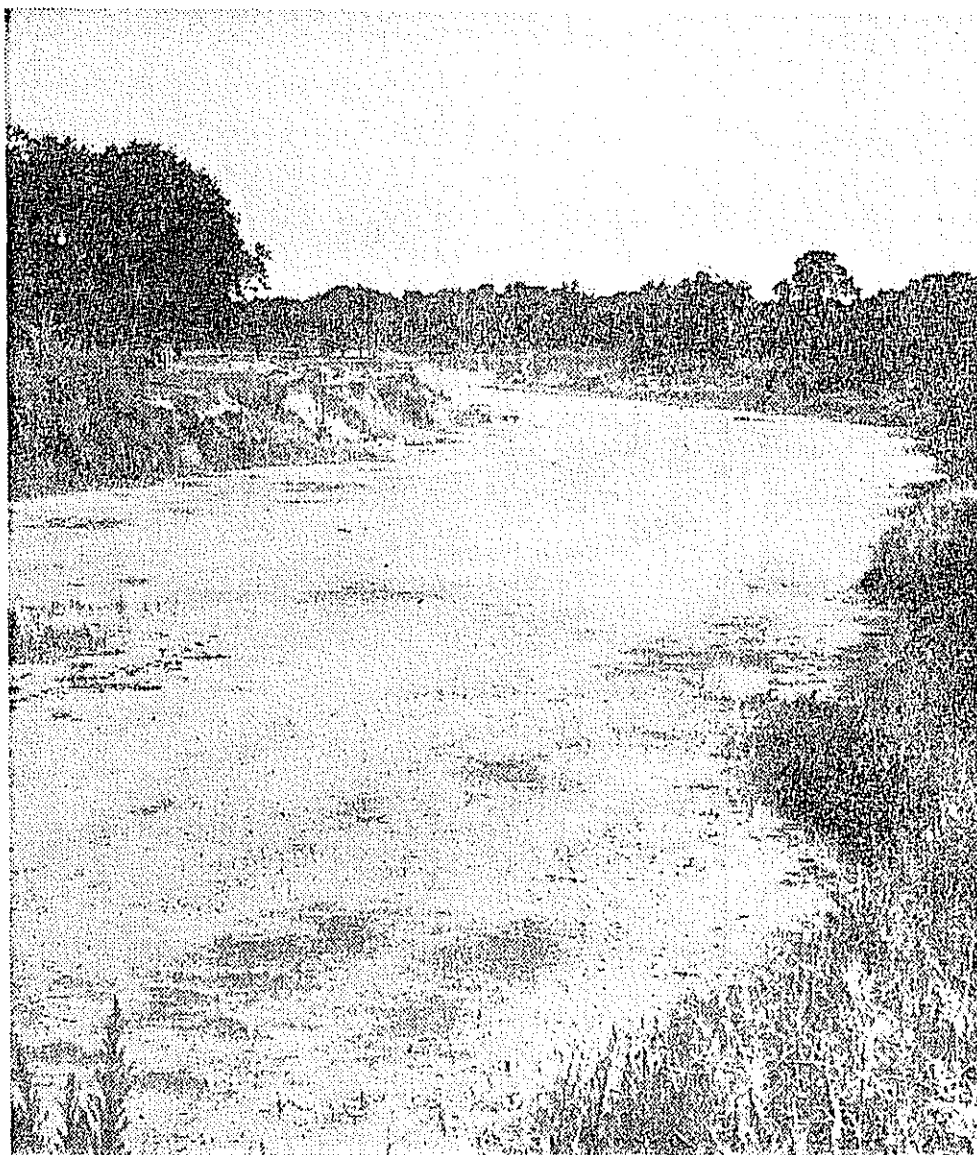
forms growing there) has fastened itself to the creek bottoms as well as growing on and near the surface. It would not wash out, even if heavy rainfalls occurred.

And so far, he added, science had not come up with any substance which would kill both the submerged and top-layer algae growth without killing all the fish and other marine life too.

He estimated the aquatic weeds would grow back in about a year, even after the massive lethal dose, and this fact also influenced the commissioners to reject the idea since it would prove only a stopgap measure.

But there was unanimous agreement that the most permanent and definite solution to the problem lay in the eventual

drainage project, which would block an essential condition of growth — namely photosynthesis.



Even The Water's Getting Dry

SARASOTA — Is it a winding country road? No, it is Phillippi Creek, grown over with aquatic plants. Not a sign of water appears in this photograph taken from the Bahia Vista Bridge looking south.

COW PEN BURDEN EASED

9-1-65

\$350,000 Phillippi Creek Local Matching Fund Eyed

SARASOTA — With the Cow Pen Slough project's financial burden easing for the county, a local matching fund of perhaps \$350,000 would be available for launching a step-by-step Phillip-

pi Creek flood control project, Commissioner Johnson Warren said Tuesday.

Warren noted that the county also has budgeted for the new fiscal year some \$275,000 for the Phillippi Creek cut-through, and that water conservation monies heretofore earmarked minly for the Cow Pen Slough project, will add another \$150,000.

Warren recently proposed a financing plan whereby the U.S. government would put up matching monies with the county.

The question is, will the government participate in such a program?

Warren is scheduled to go to Jacksonville in the near future to confer with Corps of Engineers personnel on the possibility of such a matching program. No conference date has yet been set.

Warren stressed that under his proposal there would be no necessity for an increase in mileage.

House OKs Phillippi Project

9-28-65

The U.S. House of Representatives approved the Phillippi Creek flood control program Wednesday, as the project was included in an omnibus bill authorizing 144 such projects at a collective cost of about \$1.7 billion.

The bill now goes to a conference committee to have any differences between the Senate and House bills smoothed out.

The Phillippi Creek authorization—not an appropriation—is for \$4,592,000, the federal government's share of an \$8 million flood control program.

As the plan proceeds in what appears to be an orderly manner at the federal level, the Sarasota County approach to providing the \$3.5 million calculated as its share seems characterized by uncertainty.

Commissioner Johnson Warren has proposed that the work and the Sarasota County contribution be spread over several years, thus avoiding a bond issue and any major tax increase. Commissioner Leslie Miller and the directors of the Sarasota County Chamber of Commerce are among the proponents of a bond issue to meet the local obligation.

The uncertainty goes even deeper. The Sarasota County Commission this week voted to place a bond proposal on the Nov. 2 election ballot — then Tuesday, the same day that the

chamber directors gave their formal support to a bond approach, the commissioners voted to defer such action until 1966.

The reason given was that the political climate in 1965 is unfavorable. Another problem, apparently, is uncertainty as to how to offer the matter to the

voters, whether the entire county should assume the bond burden or those persons in the flood district be assessed.

A combination referendum involving district freeholders and the freeholders throughout the county was defeated last November.

County Urged To Go Alone On Flood Plan

Representatives of the South Gate Community Association, which claims to be the voice of some 3,000 residents, asked the Sarasota County Commission to "go it alone" on the Phillippi Creek flood control project today.

Edwin Chase, director of the association, presented a resolution from the group, calling for continued efforts to prevent flooding damage to people and property in the Phillippi Creek area.

He cited the fact that since

the voters turned down both the flood control district and an accompanying bond program, that the county should go ahead with what powers it has.

In part, the resolution suggested the county continue to solve the flooding problem, paying for it by county wide taxation, and that the "costly cut-through on Phillippi Creek and U.S. 41 be held back for re-examination."

It also suggested that the county "create an annual program of about ½ mill or \$150,-

000 for cleaning, dredging, removing bottlenecks in the Creek and canals."

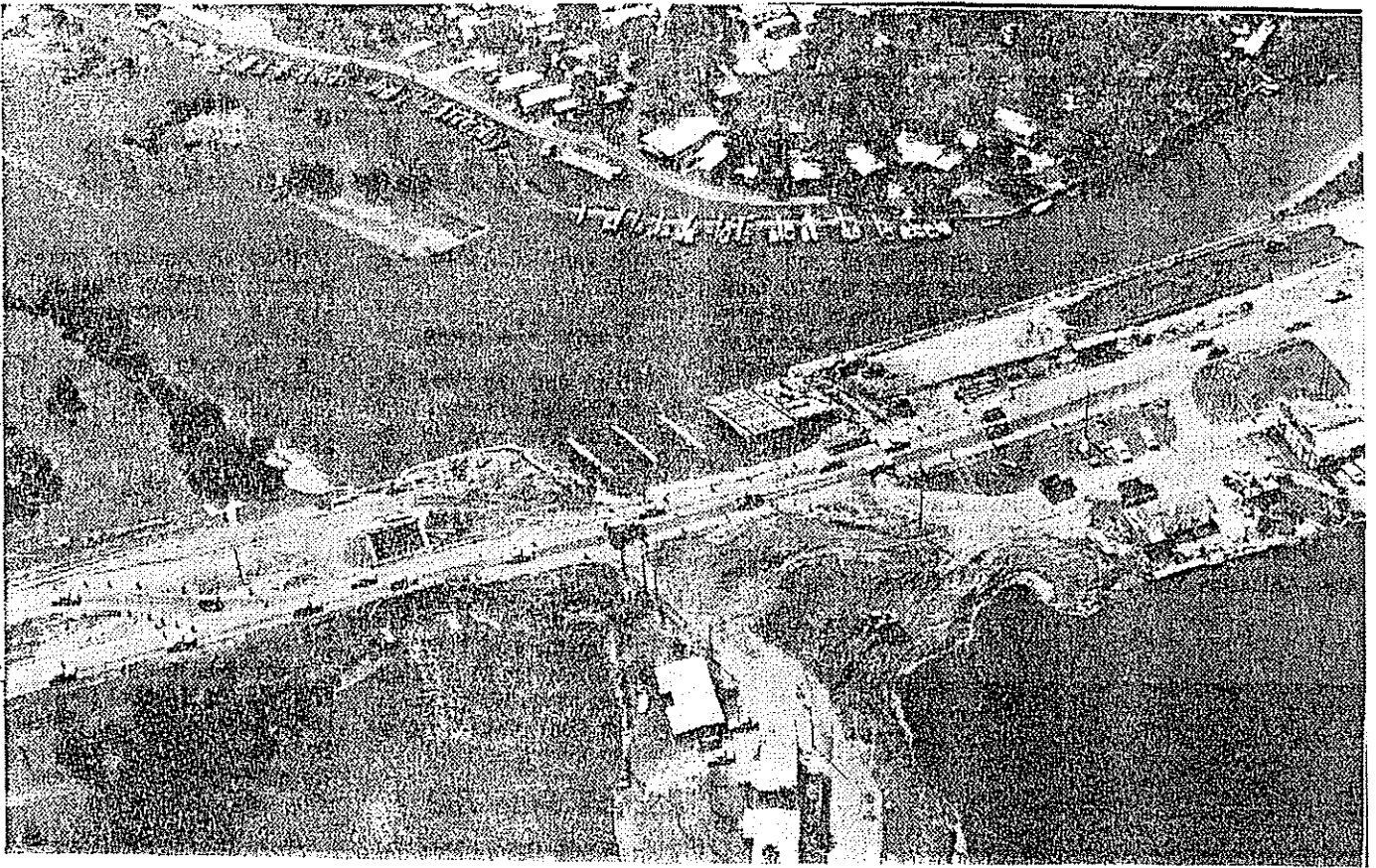
One of the spokesmen for the group said that the offer of \$5 million from the federal government to help the county complete the expected \$8.5 project shouldn't be sought. "We don't need the money," he said but didn't explain what they would offer to take its place.

The federal government has offered a matching fund program, with the county forking over 2-5ths of the cost, or about \$3.275 million.

Commissioner Masei Huston said that he has been talking with members of the US Army Corps of Engineers, and he feels sure that they will ask Sarasota what it's going to do about the 54 square mile Phillippi Creek flood area. And it's going to ask the question within the next couple of months he said.

Huston said that if the federal money is offered, then it certainly would be foolish to turn it down. "Why shouldn't we use \$5 million of Uncle Sam's money" for the project, he charged.

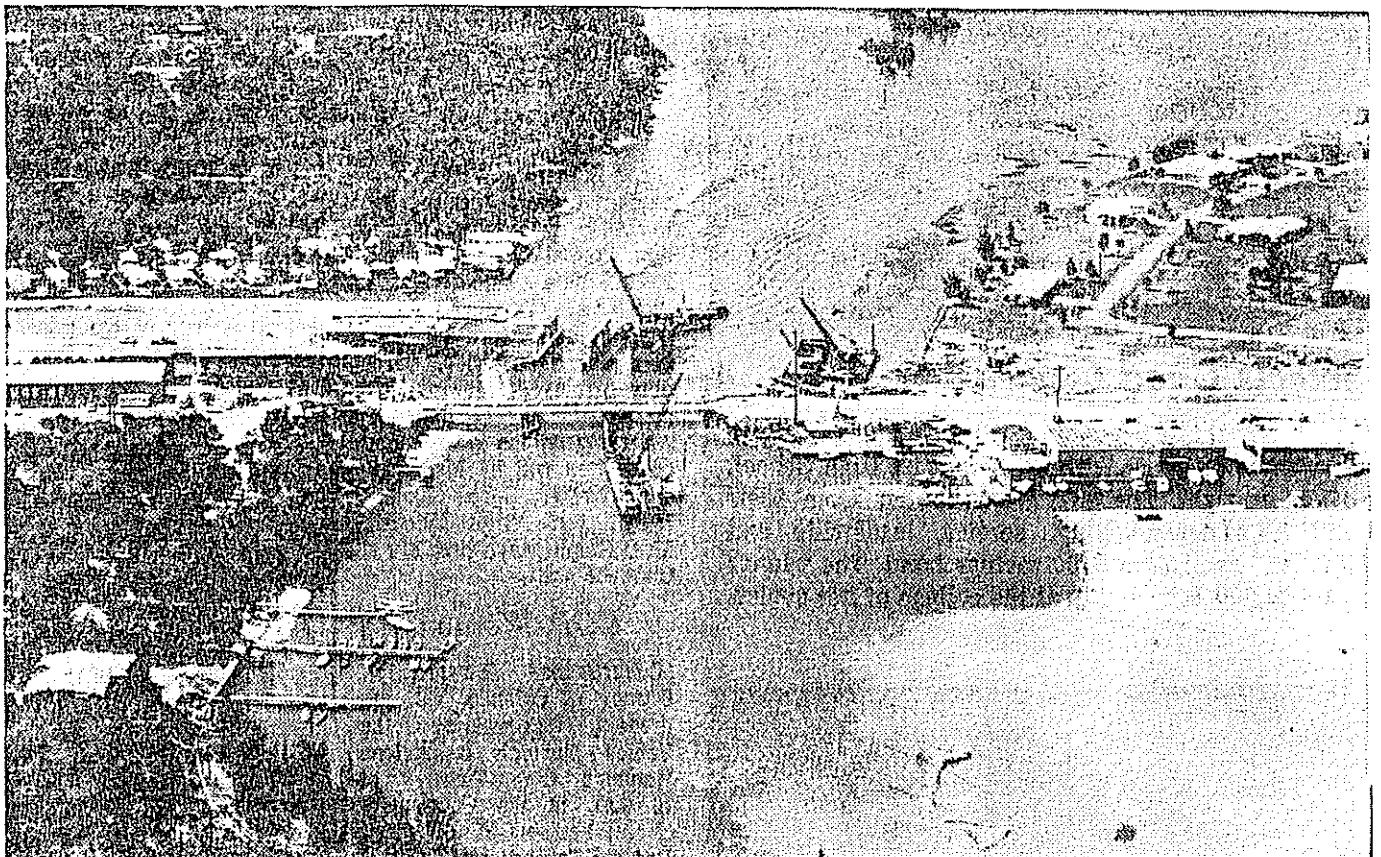
4-16-68



Phillippi Creek Cut-Through Progresses

Construction of a new Phillippi Creek bridge over U. S. 41 to straighten the channel of the creek is approximately 29 per cent complete, State Road Department officials report. About 32 per cent of the

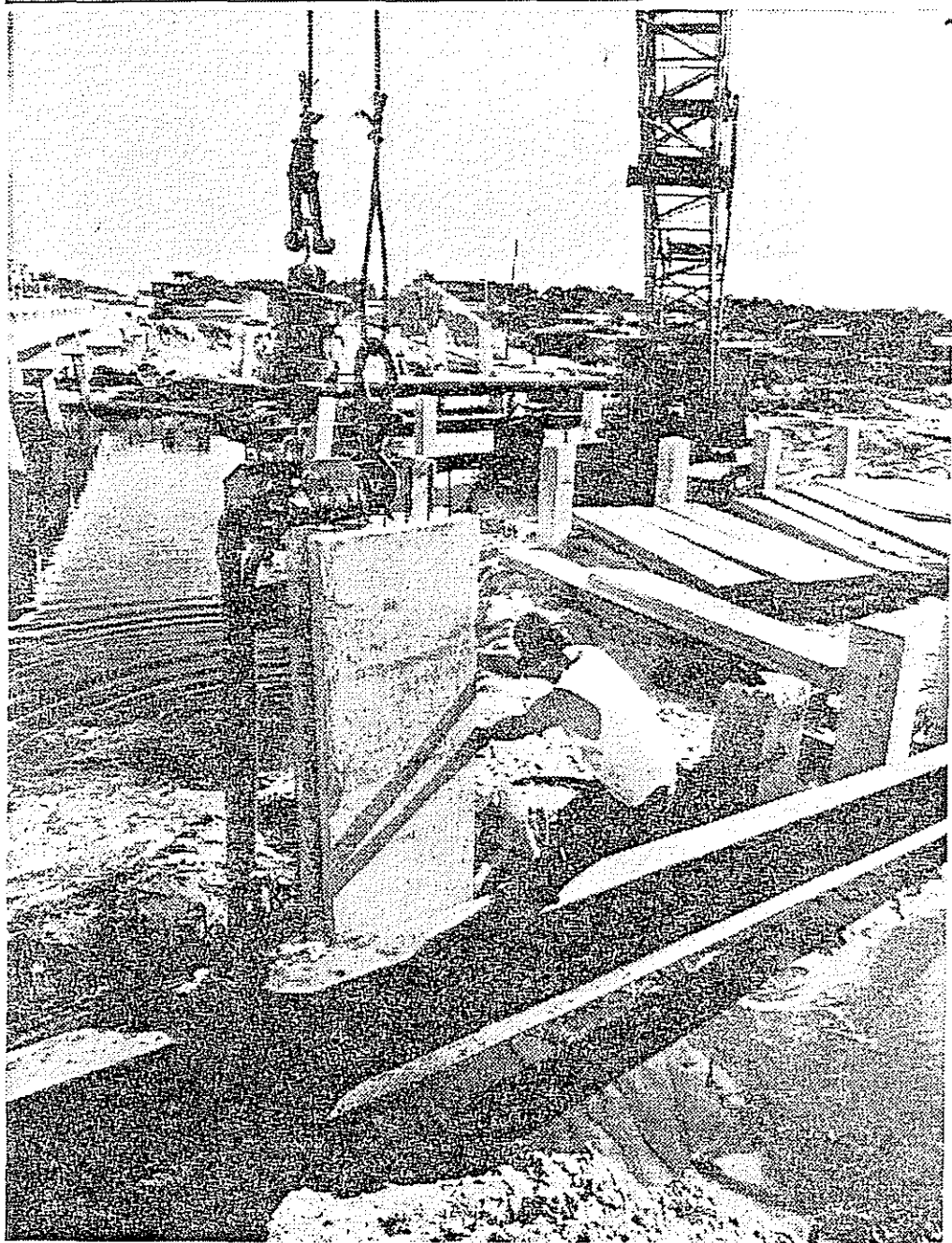
250-day contract time has elapsed. Cone Bros. Contracting Company is the contractor, having bid \$400,788 on the job last September in Panama City.



Stickney Point Project Nearly One-Third Complete

State Road Department officials report that the \$1,939,636 Stickney Point road and bridge project is 31 per cent complete with 32 per cent of the construction time elapsed. The contract with Scott Construction Co. of Thomasville, Ga., called for 360

working days. The road-widening and paving is being done by Warren Bros. Road Co., subcontractor to Scott Construction Co. When completed the project will provide dual four-lane bridges over the bay between Siesta Key and the mainland.



Work Continues At Phillippi Creek

Workmen place material being lowered by crane Monday as work on the Phillippi Creek cut-through project on U. S. 41, just south of the Sarasota city limits, continues.

County 'Reduces' Danger Of Phillippi Creek Flood Drainage Improved In Past Four Years

By BILL FRITTS

Although it may not be generally realized by Sarasota County residents, the Phillippi Creek flood specter is not quite the frightening thing it used to be, mainly because county officials have been "pecking away" at improving its drainage capacities.

Counting the in-progress Phillippi Creek cut-through which realigns the river's channel at U. S. 41, the county has spent something like \$500,000 in the past four years to alleviate the flooding propensities of the waterway.

County Commissioner Leslie Miller, who has probably been closer to the Phillippi Creek program than any other commissioner, estimates that current improvements have checked the river's flooding tendencies by at least one-quarter.

"We've got this river 25 to 35 per cent licked right now," he says. "What we've done wasn't done with a lot of fanfare—just pecking away."

This "pecking away" approach is one that various people, including the county's consulting engineers, Smally, Wellford & Naiven, had been advocating for years. And the results have proven encouraging.

For a long time the big, all-out Corps of Engineers plan costing some \$8 million was all that was talked about, and it discouraged any actions being taken at the local level. What was the point of doing step-by-step improvements if the Corps of Engineers plan was to be carried out, and the creek's flooding problems solved in one fell swoop?

But the Corps of Engineers plan went into limbo when a flood control referendum was defeated, and it has been in limbo ever since. But out of this setback—for some—the county bestirred itself from its inertia and began "chipping away" at the problem.

Today it can point to a number of things that have been done to improve the channel's flow, to prevent hyacinth growth and bridge cloggings and increase its capacity to carry floodwaters to the bay.

The most obvious one, and the most publicized is the channel realignment at U. S. 41, which will eliminate a goose-neck bend which the river takes just before it makes its entry into Little Sarasota Bay.

It has long been believed that the elimination of this bottleneck should be the first step in any flood improvement program, and Cone Bros. Contracting Co. is presently carrying out this critical work.

But while the creek is being unplugged, the county in a modest way has been busy making various improvements upstream, which, while not so dramatic, nevertheless add significantly to the total drainage picture.

In various areas the creek's channel has been deepened and "roadways" built to provide access for heavy equipment, thus promoting continual maintenance, the clearing of hyacinths and other aquatic growth.

In some areas, however, the channel has been deliberately narrowed and deepened, to increase the river's velocity and thus create a self-cleansing action.

One of these is a main canal that eventually extends to the Kensington Park area. South of where it crosses the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad tracks, the channel runs deep and narrow. There are no hyacinths or other aquatic growth clogging the stream.

If silt is a problem, these unprovoked roadways enable draglines to be brought in with relative ease and the clogging material removed.

One of the biggest factors in the creek's flooding problems was the damming action of its pier-supported bridges, in time of flood aquatic growth and debris came swirling down the river and sooner or later piled up against the bridge piers, standing like concrete tentacles in the middle of the channel.

A former engineer with the Public Works Department, Fred Karl, came up with the idea of streamlining the piers, buttressing them with planks and steel pipe.

The planks were bolted between the piers, forming a smooth "chute" for the water to get through and offering no snags for the debris that inevitably came floating down.

On the upstream faces of the piers, sections of steel drainage pipe, cut in half, were fastened, providing a rounded surface which greatly reduced the hang-up qualities of the piers.

In effect, "sluices" were created under the bridges—and all of the bridges over Phillippi Creek now have these streamlining and buttressing improvements.

"It took three years for us to get this done," Miller recalls, "but we finally did it."

Widening and deepening of the river channel has been carried out between Bahia Vista and Webber Streets, and similar work has been done north of Bahia Vista.

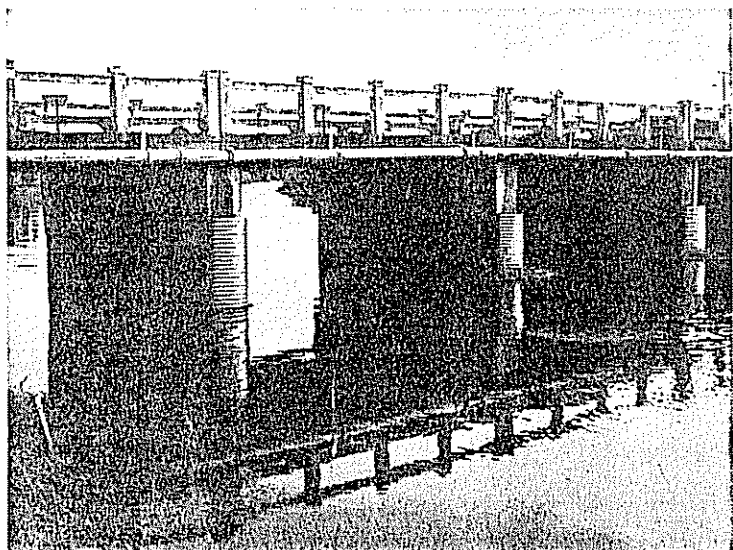
Next year the county takes another piecemeal swing at the creek with replacement of the narrow, channel-clogging Webber Street bridge. This will cost the county another \$120,000. But it's another step in the gradual "taming of the creek"—and the county would be the first to admit it's got a tiger by the tail.

The Herald-Tribune

SECTION—F

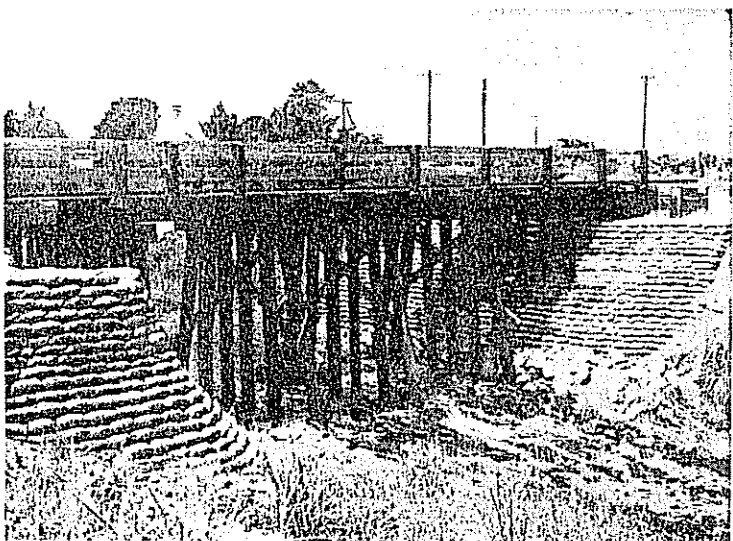
Sunday, July 21, 1968

CLASSIFIED IN THIS SECTION



Bridge Piers Streamlined

One of the "homemade remedies" for alleviating Phillippi Creek flooding is the shielding of bridge piers with wooden planks and steel pipe to prevent debris from piling up at bridges and acting as dams.



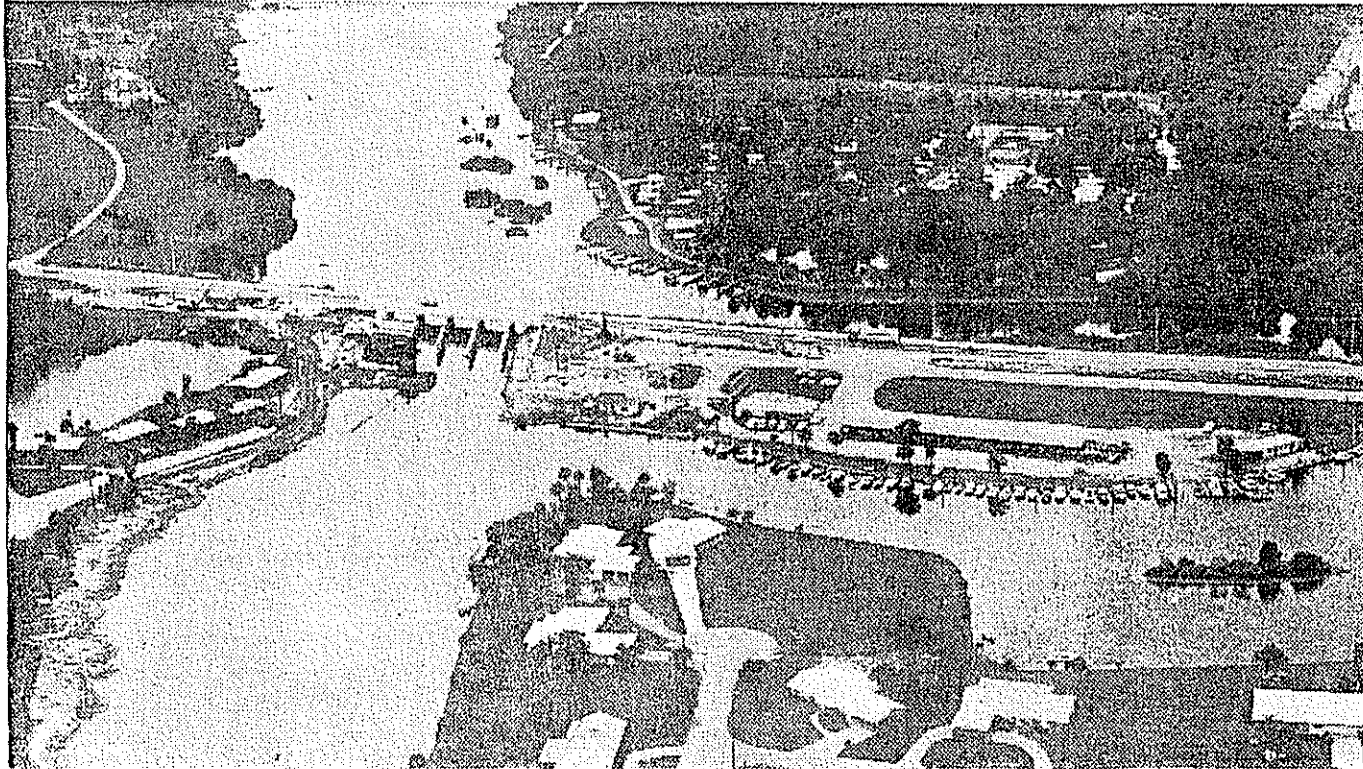
Step Construction Aids Creek

County Commissioner Leslie Miller inspects one of Phillippi Creek's main canals which was 'stepped' to permit draglines to move along canal and dredge away silt and aquatic growth. Canal channel was also narrowed and deepened to increase velocity.

The Herald-Tribune

SECTION THREE

Thurs., Sept. 19, 1968—23



Straight-Through View Of Cut-Through Project

Aerial picture provides straight-through view of the new Phillippi Creek cut-through project on the Tamiami Trail south of Sarasota. This view looks westerly. While the cut-through is far enough along

to permit the flow of water, the span on the inside is not completed. The old dog-leg route of the creek is to the right where the creek circles under a bridge and back south before heading west to Sarasota Bay.

Phillippi Creek, The Perennial Plague Is Acting Up Again And A Heap Of Money Is Needed As Remedy

By BILL FRITTS

Phillippi Creek, the perennial plague, just isn't acting right again. This time it shows evidence of rapidly silting up and defeating, to some extent, the "pull the plug" channel-straightening project at U. S. 41.

Acting County Engineer James Davison has already put the Sarasota county commissioners on notice that "there's trouble out there," and that it will take a heap of money to correct it.

Davison estimates a million cubic yards of silt could be taken out of the channel and a total of 1 million could be spent in the process.

He believes a phased, year-by-year program of clean-out is the logical approach, if the commissioners decide to spend taxpayers' money on such a project.

"You would have to spend at least \$100,000 a year on cleaning it out," he says. "Anything less and it just wouldn't be worth it. You'd just be wasting your money. By the time you finished the last part, the first part would already be silted up again."

At \$100,000 a year, the commissioners may be expected to take a good, hard look at such a program—yet, admittedly, the creek is well on its way to becoming a silt-clogged and pollution-riddled stream.

Most of the trouble, Davison says, stems from the new construction that is taking place in areas upstream. The rains come, and the freshly scoured earth dribbles into the creek. As the siltation becomes greater and greater, the flow of the stream slows down, and settling of the silt steadily intensifies. The problem is compounded.

Furthermore, as the flushing action of the creek is diminished by further clogging, the pollution problems worsen.

It is no secret that a number of sewage disposal plants discharge treated effluent into the creek—and sometimes that effluent may be less than desirable from a purity standpoint.

There are septic tanks along the creek, and when the heavy rains come and the tanks overflow the toxic effluent drains into the creek.

Then there are the fertilizer nutrients which accelerate aquatic growth and further add to the clogging of the creek.

More than \$400,000 was spent by the county and state to straighten the creek's channel at U. S. 41. This was done on the theory that it would facilitate the flow of water and thereby lessen somewhat the flood threat.

Thus the plug was pulled.

But just a few yards above the dredged-out area around the new bridge, another plug exists—the silt that clogs the channel and emerges as mudflats during low tide.

And between the Bee Ridge and Tuttle Avenue bridges, boat passage is impossible at low tide, and dangerous at high tide. This is a stretch of approximately a half-mile.

During a recent spin on the creek in the county's air-boat, navigated by herbicider Frank Stafford of the Public Works Department, it was quite apparent that boat navigation is at a minimum, and that a lot of property classified as "waterfront" is really suffering from a misnomer.

The silt bars lie just below the surface. The average depth in the big silt stretches is no more than 12 to 14 inches. You can walk across the creek virtually anywhere, except down at the dredged-out part around the U. S. 41 bridge.

You see stretches of duckweed, parrot feather, plankton algae and water hyacinth. Algae and duckweed are considered signs of water pollution. Five dead snook, floating belly-up, were seen during the spin.

"It's a good chance that pollution killed them," Stafford said.

Yet there were a number of fishermen along the banks, plumbing the murky waters with hook and line, making the time-honored quest.

The mouth of Phillippi Creek, where it empties into Roberts Bay, is also a problem, says Davison. "It needs to be a lot bigger. Engineering plans call for a 400-foot-wide channel at this point, but all you've got is about 150 feet. It's also clogged up with mangrove islands."

The mouth of the creek empties directly into the Intra-coastal Waterway, at Marker No. 72. It takes no great amount of crystal-balling to predict that if the silt plug is ever washed loose in a storm, it will land smack in the middle of the waterway channel.

Phillippi Creek is one big headache. On this, virtually everyone agrees. But what to do about it—that's the hard part.

SECTION—G

The Herald-Tribune

Sunday, March 2, 1969

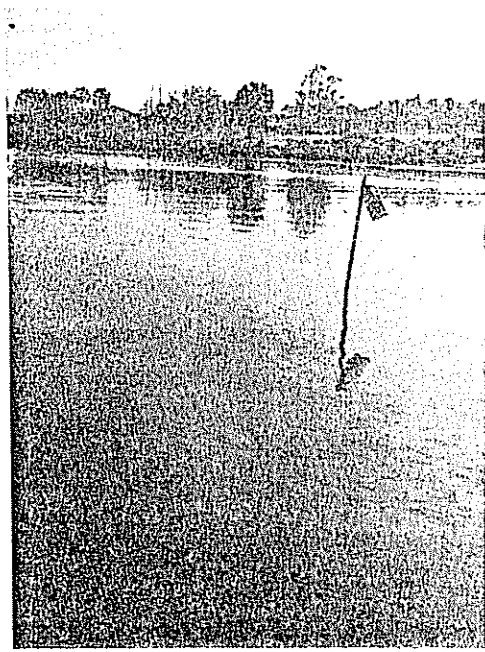
Page 1 of 2



County Employee Surveys Creek For Airboat

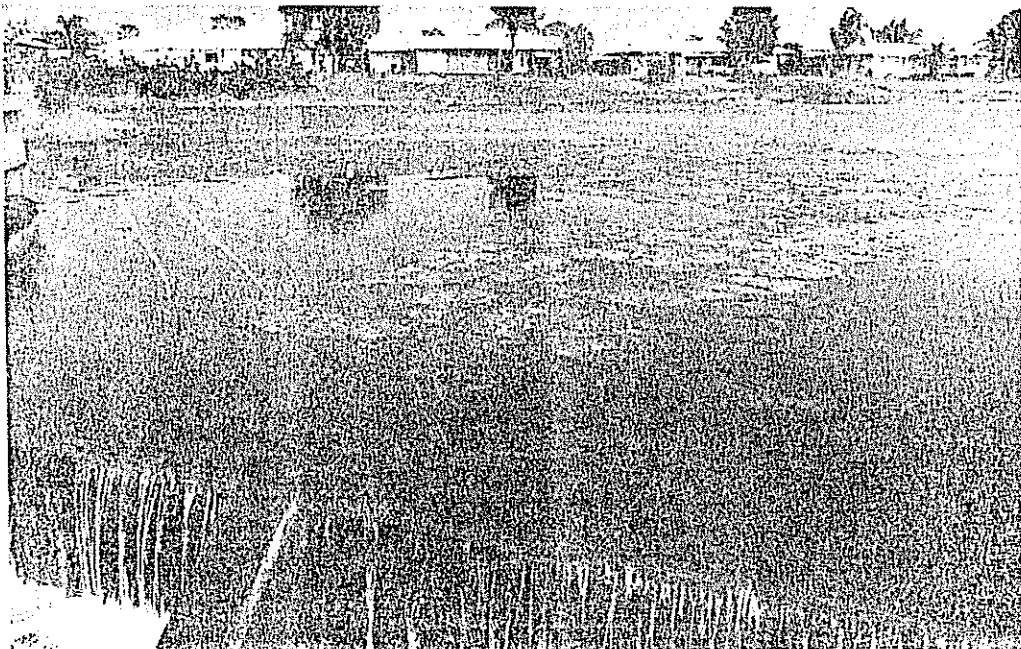
County air-boat pilot Frank Stafford cautiously negotiates shallow waters during a visual survey of

the creek. Stafford is county's acknowledged expert on creek's conditions.



Channel Markers

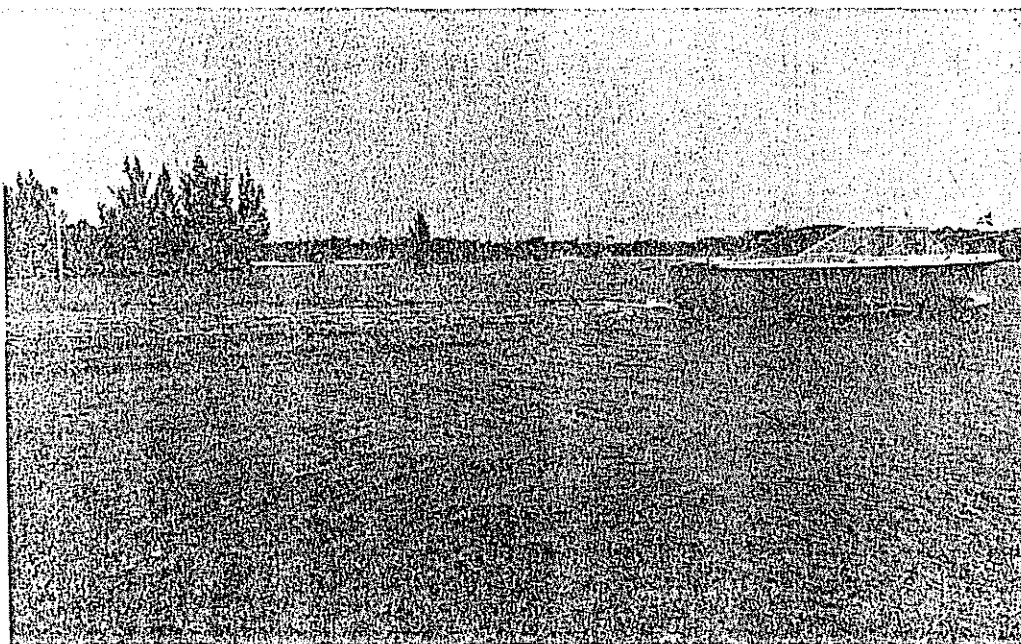
Metal rods with red plastic bottles mark the channel in the badly silted area above U.S. 41 bridge.



A Blanket Of Algae Above Weir Near Tuttle Avenue

Just above the weir east of Tuttle Avenue lies this broad carpet of algae. Below it lies an extensive

sandbar.



Narrow Opening Of Creek Near Roberts Bay

A too-narrow opening where the creek empties into Roberts Bay is another problem. Unplugged

sill may someday wash into Intracoastal Waterway channel.

STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE FROM SARASOTA COUNTY

Re: Phillippi Creek Basin Project

Sec. 205

This will certify assurance of the capability and willingness of Sarasota County to provide the requirements of local cooperation or reimbursement outlined in your letter of inquiry regarding the Phillippi Creek Basin Project. These requirements will be provided at the time requested by the District Engineer, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, in accordance with applicable legislative authority governing the project.

Kenneth D. Brumbaugh
KENNETH D. BRUMBAUGH, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners for
Sarasota County

ATTEST:

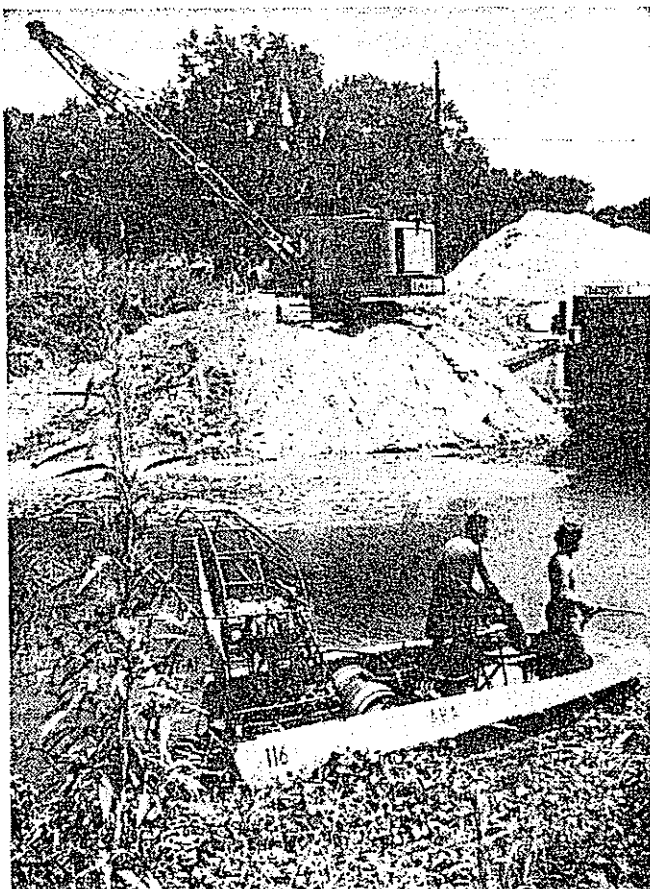
Wilma H. Galloway
puty Clerk of the Board

Dated: December 23, 1969

2063

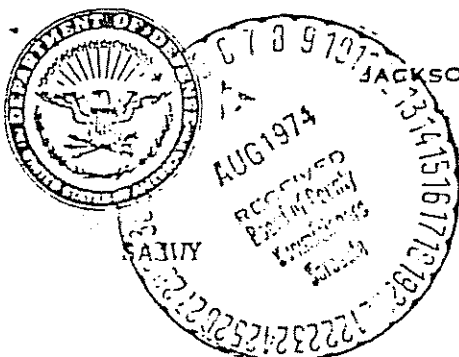
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5-21-72



Phillippi Creek Gets Cleaning

Phillippi Creek under and on either side of the Bahia Vista Street bridge receives a two-fold cleaning. Sarasota County weed control program workmen in the airboat, foreground, spray hyacinths with chemicals along the west bank, while County Road and Bridge crews, using a dragline, background, scour silt from the creek bottom along a 1,000-foot strip of the east bank and under the bridge. The silt under the bridge span was blocking the flow of water, said Road and Bridge Superintendent Pete Ramirez, and had to be unblocked prior to expected heavy rainfall this summer.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 4970
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32201

30 July 1974

Mr. John M. Saba, Jr.
Chairman, Board of Commissioners
County of Sarasota
P. O. Box 8
Sarasota, Florida 33578

Dear Mr. Saba:

The Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-251), approved 7 March 1974, required that the Congress annually be provided a list of unconstructed Corps of Engineers projects which no longer are considered appropriate for continued authorization. The rationale for this legislative requirement, contained in Section 12, is expressed by congressional views included in the reports on the Act by the Committees of Public Works of the U. S. Congress, and reads:

"Many water resources development projects become, after they are authorized, inappropriate for one reason or another. Changing economic conditions may render them uneconomic. Population and industrial growth may make them inadequate to serve new needs. The local interests may decide they do not want a project. Yet, in all of these cases, unless the time-consuming process of obtaining specific Congressional deauthorization through an Act of Congress is followed, the project remains authorized, is considered part of the backlog of authorized but unconstructed projects, and continues to discourage homeowners and landowners in the project area from maintaining, much less improving, their property."

Based on these views, the legislative criteria of Section 12, and implementing guidelines of the Chief of Engineers, I find that the flood control project for Phillippi Creek is eligible for deauthorization action. This determination, in general, is related to one or more of the following criteria:

a. The project is not economically justified, and it is apparent that a restudy would not develop an economically justified plan.

SAJWY

30 July 1974

Mr. John M. Saba, Jr.

b. The project, as authorized, is not adequate to meet current or prospective needs, and to obtain an adequate improvement would require such substantial modifications and involve such increased costs that the Corps could not proceed without new authorization from Congress.

✓ c. The project is generally opposed by local interests, or there is little or no prospect that the required local cooperation will be forthcoming.

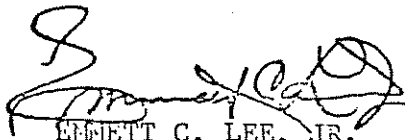
d. The project, or part thereof, is no longer required because it has been accomplished by local interests or another agency, has been superseded by another project, or for any other reason.

Prior to submitting my recommendations to the Chief of Engineers, your views with regard to the appropriateness of deauthorization action on the Phillippi Creek project are desired. For your information, the final decision of the deauthorization recommendations of the Chief of Engineers rests with the Congress. Under that prerogative, any project submitted on the Chief of Engineers' recommended list may be removed by a resolution adopted by either of the Committees on Public Works within a 180-day congressional review period.

Your comments are requested as soon as possible in order that they may be included in my recommendations to be submitted to the Chief of Engineers in August of this year.

The inclosed material provides some information about the project. The map shows the basic plan authorized by Congress in 1965. There is a tabulation of cost information, followed by the specific requirements of local cooperation. You may note that local costs were estimated to total \$5,318,000 as of July 1973. Finally, there is a copy of Statement of Assurance from Sarasota County, dated 23 December 1969. Our records reflect no local interest in project implementation since your County Administrator, Mr. John J. Gray, visited this office in December 1969.

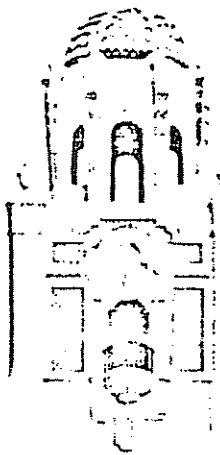
Sincerely yours,



EMMETT C. LEE, JR.
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

3 Incl

1. Project Map 71
2. Tabulation, local requirements
3. Statement



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ANDREW SANDEGREN • DISTRICT 1
BEVERLY CLAY • DISTRICT 2
WILLIAM A. MUIRHEAD • DISTRICT 3
JOHN M. SARA, JR. • DISTRICT 4
LARRY RHODES • DISTRICT 5
EDWARD S. HOYT • COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
RICHARD E. NELSON • COUNTY ATTORNEY
RAYMOND H. HACKNEY, JR. • CLERK OF COURT

COUNTY OF SARASOTA
SARASOTA, FLORIDA

November 19, 1974


Colonel Emmett C. Lee, Jr.
Jacksonville District, Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32201

Dear Colonel Lee:

At its meeting on Tuesday, November 12th, the Board of County Commissioners approved the de-authorization of the Phillippi Creek Project.

We have no funding capability at the present time for the local share of funds; however, we would like to reserve the ability to reactivate this project when the County is in a position to provide the local matching share of funds in the future.

Yours very truly,

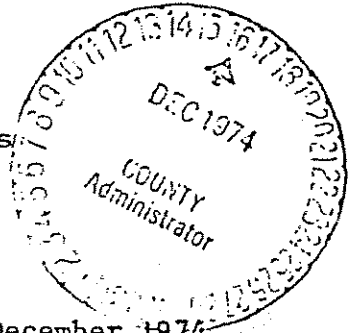

Edward S. Hoyt
County Administrator

ESH/jmr

cc: Engineering
WNCA



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 4970
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32201



SAJWY

11 December 1974

Mr. Edward S. Hoyt
County Administrator
P. O. Box 8
Sarasota, Florida 33778

Dear Mr. Hoyt:

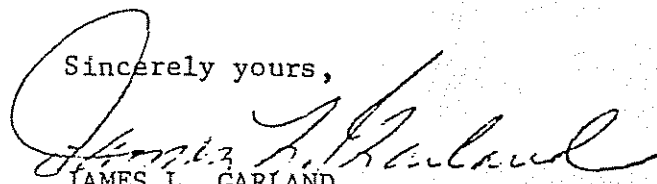
This is in response to your 19 November 1974 letter to Colonel Lee about deauthorization of the Phillippi Creek Project. It is noted that, while your Board of County Commissioners has approved deauthorization of the project, it wishes to reserve the ability to reactivate the project when the County is in a position to provide the local share of project costs.

As explained by Mr. Brannen in telephone conversation with you on 4 December, if Congress should deauthorize the project, it would cease to exist and would be expunged from the list of authorized Federal projects. Therefore, a survey-review would be required if and when Sarasota County determined that it was in position to support the project fully.

Survey-reviews may be undertaken by the Corps of Engineers upon adoption of a resolution by the Public Works Committee of either the Senate or the House of Representatives, and appropriation of necessary study funds. Completion of a survey-review normally takes several years after initial funding. Authorization of a survey-review can normally be readily obtained. However, a normal period from beginning of a survey-review to initiation of construction, assuming everything falls into place, is approximately 6 to 7 years.

The State of Florida has been invited to comment on the proposed deauthorization by mid-January. Any advice the County may wish to provide the State should be addressed to the Department of Natural Resources in Tallahassee.

Sincerely yours,


JAMES L. GARLAND
Chief, Engineering Division

No action
12/12/74

Mullet fishing in area canals causes anger

□ CLAIRE UNGER

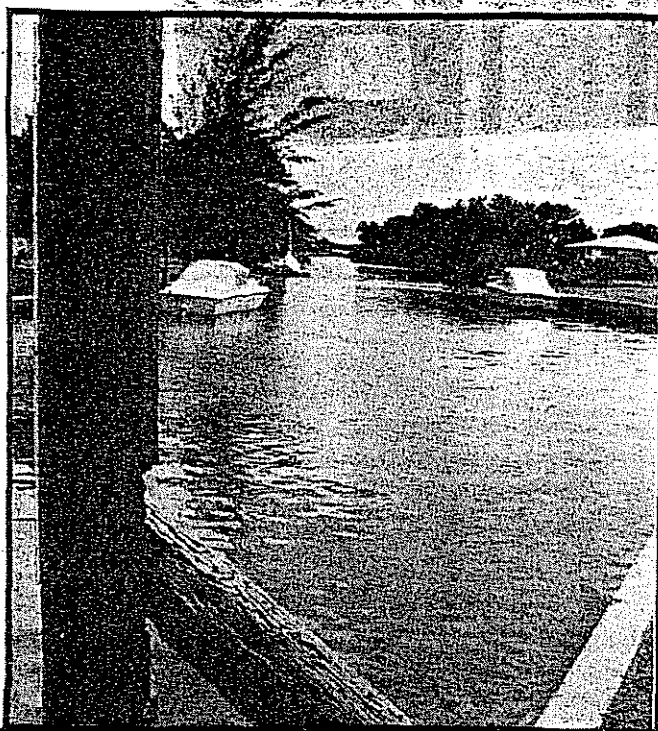
"It may be legal, but that doesn't make it right," is the sentiment of homeowners on canals and waterways in the area. The subject is commercial mullet fishing, and Mike Gonia, speaking for his neighbors in Siesta Isles, says the bottom line is there shouldn't be commercial fishing in residential areas. "This is my backyard. I feel violated," says Gonia.

"The fishermen come up the canals and make a big circle with their nets. When you want to get your boat out they are real hostile because they have to move their nets," said a canal resident. Residents say they are extra protective because they spotted a manatee in the canal within the last several weeks. They also admit to shouting questions at the fishermen regarding the fact that nothing is ever thrown back. Most residents acknowledge that they are indignant that the mullet, snook and redfish are trapped in the canals and are "easy pickings" during the weekly harvests.

Residents along the Phillippi Creek canals report the fishermen often work between 10:30 p.m. and 3 a.m. The lights on the boats, diesel engines and shouts echo around and get the dogs barking. "It's very disruptive," said Janus England, a canal resident.

The current law states that canals are state property and although local residents might have "first rights," as long as the commercial fishermen anchor their nets and stay with them...they are within the law.

Gonia feels those laws need to be reviewed and changed. "We need to band together and let our politicians know the damage which is being



Canal-front property owners are concerned about commercial fishermen who move into the canals in search of mullet during colder weather.

done," he said.

Scott Jerrems, a local conservationist, puts it more strongly: "It's an unmitigated rape of our fisheries. Numbers of fish along our coasts are 10 percent of what they were several decades ago." He points out this affects the whole fish chain for all the fish which swim in our bays and coastlines in Florida. "We're destroying fishing for our future generations so that a few fast buck operators can turn a profit," he said.

Jerrems notes that prior to 1962, mullet fishing was closed to fishermen during the spawning season from October to January. Now, he charged, the ban is no longer in effect and he questions the morality of netting the mullet and cutting out the roe (eggs) for sale in the highly profitable markets of the Orient. What remains of the fish is either thrown away or if the fisherman gets lucky is sold for 2 cents per pound.

Both men say they hope to someday see a protective agency to oversee marine conservation. The current marine fisheries advisory commission which reports to the governor and cabinet is just that — advisory — they note with regret.

Health could take back seat in cleanup

A proposal on which septic tanks near Phillippi Creek to remove first is based largely on economic, not environmental, issues.

By Rod Thomson
STAFF WRITER

A funny thing is happening on the way to cleaning up Phillippi Creek — worries over health concerns and pollution are taking a back seat to dollar signs.

Sarasota County officials have developed a proposal — with a price tag of \$72 million — to remove septic tanks along the creek. They have proceeded under the banner of health and environmental worries.

But the proposal bases the decision of which septic tanks to remove first largely on economic issues — such as which homes are cheapest to hook up to the county's sewer system, and how much money the county will receive in revenue once those homes are customers of the system.

Some homes with septic tanks more than a half-mile from Phillippi Creek are

slated to be removed first while other tanks right next to the creek aren't even included in the county's plans.

County officials argue that the approach simply makes economic sense. But some residents of the area think that if the county is really worried about solving the pollution problem, it would take out the tanks closest to the creek first.

"The health thing should be totally investigated, and the health concern is the only thing that should drive this project," said B.C. Hathaway, a resident of a South Gate neighborhood near the creek.

In developing the plan for which septic tanks should be removed immediately, the

county officials and their consultant took the 30,000 homes in the urban area with septic tanks and divided them into 226 areas.

They then gave each area a score based on a number of factors, including: How close the area is to existing sewer systems; how cheap it will be to hook the area up to an existing system; how much revenue the newly hooked-up customers will

PLEASE SEE SEWER ON 11A

Formula determines removal priority. 11A

Money could override health in cleanup plan

SEWER FROM 1A

generate, and various environmental factors.

The way the criteria are evaluated, it's clear that revenue and financial issues got more weight in the system.

■ In 18 of the 31 project areas where the county would proceed first, financial ratings either outweighed environmental ratings or were just as important.

■ In addition, the county's proposal expanded beyond the 31 top priority areas to include another 10 lower priority areas because they were either surrounded by, or next to, top priority areas.

The argument

Sarasota County Utilities Director Larry Turner said the approach makes economic sense. The inclusion of the financial criteria is intended to help make the project affordable by first doing less expensive areas and those that could generate the most income to the county once the sewers are hooked up.

Turner said it was not the "intent of the system" for financial issues to dominate the selection of which septic tanks to replace first.

The consultants and the county were trying to give equal weight to all of the categories, Turner said. But he added: "If an environmentalist did the criteria, he might have weighted them differently."

Indeed.

Glenn Compton, of the environ-

mental organization ManaSota-88, said the county's approach has taken him aback.

"They're not considering the health and environmental aspects first. They're looking at finances," Compton said. "I'm not sure they've focused in on what should be done first."

The county's emphasis on money also rankles Hathaway and some like him in his South Gate neighborhood of modest homes.

They live several blocks from the creek, but their neighborhood is slated to be hooked up before neighborhoods that are closer to the creek — and which presumably cause more pollution.

Hathaway could end up paying at least \$37.50 a month for 20 years to finance a \$5,000 hookup charge, plus another average of \$31.79 in monthly sewer fees once he's hooked up, for a total of \$69.29 that he is not paying now.

"Nobody's rich here," said Hathaway, 51, who works part-time as a singer and is trying to start a small marketing business.

Commissioner Bob Anderson is not comfortable with how the top priority areas were determined. But he points out that the County Commission has not adopted the plan yet.

"Just because a consultant said it doesn't mean it's right," he said. "The whole program for removing septic tanks was based on a formula drafted by staff that was supposed to put a heavy emphasis on environmental problems," he said.

State says sewer plan is on course

Septic tanks big hurdle for county

By Rod Thomson
STAFF WRITER

Sarasota County faces little choice but to consolidate the private sewer utilities sprinkled around the county and to remove at least some septic tanks from the urban area along Phillippi Creek.

Five years ago, Gov. Lawton Chiles and the Cabinet ordered the county to create a central sewer system and to make it a priority to remove failing septic tanks. The order was to have been carried out by 1994 and included installing sewer systems in areas where septic tanks regularly fail.

"We may not have made the deadline, but it does not mean we are not in compliance," said Sarasota County Administrator John Wesley White. "We're in compliance in that we are diligently pursuing the problem."

That is how the state sees it, too.

"As long as they progress in the right direction, we won't have a particular objection," said Tom Beck, who is in charge of reviewing comprehensive plans for the state Department of Community Affairs.

He said that the county has been making good progress in creating its central sewer system.

County officials contend that the purchases of 18 of the largest private utilities — and their consolidation into a central sewer system — demonstrate the effort to meet



White

Tests show creek is very polluted

By Rod Thomson
STAFF WRITER

Evidence of pollution in Phillippi Creek continues to pile up.

Joan Rose, a microbiologist with the University of South Florida, said that her first two sets of tests have shown a surprisingly high degree of pollution dangerous to human health.

"We've found a lot more pathogens than I thought we would," she said from her Tampa office Friday. Pathogens are microorganisms that cause diseases.

Rose said she found pathogens in six of the 22 samples taken from 11 sites in May and June. Since this summer, the Sarasota County Public Health Unit has posted the creek off-limits to swimming because of the health hazards.

But nature hasn't cooperated with the testing: The rainy season never arrived this year.

"An original objective was to have a dry season and rainy season testing," Rose said. "We didn't get that."

In the rainy season, the water table rises and some of the septic tanks in the low-lying areas along the creek sit directly in the table. That would mean contaminated water flowing from the septic tanks goes straight into the ground water without being filtered by the soil, resulting in more pollutants in the nearby creek.

Also, a heavy storm after a dry period tends to flush a lot of surface pollutants, including nitrogen from fertilizer, into the creek.

However, with the rainy season also comes a higher water level in the creek that, over time, would dilute the concentration of

PLEASE SEE SEWER ON 5B

PLEASE SEE TESTS ON 5B

A

County's sewer plan moving at steady pace

SEWER FROM 1B

the state order.

So far, Sarasota County has spent \$74.4 million to buy those utilities and is planning to buy 12 more. Negotiations are under way for several of those purchases. When done, the county will have the core infrastructure for a central sewer system in the urban area.

Compliance on the septic tanks is not so clear.

The county is aware of several areas, from Englewood to Sarasota, where there are failing septic tanks. It has not installed central sewer in those areas. But Rick Drummond, chief of long-range planning for the county, said, "We don't think the county is in jeopardy of being found to be out of compliance with the final order."

The state order came as a result of an environmentalist's challenge to the county's comprehensive plan in 1990. A state hearing officer dismissed most of the challenges. The officer was troubled, though, that the county did not seem to be adequately pursuing a solution to septic tanks in the flood plain.

"We didn't have policies to deal with continued proliferation of septic tanks," Drummond said.

In 1991, the county submitted a plan to stop the proliferation of septic tanks in developed areas. Chiles and the Cabinet approved it. Within the agreement was a requirement that the county begin implementing its wastewater resource management program by 1994 and finish it by 2020. That program included the following stipulation:

"Priority shall be given to providing centralized service to areas experiencing septic tank failure and areas where water quality has been adversely affected by current dis-

Interested?

The Sarasota County Commission will discuss the county's central sewer system policy during its regular meeting at 9 a.m. today on the second floor of the South County Administration Center, 4000 South Tamiami Trail, Venice.

posal methods."

Two engineering studies were subsequently conducted. The second study by Post, Buckley, Schuh and Jernigan of Sarasota prioritized areas where septic tanks should be removed first, and determined that about 8,500 tanks — 6,000 of them along Phillippi Creek — could be removed for about \$72 million.

A citizens' group recommended that plan to the county commission in 1995, suggesting that each household in the septic tank program pay \$5,000 of the \$8,500 cost per tank.

A small groundswell opposing the plan grew out of the Southgate community, which would bear the brunt of the program's cost. Some residents said the county had not sufficiently proved the degree of pollution or the source.

In response, the commissioners pulled the plug earlier this year on the public education campaign and opted for more conclusive testing.

That is under way now.

The state's Beck said that such issues are complicated and the state does not worry too much about the timetable slipping — if the county seems to be diligently pursuing solutions.

"In general, we think Sarasota County is doing one of the very best jobs in the state of implementing their comprehensive plan."

Tests show creek highly polluted

TESTS FROM 1B

pollutants.

Those changing variables led county officials, residents and Rose to want to get samples from both periods. However, Rose said that the consensus was to go ahead with the rest of the tests despite the lack of rain.

Rose is compiling the results of the two most recent tests — done within the past two months — and cross-referencing them with the location of septic tanks, waste-water treatment plants, pump stations and

any other potential contributors of bacteria.

She said the preliminary results, with some general conclusions as to the source of the pollution, will be given to the Sarasota County Public Health Unit in two to three weeks.

The results will be used by the county commissioners in making their decision on whether to remove septic tanks along the creek and put homeowners on a central sewer system.

The report will also address the feasibility of doing a study to trace the specific origin of the pollution.

Board set to tackle dredging

CREEKS FROM 1B

county Transportation Director John Goodknight suggested two possible alternatives:

- A special assessment on waterfront property, which would tax the people who benefit the most from dredging;

- Increasing stormwater assessments, which would cover everyone in the Phillippi Creek drainage basin who benefits from rainwater runoff traveling from the creek to the bay.

O'Neil, who represents Sarasota County on the West Coast Inland Navigation District, said he thinks that agency, which has hundreds of thousands of dollars available for such projects, could pay for a big chunk of the dredging.

The district collects a small property tax, less than 2 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, and uses the money for waterway projects in Sarasota, Charlotte and Manatee

counties. The district's primary focus is maintaining the Intracoastal Waterway for boaters, but it also can dredge the lower, navigable portions of creeks.

O'Neil sees a combination of taxes and private money paying for the projects. The agency paid one-third of the cost for the recent dredging of Clower Creek by Sarasota Square Mall. Stormwater assessments paid for a third and private assessments paid for a third.

Schulte said she thinks it would be fair to pay for Phillippi Creek dredging with general taxes, because the creek takes stormwater from such a large area.

"I feel like everybody's runoff comes down Phillippi Creek," she said.

But however it is paid for, she said she is ready to see the creek finally opened and flowing freely.

"There needs to be some sort of dredging here," she said.

11/19/98

Commission to discuss cleaning out creeks

The commissioners will focus on the flood-prone areas near Phillippi, Shakett, Hatchett and Curry creeks.

By Rod Thomson
STAFF WRITER

When Marcia Schulte looks out her back window, she often sees birds walking on water.

It's nothing divine, just an illusion caused by a creek so full of sand that it sometimes barely moves.

"At times, there's even dry land," she said.

Schulte lives on the lower end of Phillippi Creek on Tanglewood Drive, where the effects of years of stormwater runoff from upland development are obvious.

At low tide in the dry season, sandbars appear in the middle of the creek — the primary stream for carrying water from the north part of

the county to Sarasota Bay. During normal weather periods, boats can run aground in shallow water. During storms, the creek overflows its banks and floods nearby homes. In November, several homes along the creek were damaged.

Phillippi Creek is not alone. Shakett, Hatchett and Curry creeks in the Venice area have the same problems.

After years of talking about dredging creeks, county officials may be ready to do something. The County Commission plans to discuss a dredging plan at today's regular meeting.

"I really believe that if we clean the heart of the creek out, that water

Interested?

The Sarasota County Commission will discuss dredging creeks during its regular meeting at 9 a.m. today on the first floor of the Sarasota County Administration Center, 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota.

will move from upper to lower faster and not go as wide," said Commissioner Jack O'Neil, who has been urging some action for more than a year. "It is when it goes real wide that it floods houses."

There are no estimates, but a county memo states that dredging the creeks will cost millions of dollars.

So the biggest questions will be: Who pays for it and how?

In a report to the commissioners,

PLEASE SEE CREEKS ON 3B

County plans flood berm

HOMES FROM 1A

ration include drainage improvements in the Manasota, Gulf View Estates and Bay Street areas.

The projects will be paid for with money already budgeted for later work and by storm-water assessments. There also could be some Federal Emergency Management Agency money to help.

"There's a problem and people are suffering," said Chairman David Mills, reflecting the commission's desire to get moving.

Past efforts at dredging have been bogged down by environmental concerns. The commissioners hope to get past that obstacle quickly this time.

"Every time we get serious, we hear about oyster beds and worms in the soil . . . and reasons why we can't do what we need to do," he said. "Let's call it, 'people first.'"

The area targeted for the home buyout and berm project is in the Bellevue Terrace and Oak Shores subdivisions north of Bahia Vista and immediately east and west of Lockwood Ridge Road. Nearly 100 homes were flooded in the November storm and many again in last

week's storm.

The problem is that when Phillippi Creek overflows its banks from heavy rains, the water backs up from the creek into those neighborhoods.

"The real driving force is to flood-proof this whole neighborhood," Goodknight said of the berm plan.

The project would be funded through an increase in the Phillippi Creek storm-water assessment of \$12 to \$15 annually.

The county sent a survey to the 31 homeowners, and 20 responded that they want to sell. Five said they did not and six did not return the survey.

The berm would run from the northeast corner of Bahia Vista and Lockwood Ridge, along the north side of the creek to Locklear Avenue.

Because some of the project is within the city, the Sarasota City Commission also will need to approve it.

The commissioners also directed their transportation staff to look into helping homeowners buy flood-proofing for their homes. This is a federal program requiring that the local government match some of the money.

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

METRO
EDITION

Sarasota Herald-Tribune

WEATHER
Partly cloudy

SEE 8B

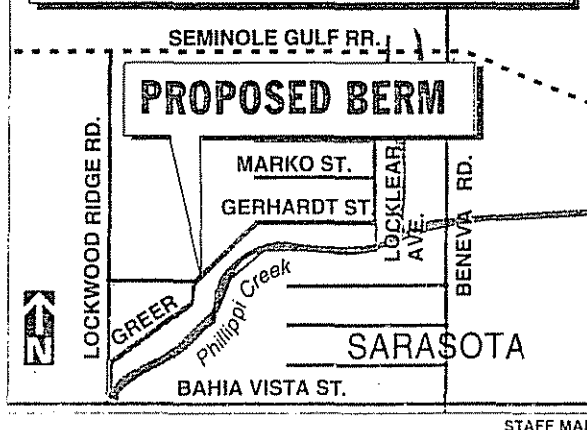
73rd YEAR NO. 173 ★

The Region's Complete Daily Newspaper

50 CENTS

FLOOD RELIEF

Sarasota County is planning to purchase and demolish 31 homes along Phillippi Creek. The area is prone to flooding and the land will be used to build a berm to protect the surrounding area from high water.



STAFF MAP

Berm planned to control flooding

To make room for the berm, the county will buy some homes and demolish them.

By Rod Thomson
STAFF WRITER

Relief is on the way for people living in soggy homes along Phillippi Creek. For some, it will mean moving elsewhere.

Sarasota County plans to buy some homes and demolish them to make room for the construction of a mound to protect the remaining homes from flood waters.

The County Commission voted unanimously Tuesday to pursue the \$6.2 million berm plan. It calls for buying and probably demolishing 31 homes in an attempt to protect another 66 homes from future flooding.

The project could take up to three years. Feeling a sense of urgency, the commissioners declared a state of emergency to speed up several flood-control projects, such as dredging silt from under some bridges, clearing vegetation and eventually conducting a major dredging of the creek.

Dredging would be aimed at some bridges over Phillippi Creek, such as Tuttle Avenue, Beneva Road, Bahia Vista and the railroad, said John Goodknight, county director of transportation.

"There is a considerable buildup of silt that needs to be removed immediately," Goodknight told commissioners. He said after the meeting that he hoped to begin some of the work within the next week.

Other projects under the emergency decla-

PLEASE SEE HOMES ON 10A



Residents of Lockwood Ridge Road north of Bahia Vista turn to boats for transportation when heavy rain causes Phillippi Creek to overflow.

FILE PHOTO

STOPPING FLOODS

Berm may solve problem

Surveys show most residents near the north side of Phillippi Creek are willing to sell their homes to the county.

By Rod Thomson
STAFF WRITER

When floodwaters poured into his home in 1992, all Herrmann Bozer could do was sit on his living room floor — water rising all around him — and cry. "I watched everything being de-

stroyed," he said of the Greer Street home he and his mother have shared since he was 5 years old. "There is nothing you can do. Absolutely nothing."

When 15 inches of water from Phillippi Creek invaded the house again in November, ruining all the new carpet and flooring, his tears turned to anger. But he diligently replaced 1,800 square feet of carpet — again — and continued the uphill battle to clean the septic stench out of his house.

Then more storms came in this unusually wet winter and the creek kept rising. Like many of his neighbors, Bozer began renting U-Hauls during storms. Six times he parked a 26-foot U-

Haul truck in his driveway. Three times he moved everything into the truck, ready to drive to higher ground if necessary.

"We would load it up and just wait and watch," he said.

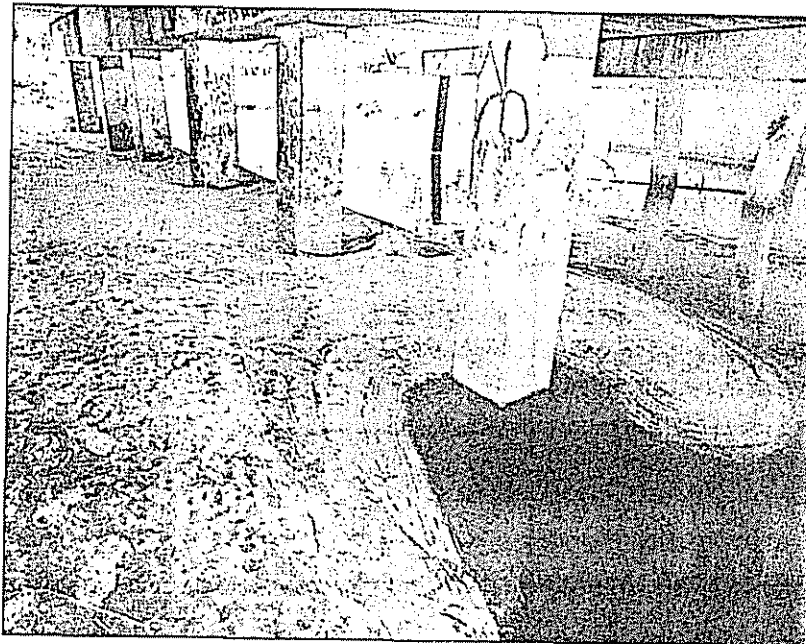
It brought him to the point of surrender.

Though he and his mother have mixed emotions, he is ready to sell his house to the county. The county wants

PLEASE SEE FLOODING ON 10A

Progress continues in war on flooding. 10A

A sandbar has formed below the Phillippi Creek Bridge on Bahia Vista Street, filling in more than a third of the width of the creekbed. When Phillippi Creek overflows its banks, the water backs up from the creek into the Bellevue Terrace and Oak Shores neighborhoods.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE LANG

TRANSFORMATION - WATERWAYS - CREEKS -

STOPPING FLOODS

S.H.T. 4-13-1998

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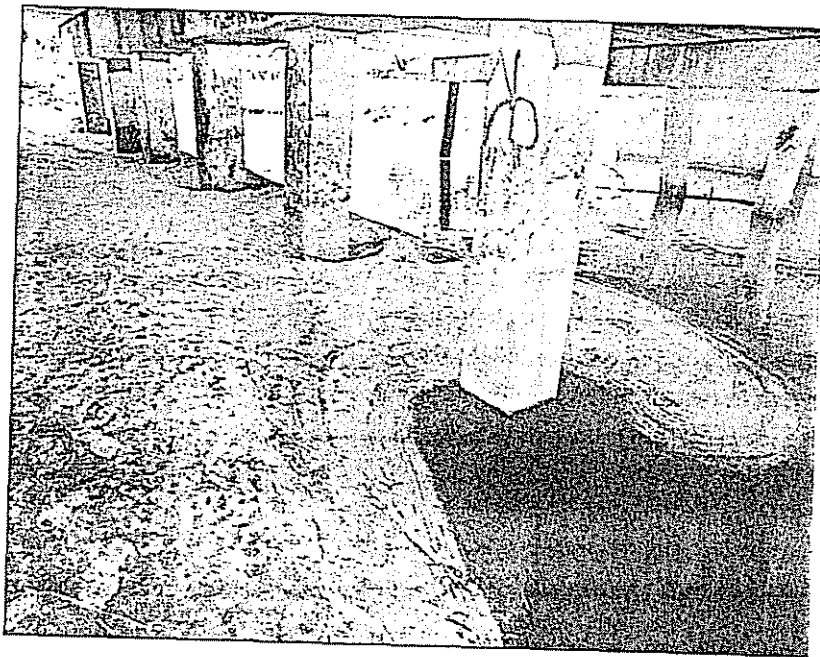
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STAFF PHOTO/MIKE LANG

Berm could ease flooding from Phillippi Cree

FLOODING FROM 1A

to buy it and 30 others in the neighborhood, demolish them, and build a berm along the north side of the creek, just upstream from the Bahia Vista Street bridge.

"In one sense I want to get out of it," said his mother, Edna Bozer, who bought the house in 1969. "In another sense I hate to leave my home."

The berm

When Phillippi Creek overflows its banks, the water backs up from the creek into the Bellevue Terrace and Oak Shores neighborhoods, which are north and northeast of Bahia Vista and Lockwood Ridge Road.

It always has backed up in heavy rains — even before there was significant development north and east of the area — because the area is low-lying.

Aerial photos taken in 1962 and 1997, show the neighborhoods under water from a flooded Phillippi Creek — the only difference being the young trees in the earlier photos have grown into a mature canopy.

"The whole neighborhood is storage," said Alan Carson, an engineer in the county's storm water department.

Nearly 100 homes were flooded in the November storm and many again in March.

County Commissioners voted unanimously March 24 to pursue the \$6.2 million berm plan. It calls for buying and probably demolishing

31 homes in an attempt to protect the other 66 homes in the area from future flooding.

The project, which would take about three years, would be funded through an increase in the Phillippi Creek storm-water assessment of \$12 to \$15 annually.

Most homeowners in the buyout area along the creek are like the Bozers; they are more than ready to sell. The county sent a survey to the 31 homeowners, and 20 responded that they want to sell. Six did not return the survey. Five said they did not want to sell. County planners say they will consider building the berm around those houses, but if that will not work, the homeowners will be forced to sell.

The berm would run from the northeast corner of Bahia Vista and Lockwood Ridge, along the north side of the creek to Locklear Avenue.

The Sarasota City Commission needs to approve the berm, because part of the project is within the city limits.

Berm fallout

If the berm works, it will push more water, faster, downstream.

That has some people worried.

Fanny Lengacher has lived in her modest home on the south side of Phillippi Creek for 42 years. She lived through the 1962 flooding, and she is directly across from where the proposed berm would be built.

"All they need to do is dredge it out," she said, pointing to the creek in her back yard. At that point, the creek is little more than a deep ditch.

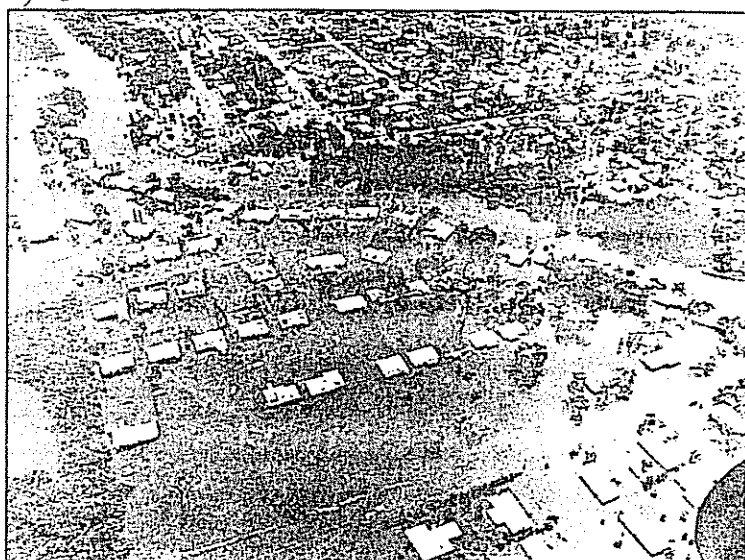
Her neighbor, Ron Shaw, nodded. "It's all full of sand."

County engineers are aware of the silting problem in the creek, particularly at the bridges. And a plan to dredge it is integral to building the berm.

"The dredging would offset downstream what we're doing upstream," said Tim Lawrence, a storm-water engineer for the county.

The county commissioners declared a state of emergency in March to speed up several flood-control projects, such as dredging silt from under some bridges, clearing vegetation and conducting a major dredging of the creek.

The county also may build some storm-water storage pounds south of the berm area to capture water when the creek is flooding.



This aerial view shows the flooding from Phillippi Creek north of Bahia Vista Street in 1962.

The county would target 101 dredging the bridges over Phillippi Creek, such as Tuttle Avenue, Beneva Road, Bahia Vista and the railroad, said John Goodknight, county director of transportation.

The whole creek needs dredging to various degrees, including the oyster beds near the mouth of the creek at Little Sarasota Bay. The oyster beds and other environmental worries have bogged down past efforts to dredge the creek.

And they could again.

"The environmentalists are only going to 'get in the way' if the environmental systems are going to suffer as a result of human activity," said Jon Thaxton, conservation chairman of Sarasota Audubon Society.

He said that typically happens with large-scale dredging because it stirs up contaminants in the soil and pollutes the water.

Whether Audubon or other environmental associations oppose the project depends on the size, scope, and effects of the dredging.

Piecing it together

The berm is a critical element for protecting vulnerable homes in those neighborhoods. But it is only part of a complicated puzzle of projects designed to alleviate flooding in the Phillippi Creek — projects eventually expected to cost \$33 million.

The largest single project is the creation of a storm-water storage facility in the former celery fields off Fruitville Road, just east of Inter-

state 75. The \$28 million project eventually will hold 325 million gallons of water — water that will not be flowing downstream and into Colonial Gables and Colonial Oaks. Those subdivisions were flooded in the 1992 storm.

Since that flood, the county has bought the celery fields and been able to divert rain runoff into it. There has been almost no house flooding in those neighborhoods.

But recent record rains have delayed completion of that project, in part because the county had to divert storm-water there. The excavation work is about half done.

"It's been a horrendous situation rain-wise. The project should have been done, but it's just not," Lawrence said.

STAFF GRAPHIC/SCOTT WALKER

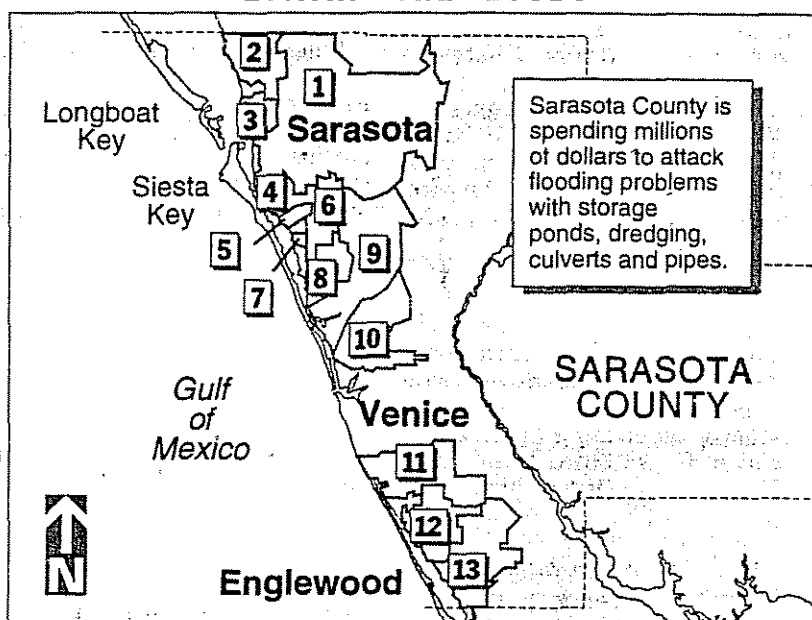
Elsewhere in the Phillippi Creek basin, more than \$5 million in anti-flood improvements have been made, including clearing and widening the Main A canal that feeds into the creek and making smaller improvements in Lake Sarasota, Forest Lakes, along Gocio Road, Redbird Circle and Roselawn Street.

The ultimate goal of all this work — from the berm to dredging to the celery fields — is to get rainwater to drain out to the bay without flooding homes along the way.

Those who have been devastated by such flooding see a solution as the equivalent of preventing a crime.

"(Flooding) is about the same as having a home invasion," Bozer said.

BEATING THE FLOODS



1. Phillippi Creek Basin

Finished work: \$5.2 million for canal widening, culverts and other projects.
What's left*: \$27.8 million.
Completion date: 2002

2. Whitaker Bayou Basin

Finished work: \$188,000
What's left: \$1.8 million
Completion date: 2002**

3. Hudson Bayou Basin

Finished work: \$0
What's left: \$4.5 to \$6 million
Completion date: 2003

4. Matheny Creek Basin

Finished work: \$0
What's left: \$3.2 million
Completion date: 2003

5. Catfish Creek Basin

Finished work: \$0
What's left: \$3.1 million
Completion date: 2003

6. Elligraw Bayou Basin

Finished work: \$1.4 million
What's left: \$0
Completion date: Completed in 1997

7. Clower Creek Basin

Finished work: \$699,000
What's left: \$0
Completion date: Completed in 1997

8. North Creek Basin

Finished work: \$0
What's left: \$307,000
Completion date: 2000**

9. South Creek Basin

Finished work: \$0
What's left: \$2.2 million
Completion date: Not Determined**

10. Fox (Shakett) Creek Basin

Finished work: \$0
What's left: \$290,000
Completion date: 2001

11. Alligator Creek Basin

Finished work: \$0
What's left: \$4 million
Completion date: 2001

12. Forked Creek Basin

Finished work: \$106,000
What's left: \$3.5 million
Completion date: 2002

13. Gottfried Creek Basin

Finished work: \$0
What's left: \$3.5 million
Completion date: 2002

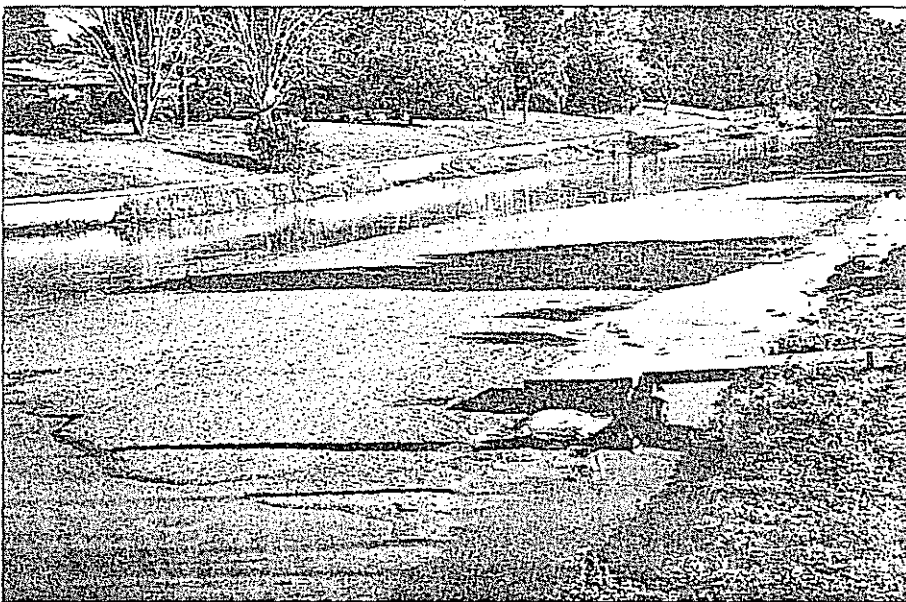
*Includes projects under construction, in design, or planned for the future.

**Changes could yet be made in North Creek, South Creek and Whitaker Bayou, because the basin master plans are not completed.

Note: Changes may still be made in projects.

Source: Sarasota County Stormwater Utility

PHILLIPPI CREEK 117



PHOTO/LAURIE THOMPSON

Silt fills a portion of Phillippi Creek in Sarasota, as seen from the Webber Street bridge looking north.

No room left in creek for water

As waterfront residents on Phillippi Creek, we have more than a passing interest in the future dredging plans for the creek flowing through Sarasota County.

The many sandbars in the creek have evolved slowly during the past two years. Heavy rains flood areas that drain into the creek, causing water rushing toward Sarasota Bay to rise over the retaining walls in a few hours. The time it takes for the floodwater to overflow the banks and walls becomes shorter with every storm and, it appears, with every new housing development in the drainage basin. It seems that there are more canals and drains dumping water into Phillippi

Creek than the sand-filled bed can accommodate.

In addition to the sandbars, a multitude of items, ranging from beer cans to beach chairs and building materials, wash downstream during floods and then settle wherever they land as the water recedes. This debris then catches and retains other debris, which begins the formation of another sandbar.

It's clear to those of us who love living on the creek it is slowly being destroyed by actions that we cannot control. The talk goes nowhere. Just dredge it!

Laurie Thompson
Sarasota

PHILLIPPI CREEK - WEBBER STREET BRIDGE - SARA

Opposition to Phillippi levee grows

CREEK FROM 1A

not well-organized, but they do have red and white bumper stickers reading, "Dredge the Creek."

They have the attention of county leaders.

"I was really shocked when I found out the numbers of people resisting the county's project," said Sarasota County Commission Chairman David Mills. "We've had so much community support for the project up until now. This is going to change the whole tenor of the debate."

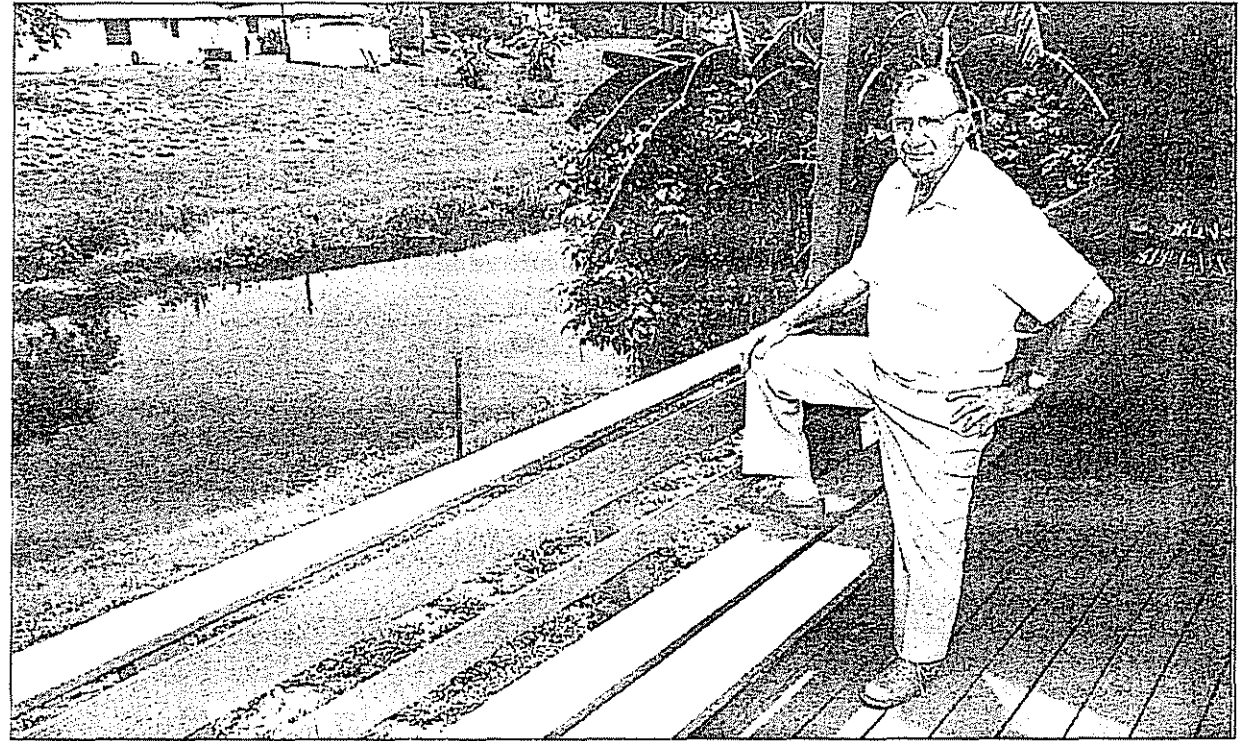
Much of the debate is over.

The commissioners voted unanimously March 24 to pursue the levee plan. It calls for buying and demolishing 31 homes along the north side of the creek, near Bahia Vista Street and Lockwood Ridge Road, to protect the other 66 homes north of the creek from flooding.

The plan also calls for dredging the creek. On Tuesday, the commissioners will discuss a \$127,000 contract for designing and obtaining the permits for spot dredging in several places where sediment restricts the flow of the creek.

The \$6.8 million cost of the levee project is about \$600,000 more than first estimated for the project. The price increased as the plans for the project were refined.

The county is in the process of appraising the properties and plans to start buying them as soon as October, when the county's fiscal year starts and the money in the capital budget becomes available. The approval for the \$604 million county budget is in September.



STAFF PHOTO/ROD MILLINGTON

Jim Strickland is one of several other homeowners who oppose a Sarasota County plan to build a levee along flood-prone Phillippi Creek. Strickland, 75, has spent \$20,000 upgrading his home.

Sandra Newell, county storm-water manager, said the project is moving rapidly. But the details are not set. She said it is still possible to run the levee around a few of the houses, depending on how close the houses are to the creek and other engineering requirements.

"Maybe there would be a way to save them, if people are willing to have their houses flood," Newell said.

And the majority of homeowners in the area do want to sell. Several

made emotional appeals to the county for this project, because they are tired of flooding and fear they will never be able to sell their homes.

Newell argued that there is a benefit to the entire public, not just the immediate homes affected.

That is because the more the county does to remove or protect homes that are in flood plains, the better insurance premiums everyone in the county gets. She could not say what specific effect this project would have on those rates, but

her department was looking into it.

Strickland understands that there is a bigger picture than just his home. He is pretty much resigned to his fate.

"I guess I'll just have to take what comes," he said.

Rod Thomson covers the Sarasota County Commission. He can be reached by phone at 957-5199, fax at 957-5276, or e-mail at ocsmail@vinnu.com

7/13/98

Foes struggle to breach levee plan

By Rod Thomson
STAFF WRITER

Jim Strickland wheezes as he stands on his backyard deck and looks over a slow-moving Phillippi Creek.

His despair is visible.

The cost of refurbishing the deck was part of \$20,000 he has spent on his home in the past eight years, including a new kitchen and a new septic tank drain field.

He was preparing his home, and himself, for retirement. Suffering from severe asthma, Strickland, 75, knew he could not keep driving a bus for the

Sarasota County government wants to build a berm along Phillippi Creek to protect nearly 100 homes from floods.

school system.

Now, his retirement plans could disappear beneath the tracks of a bulldozer.

"It's like we just threw it all away," he said of the money spent on his home. "It won't make any difference to them."

"Them" is Sarasota County govern-

ment, which wants to build a \$6.8 million levee along Phillippi Creek to protect nearly 100 homes that flooded in November.

Even as county planners plow ahead with designs to buy and bulldoze 31 homes along the creek, a small rebellion

builds.

Ironically, the rebellion comes from people the county is trying to protect from flooding. Part of that protection would be in the form of buying their homes and razing them to build a berm, a mound of dirt tall enough to contain the creek at its highest times.

But 13 of the homeowners signed statements opposing the berm part of the project and want the county to dredge the creek first to see if that eliminates flooding. Those who oppose the project are

PLEASE SEE CREEK ON 6A

Phillippi project Bushwhacked

Florida's governor says "no" to \$3 million in state funds for the septic-tank replacement.

By Greg Retsinas
STAFF WRITER

Sarasota County's effort to replace septic tanks in the Phillippi Creek drainage basin was dealt a major setback Thursday when Gov. Jeb Bush vetoed \$3 million in state funding for the project.

Bush cut the appropriation from the 1999-2000 state budget. It was part of more than \$300 million in projects around the state that were

targeted by the governor's veto pen, including several dozen other projects in Southwest Florida.

The veto doesn't kill the septic project, which has a budget of \$90 million and is intended to install central sewer lines for about 10,000 homes. But the veto could delay it and increase the cost to county taxpayers.

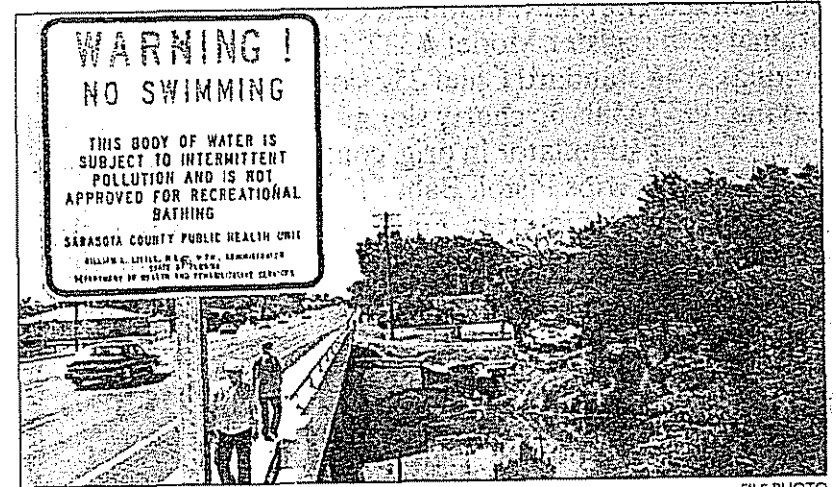
The county has set aside \$30 million from its 1 percent sales tax for the project, but it was counting on

the state money to match federal dollars. Without the state funding, the federal funds are uncertain.

And without the external aid, homeowners could have to pay more to hook up to central sewer lines. If the state and federal funding had materialized, the cost per connection would have dropped from

PLEASE SEE CREEK ON 10A

- A list of vetoed local projects. 10A
- Gov. Jeb Bush slashes \$313 million from the annual state budget. 10A



FILE PHOTO

Gov. Jeb Bush put a dent in septic-tank replacement for the Phillippi Creek basin by vetoing \$3 million in state funding for the project.

Bush vetoes \$3 million for Phillippi Creek project

CREEK FROM 1A

\$8,500 a home to around \$1,800. The program is still in the design stages.

"This will have a significant effect on the project. I'm shocked," said Sarasota County Commissioner David Mills.

Bush had pledged to attack "turkeys," or projects included in the \$49 billion state budget by individual lawmakers but not recommended by either the governor's office or state departments. But locally, Sarasota County officials had felt the Phillippi Creek project was safe for several reasons:

Bush had expressed support personally for the project in a conversation with Rep. Nancy Detert, R-Venice, this year; pollution in

Phillippi Creek may be harming the Gulf of Mexico and causing widespread damage; and decreasing the number of septic tanks in Florida is a Bush Administration priority.

Despite all that, the inclusion of the project on a list of "turkeys" released this week by Florida Tax-Watch probably doomed it.

Local lawmakers said they blamed the pro-business group more than Bush, criticizing it for lumping septic-tank replacement funds with very local programs such as festivals and sidewalk projects.

"There's absolutely no way I consider this project a turkey. I'm not that upset with the governor, but he's new and was influenced by that list. This just delays our project by at least a year," Detert said.

Bush said Thursday his intent

was to veto projects that did not have an overall state benefit.

Detert said she was very surprised by the veto, but didn't feel it was retaliation for her staunch opposition to Bush's school voucher program.

Also caught off guard was Sarasota County's full-time lobbyist, William Broughton, who spent the 60-day legislative session primarily pushing for three projects: Phillippi Creek, \$5 million for a new health department building and \$300,000 to expand the Elsie Quirk Library in Englewood. The latter two projects were not vetoed.

"We did everything we could. I talked to everyone on the governor's staff but the governor," Broughton said.

As lawmakers and county officials talked Thursday about the veto and

its impact, they took some solace in the fact Bush has set up a task force to study septic tanks. County officials are providing background research for the panel and are lobbying to have Sarasota County serve as a demonstration project.

"We'll be right there when they finish their work," said County Commission Chairwoman Shannon Staub.

Still, dozens of other Florida communities need funding to replace septic tanks. Several, including Sanibel in Lee County, also saw their state funding disappear Thursday. They'll probably be lining up for aid, too.

UNION

'turkey tag'

This time a federal budget watchdog group takes aim at the Phillippi Creek project.

By Greg Retsinas
STAFF WRITER

A Sarasota County spending project has once again been labeled as a budget "turkey."

This time, it is federal money for the Phillippi Creek septic tank-replacement project that is drawing the criticism.

In May, it was state money. Governor Bush vetoed funding for the creek project from next year's state budget after a pro-business advocacy group included the \$500,000 allocation on its annual list of turkeys, or projects that either did not serve a statewide need or were not supported by the affected state agencies.

Local officials were disappointed by Bush's veto and blasted Florida TaxWatch, the advocacy group. But their hopes picked up last week when the proposed federal budget covering the Department of Housing and Urban Development and other departments was announced and included \$1.5 million for the creek project.

In response to a state order to clean up Phillippi Creek, Sarasota County plans to spend about \$90 million to replace septic tanks that may be polluting the creek. The county will install central sewer lines in much of the creek's drainage basin, and the federal and state funds would be used to defray hook-up costs charged to individual homeowners.

Now it looks as if the Phillippi Creek project is just as offensive to federal budget watchdogs.

In a report released this week, a Washington "taxpayer watchdog" group listed \$491.4 million in "pork-bar-

PLEASE SEE CREEK ON 2B

the proposed budget bill. And among the 274 projects is Sarasota County's \$1.5 million grant, which had been inserted by U.S. Rep. Dan Miller, R-Bradenton.

"Clearly, these parochial projects do not serve the national interest," claimed the Citizens Against Government Waste, which bills itself as the largest taxpayer watchdog group in the country. The budget bill still must move through the full House and Senate and could get even bigger.

small enough that it will probably survive, congressional aides said, but the "turkey" label — again — still irks local leaders.

"I'm amazed — \$1.5 million is how small in the whole scheme of these budgets? You can only take so much," said Sarasota County Commission Chairwoman Shannon Staub.

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8-5-1999

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CITIZENS AGAINST
GOVERNMENT
WASTE

PHILLIPPI CREEK / SEPTIC TANKS / WASTE / CREEK

PHILLIPPI CREEK

Project receives another 'turkey tag'

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PLEASE SEE CREEK ON 2B

'Turkey' tag applied to creek funds

CREEK FROM 1B

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"Clearly, these parochial projects do not serve the national interest," claimed the Citizens Against Government Waste, which bills itself as the largest taxpayer watchdog group in the country. The budget bill still must move through the full House and Senate and could get even bigger.

The entire \$1.7 trillion federal budget is still a long way from reality, and the Sarasota appropriation is small enough that it will probably survive, congressional aides said, but the "turkey" label — again — still irks local leaders.

"I'm amazed — \$1.5 million is how small in the whole scheme of these budgets? You can only take so much," said Sarasota County Commission Chairwoman Shannon Staub.

SHT
8-5-1999

date?

County Studies Phillippi Creek

By IRV EDELSON
Journal Reporter

Engineer Donald Smally this morning recommended to the County Commission it proceed with the acquisition of right-of-way for the Phillippi Creek Basin — a \$7,854,800 drainage-flood control and recreation project.

During a lengthy session on the Phillippi Creek Basin, two persons suggested a bond issue to raise an estimated \$3,263,000 local share project be county-wide rather than for persons living in the district only.

County commissioners, enthusiastic about the project, questioned whether state recreation funds might not be obtained to help finance the project.

However, County Commissioner Masel Huston expressed his doubts because Sarasota County voted 4-1 against the November bond issue authorizing taxes from the sale of sporting goods to be used for recreational purposes. The law passed statewide.

Engineer Smally, of Smally, Wellford and Naiven, consulting engineers to the county, recommended the county proceed with steps to secure right-of-way, which will be needed whether the project is pursued with or without a bond issue — with or without federal aid.

Stakes should be placed on the ground, flagging done and maps drawn of right-of-way needed for the project, Smally declared.

"The big money will be the

buying of the land," the engineer pointed out.

Commissioner Huston suggested the county's first step be in "flagging the right-of-way" so that property owners will know exactly what amounts is needed by the county.

Huston also recommended the county proceed with or without the aid of the State Recreation

Board; the county can send someone to Tallahassee to probe the possibility of help while proceeding with whatever steps necessary in the meantime, he felt.

Reviewing the U. S. Corps of Engineers report, Smally pointed out that the Corps' engineers had seen fit to go much further than the county had intended

along the project, taking on projects now that the county had intended to postpone for lack of funds.

Smally said the main canal to Sugar Bowl will be improved — five to six miles beyond the point the county intended to stop. The plans call for the improvements of Branch B north to Gocio Road and Branch C canal to 27th Street.

The overall project includes 15 miles of canals, seven structures and modifications to 18 bridges.

The federal government wants assurance of local participation, Smally said. The first sum wanted is 22 per cent of the cost, which is \$1,165,000.

It was Board Chairman L. L. Parker who asked about recreational board funds on a state level. County Atty. Richard E. Nelson pointed out that the recreational authority is broad and possibly the county might obtain funds.

Parker said he would like to see someone from the County Commission go to Tallahassee in an effort to determine if money is available.

Commissioner Boyd Gernhard said: "It would be worth it, although I doubt if anything will be left when they finish picking up the tab for that cross-state boondoggle."

Additional points brought out is that the \$7 million figure takes into consideration the cost of the Phillippi Creek cut-through at U.S. 41, already allowed for in other plans, and right-of-way costs, much of which the county hopes will be donated.

Starting with a \$1 million bond issue, the first year debt service would be \$50,000, Gernhard noted. Then if \$500,000 was added to the issue annually the debt service would be increased \$25,000 a year—until it was \$175,000 for the entire \$3.5 million issue, if that much was needed.

Later Commissioner Fred Haigh figured out that under present millage value, the gross millage needed for the \$3.5 million would be 12.1 mills. Over three years, this meant three mills per year and over five years it would be 2.5 mills per year.

The federal government would be paying 58.4 per cent of the cost and 41.6 per cent would be paid by local interests, Haigh noted.

William Chapman, 5379 Montclair Place, placed several challenges against the project. He noted the county had voted against the recreational bond issue; noted that the competent engineers on whom the county must rely underestimated by one-third the amount of fill that would come out of the waterway; pointed out the entire program was based on a 100-

year rain that may or may not come.

Chapman cited salt water intrusion and said he opposed the necessity of closing Montclair Drive for the Phillippi Creek cut-through at the Trail because it would cause residents in the area a considerable hardship in reaching U.S. 41.

Parker pointed out that weirs and dams would stop salt water intrusion. Smally confirmed this.

Leslie C. Miller, Casey Key, chairman of the defunct citizens advisory committee for the Phillippi Creek flood control project, said he was overjoyed at the prospect of the project. He cited the increased value of waterfront property which will bring in more than enough taxes to offset the county's expenditure.

Alvin H. Dana, Riverview High School teacher, urged the commission proceed with the project rather than delay in awaiting outside help.

Both Robert E. Power and Miller urged the bond issue be county-wide because everyone in the county will benefit.

Wes Burquest, celery grower, soil conservation service member and member of the Chamber of commerce flood control committee, said Sarasota would probably have one of the nicest well-organized waterways in the state.

No official action was taken by the county commission.

Drainage
Project

AUTHORIZATION LEGISLATION

Phillippi Project Bill Passes House

SARASOTA — Three years ago yesterday the 100-year's rain fell on Sarasota causing Phillippi Creek to overflow its banks, flooding hundreds of homes and acres of land.

Since the devastating rains the county has been seeking to institute a flood control program.

A study made by the U.S. Corps of Engineers determined that the cost of the entire project would be in the vicinity of \$8-million with approximately \$4½ - million in federal funds, and the county providing the remaining \$3½ - million.

YESTERDAY IT was learned that the U.S. House had passed an authorization bill which included a \$4,592,000 authorization for a flood control project in Phillippi Creek.

Both the House and Senate have passed bills on it, but there are minor differences and now it must go to the conference committee with passage by both houses again necessary.

According to a comment made in July by U.S. Rep. James Haley speaking after the Senate Public Works Committee had included the project in a \$1.9-billion authorization bill, it would remain inactive until the county meets the conditions of the project's authorization and "comes up with its share."

Last November Sarasota County residents turned down a referendum to finance its share. Residents of a specially created flood control district voted with all county residents voting on a 1-mill emergency levy to be imposed in any one given year insufficient funds were raised from the district.

TWO WEEKS AGO, after a confused session, the commis-

sioners determined they would contact the Corps of Engineers for study of the feasibility of a pay as you go phased flood control project as proposed by Commissioner Johnson Warren. A playback of the minutes indicated the commissioners had also approved placing the referendum again on the Nov. 2 ballot.

During a regular meeting this week, the board rescinded the action on the referendum and voted 4-1 to place it on next year's ballot. Chairman L. L. Parker cast the lone dissenting vote.

Venice Visitors Guide To Use Circus Theme

VENICE — The advertising and publicity committee of the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce met yesterday afternoon, for the second time this week and voted to use a circus theme for the cover of the 1966 visitors guide.

The committee also met Monday afternoon but no decision was reached.

Also at yesterday's session, it was voted to recommend to the board of directors the chamber stage a contest among advanced amateur and professional photographers for next year's cover.

If the contest is approved by the directors, the advertising and publicity committee will work out other details.

Tentatively, a \$50 prize has been proposed for the winning cover.

\$1.5 Million Federal Project

Flood Control Plans Speeded

For an initial investment of about \$350,000 Sarasota county may be able to obtain a \$1.5 million federal flood control project for the Phillippi Creek and adjacent drainage basins.

Planning for the big water control development was moved into high gear yesterday when sponsors of the work—the Sarasota Soil Conservation District, Sarasota-Fruitville Drainage District and the County Commission—gave Don H. Esry, leader of a watershed planning party, the authority to proceed with more detailed plans of the program.

Esry and a team of six water control experts have been studying the Phillippi Creek area for the past several weeks.

Reporting on preliminary planning for the work, Esry noted that the county has three alternatives to relieve flooding which caused more than \$1 million in damage in the celery growing area east of the city last year. Damages at the same time to homes in Sarasota's suburbs from overflow from the creek has never been estimated.

The choices listed by Esry:

1. Improve Phillippi Creek and let other areas be independent projects.
2. Divert some flood water into the Cowpen Slough area.
3. Connect a canal system that is part of the Sarasota-Fruitville Drainage District into Catfish Creek which empties into the bay near Vamo, reducing about 75 percent of the flood flow on Phillippi Creek.

Esry, who is also an economist, said the latter plan was the most feasible and also the most reasonable in cost.

The preliminary planning was conducted to determine if the county wants to proceed with the project. Armed with yesterday's affirmative action, Esry will initiate detailed planning.

From there the project goes to Congress where it must be included in the annual appropriation to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

NO CONTINUATION AVAILABLE

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Nov. 7

Phillippi Creek Job Set At \$227,000 By State

The first step in relieving the water bottleneck at Phillippi Creek and U.S. Highway 41 would cost an estimated \$127,000, according to word received today from the State Road Department.

To do a good job it will cost \$227,000, according to the state estimate received today by Sarasota County Commissioners.

The state is willing to share a portion of the cost, up to about \$30,000.

The cut - through at the creek and the highway is being designed to straighten the creek so water can flow more rapidly into the Gulf of Mexico without causing upstream flooding.

Al. C. Church, chief highway engineer for the state, said: "The county would be expected to provide construction costs for all work outside the state road right of way. For the work inside the state road right of way (estimated to be \$90,000) it is my recommendation that, providing funds are available, up to one - third of the cost be met by primary road funds."

Church continued, "The remaining two - thirds should be met by some combination of secondary road funds and county funds, (other than the 7 - cent gas tax). Should primary road funds not be available, Sarasota County may elect to use greater amounts of available secondary road funds."

It was noted by the state highway engineer that the county would have to provide for protection of boats due to the increased velocities of the water flow created by the cut - through.

"It is recognized" said Church, "that the proposed first stage construction will provide only partial relief from the water stages objected to. The remaining restriction will result in velocities in the channel which will be difficult and costly to protect against, and which will be hazardous for small boats. Adequate protection can be provided in the channel against destructive scour."

Church said because of the hazards involved in doing only the first stage, it would be well to plan for financing the ultimate project at this time. The cost of the full 200 - foot cut and the bridges necessary to span it is \$227,000, according to Church.

The cost will be shared by the county and the state, with the county footing the bill for all work outside the right of way of U.S. 41.

The idea is to make the 50 - foot cut between the existing two outlets under the highway. This is the first stage toward an eventual 200 - foot cut.

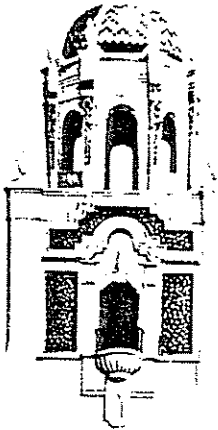
The bridges will have to be designed so they can be extended, the engineer said.

Sarasota County will be respon-

sible for right of way, relocation of existing street connection at Montclair Drive and the highway, alterations in waterfront properties.

County Commissioner Boyd R. Gernhard, who went to Tallahassee Monday to confer with the state highway engineer, said it would be almost impossible to meet property acquisition and additional county construction costs at this time.

Commissioners Johnson, Warren, James A. Spanos and Gernhard are to meet with State Road Board Member Warren Cason in Tampa at 2 p.m. Monday to go over the proposal.



COUNTY OF SARASOTA

F L O R I D A

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

30 June 1986

Mr. Gordon Higel
2445 Webber Street
Sarasota, Florida 33579

Dear Mr. Higel,

This letter is written in response to your request concerning the origin of the name of Phillippi Creek.

Today's Phillippi Creek was named for a man named Phillippi Bermudez, who was one of the earliest pioneers of the Sarasota area.

In 1847, U.S. Government Surveyor A.H. Jones laid out the section lines in the Sarasota area, then a part of Hillsborough County. Just two homesites were discovered by Jones within the area now known as Sarasota County. Jones discovered and recorded on his maps the homes of William Whitaker and Hamlin Snell near today's Whitaker Bayou. Jones also discovered and recorded the home of "Phillipi" along the bay near today's Cherokee Park.

This man Phillipi has attracted the attention of historians for over half a century. Not until recently, however, has his true story come to light.

In 1915, Joseph Herman Simpson wrote in the Bradentown Herald "There were a number of Spanish palmetto huts along the coast and on the islands whose residents were engaged in supplying the Cuban market with dried salted mullet and roe. Among them were Phillipie, Perico and Emmanuel. The manager or owner of the principal ranch was the kind-hearted Phillipie..."

In 1946 Karl Grismer included in his book, The Story of Sarasota, a very brief mention of Phillipi as follows: "...there had been fishermen here for at least a century before 1895. First, itinerant Cuban and Spanish fishermen, like Alzartie and Phillippi, who lived in palmetto shacks along the bay or on the keys."

In 1983 Janet Snyder Matthews in her book, Edge of Wilderness, provided the most complete description of Phillipi and his activities. Matthews portrays Phillipi Bermudez as a leading figure in the early fishing industry. Matthews also describes

continued, page 2

Phillipi's significant activities as an interpreter during the Seminole Indian Wars.

In an attempt to provide information on the naming of Phillippi Creek we have gathered the following from our files.

A check of the 1860 U.S. Census did not reveal Phillipi Bermudez, indicating that he may have left this area by that time.

At what time, or by whom, the creek was christened as "Phillipi's" is unknown.

The earliest notation of "Phillipe's Creek" within our files is on the application for a U.S. Post Office at Sarasota filed by Charles Abbe in 1878. Abbe notes that the nearest creek was "Phillipe's", one to two miles distant to the south and east of the proposed post office.

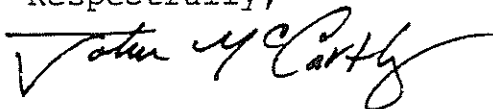
The earliest map within our files which identifies "Phillippe Creek" was drawn in 1883. The map is a U.S. Coast Survey and extends from Tampa Bay to Charlotte Harbor. Many local landmarks and waterways are named, including "Phillippe Creek".

Other maps and documents continue to identify the creek through the years as Phillipi's with minor spelling changes, such as Philippi and Phillippi, as it is named today.

Today Phillipi Bermudez is recognized as one of our earliest pioneers, yet even he would be considered a "newcomer" in the eyes of a man whose fossilized remains were discovered in the creek, in 1929. Local fossil collector J.E. Moore's discovery was thought to be several thousands of years old. The skeletal remains of "Phillipi Man" were sent to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City where they were lost, before their true age was determined.

If you would like to further study this subject please let us know.

Respectfully,



John F. McCarthy
County Historian

JM:gmd

B. 2012

A LOOK BACK

H-T Dec. 23, 2002

Keiths were key members of Chicago Colony

The couple in the photo look as if they could have just stepped out of an F. Scott Fitzgerald novel. Actually, it is Nettie and Edson Keith, who in 1916 built their home in what is now Sarasota County's Phillippi Estate Park. They were part of what has been called the "Chicago Colony."

After Bertha Palmer came to Florida's Gulf Coast in 1910 and envisioned this area to be an American Riviera, her enthusiasm lured a number of her family and socialite friends to Sarasota Bay to build winter homes. Her son, Honore, built a home called "Immokalee" where The Landings subdivision now is. That building is gone, but the home built by Stanley Field, a bit north of The Landings, still exists as the Field Club.

Stanley Field was the nephew of department store developer, Marshall Field. Not only had Edson Keith's father been in business earlier with Marshall Field, but also Edson's brother, Walter. Stanley Field and Honore Palmer were married to sisters. These families formed the nucleus of Sarasota's "Chicago Colony," of which the Keiths were a part of.

Edson Keith was a Renaissance man. He read Latin and Greek and was fluent in French. He graduated from Yale with a degree in Engineering and followed that with a Law degree from Columbia. To follow his first love, music, he went to Paris to study and performed with the Paris Opera. He stayed in Paris five years and left only after meeting Nettie Keener who was traveling through Europe with her parents. Nettie came from Denver. Edson followed her there and they were married in Denver in 1891.

After 24 years in Chicago, where Edson took an active part in the businesses his father had started, the Keiths moved to Sarasota. When Edson and Nettie moved to Sarasota they left business behind. The Keiths differed from their friends, who built escapes from Chicago's harsh winters, in that Edson and Nettie moved to their home to live there year-round. They did so from 1916 until Edson died in 1939.

The couple's home was nearly self-sufficient. On their forty acres were citrus trees, a vegetable garden, chickens, and a cow. When they moved in, Edson was 53 and Nettie 46. Since Tamiami Trail did not exist yet, the building materials for the house were brought mostly by barge.

Socializing was also accomplished mainly by boat. The Keiths' grandson, Frederick W. Keith Jr., reported hearing stories of elegant parties where Parisian gowns were worn. One party included valet parking for boats at the Field house. He also shared memories of the family boating to Siesta, then walking through jungle to a cottage the family maintained on the beach. Their friends had similar cottages and Frederick re-



COURTESY PHOTO/ SARASOTA COUNTY HISTORY CENTER, FREDERICK KEITH COLLECTION

Edson and Nettie Keith on their dock on Phillippi Creek.

members large parties where they'd all gather coquinas and large pots of coquina broth would be cooked for the group.

The Keith house was an amazingly elegant building that was created in what was essentially a jungle. The several bathrooms all had hot and cold running water. Not only did the house have electricity, but the dock was also electrified.

Frederick recalled that in addition to the house, there was a two-story frame house for some of the servants, a laundry, tool shed, pump house and water tower, a chicken coop and hen run, a barn used to store farm equipment, a

house for the farmer and his family, and a chauffeur's house and garage.

To manage this estate, the Keiths needed considerable help. According to Frederick, they had a butler, cook, one or two maids, a laundress, a farmer and a chauffeur, who looked after the farm equipment and pump house as well as the cars and boat.

— Pat Moberg,
volunteer and research associate
Sarasota County History Center

For additional information on this subject or another relating to Sarasota County's history, call 861-1180. The History Center is located at 701 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34236.

Subject.	No.	Vol.
V.		
Venezuela Transportation Company, appropriation for commission to arbitrate claims of.....	251	32
W.		
Waddington, N. Y., preliminary survey of harbor of.....	48	28
War Department:		
Contracts entered into by.....	99	28
Annual report on property leased by.....	211	32
Ware River, Virginia, preliminary examination of.....	152	32
Warren, Winalow, services rendered by.....	117	28
Washington Aqueduct, sale of certain lands pertaining thereto.....	327	33
West Branch (Newton Creek), New York, preliminary examination of.....	32	28
West Haven Harbor, Connecticut, preliminary examination of.....	27	28
West River Harbor, Connecticut, preliminary examination of.....	27	28
Whitfish River, Michigan, preliminary examination of.....	55	28
Winston & Winston, services rendered by.....	122	28
Withlacoochee River, Florida, preliminary examination of.....	158	32
Woodsburg Channel, Hempstead Bay, New York, preliminary examination of.....	168	28
Y.		
Yaquina Bay, Oregon, preliminary examination of.....	227	32
Yellowstone National Park:		
Appropriation for improving.....	167	32
Commissioner of, salary of.....	164	32

REPORT
OF THE
SECRETARY OF WAR;
BEING PART OF
THE MESSAGE AND DOCUMENTS
COMMUNICATED TO THE
TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS

AT THE
BEGINNING OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

VOLUME II--IN SIX PARTS.
PART 2.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1894.

Vessels.

	Number	Tonnage	Yearly trips
Steamers	5	250	285
Sailing vessels	2	75	20
Yachts	50	500	

Estimated number of passengers carried by water, 1,700.

Estimated percentage of total trade of neighborhood carried by water, 100 per cent. Probable increase of trade were the improvement completed, 50 per cent.

O 9.

IMPROVEMENT OF CHARLOTTE HARBOR AND PEASE CREEK, FLORIDA

The river and harbor act approved September 19, 1890, contained an item for "improving, dredging, and deepening the channel of Charlotte Harbor and Pease Creek, Florida, to the pier at Punta Gorda, the terminus of the Florida Southern Railroad, thirty-five thousand dollars."

Under this appropriation a survey of the deep water of the harbor was made from Boca Grande Pass to Punta Gorda. There was found at that time a channel depth of 19 feet at mean low water on the bar at the pass, 9 feet upon the shoals south of Cape Haze, and 10 feet upon the shoal near the wharves at Punta Gorda. The rise of tide is about 2 feet. An estimate was made for dredging a channel 300 feet wide and 23 feet deep through the bar at Boca Grande Pass. The amount of this was \$35,000. A separate estimate was made for forming a channel 200 feet wide and 12 feet deep from the wharves at Punta Gorda to the pass. The amount of this was \$127,500. The report upon this survey and description of the harbor may be found in the Chief of Engineer's Report for 1891, p. 1616 *et seq.*

Work was inaugurated under the project for the 12-foot channel, estimated to cost \$127,500, and the funds expended in dredging the channel near Punta Gorda wharves. The work thus far accomplished has resulted in forming a channel 300 feet wide for a distance of 300 feet in front of the wharves, 160 feet wide for a distance of 4,729 feet, and 120 feet wide for a distance of 1,764 feet, where it connects with the 12-foot contours. The total length of the dredged cut is 6,793 feet. Over nearly the whole of this length the depth is in excess of 13 feet.

By reason of the nearly exhausted condition of the appropriation for this work, no dredging was done during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1894.

A survey of the shoal north of Cape Haze was made in May for the purpose of determining the best location in which to develop the 12-foot channel over these shoals when additional funds are made available for the work.

It is estimated that \$35,000 can be profitably expended upon this work during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896.

Charlotte Harbor is in the collection district of Key West, and Punta Gorda is the nearest port of entry; nearest light-house is Gasparilla Light, and the nearest fort is Fort Taylor, Fla.

Money statement.

July 1, 1893, balance unexpended	\$11,503.69
June 30, 1894, amount expended during fiscal year	11,154.39
July 1, 1894, balance unexpended	349.30
Amount (estimated) required for completion of existing project	92,500.00
Amount that can be profitably expended in fiscal year ending June 30, 1896	35,000.00
Submitted in compliance with requirements of sections 2 of river and harbor acts of 1866 and 1867 and of sundry civil act of March 3, 1893.	

COMMERCIAL STATISTICS.

Commerce of Charlotte Harbor, Florida, during the year ending December 31, 1893.

[Furnished by Mr. Albert W. Güchrist, of Punta Gorda.]

Articles	Gross tonnage	Estimated value
Cattle	333	\$12,003
Fruits	400	4,000
Grain	1,294	32,362
Lumber, rough	110	3,300
Lumber, dressed	200	6,000
Merchandise	2,321	122,421
Oranges	4,000	60,000
Phosphate, pebble	58,407	864,670
Total	97,125	1,124,753

Arrivals and departures of vessels for the year ending December 31, 1893.

Kind of vessel	Arrivals		Departures	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Steamers	59	69,591	59	69,591
Sailing vessels	43	13,490	43	13,490
Yachts	20	140	20	140
Total	122	74,121	122	74,121

Estimated percentage of total trade of neighborhood carried by water, 50 per cent. Probable increase of trade were the improvement completed, 150 per cent.

O 10.

IMPROVEMENT OF SARASOTA BAY, FLORIDA.

An examination and survey of the bay was made in 1889. The report thereon, with the project for improvement, is printed on p. 1617, Vol. II, of the Report of the Chief of Engineers for 1890. An appropriation of \$5,000 was made in the act approved September 19, 1890, for "improving Sarasota Bay from Tampa Bay to Sarasota, Fla."

A navigable channel, with a minimum depth of 5 feet, extends throughout the length of Big Sarasota Bay, excepting in two reaches, Palma Sola Pass and Long Bar, which have a total length of 5,400 feet. In these reaches the available depth was 4.3 and 3.5 feet, respectively. The tidal range in the bay is 1.5 feet.

The present approved project calls for the formation of a continuous channel, 100 feet wide and 5 feet deep at mean low water, from Tampa Bay to the town of Sarasota, Fla., a distance of 21½ miles, at an estimated cost of \$17,500.

The following amounts have been appropriated for this work:

By act of—	
September 19, 1890.....	\$5,000
July 13, 1892.....	2,500
Total.....	7,500

With these amounts dredging has been done upon the Palma Sola Shoal which has resulted in connecting the 5-foot contours by a cut 2,292 feet long, of which a length of 1,673 feet is 38 feet wide with a depth of 6 feet, while for the remaining 619 feet the cut is 40 feet wide and from 5 to 6 feet deep. A total amount of 6,456.5 cubic yards of sand and shell, measured in place, has been removed. The last examination shows that this cut has not filled in.

Sarasota Bay is in the collection district of Tampa, which is the nearest port of entry. Nearest light-house is Egmont Key Light. Nearest fort is Fort Taylor.

Money statement.

July 1, 1893, balance unexpended.....	\$577.38
June 30, 1894, amount expended during fiscal year.....	525.21
July 1, 1894, balance unexpended.....	52.17

COMMERCIAL STATISTICS.

Commerce of Sarasota Bay, Florida, for the year ending December 31, 1893.

[Furnished by Mr. J. H. Gillespie.]

Articles	Gross tonnage	Estimated value
Cattle.....	250	\$10,000
Fertilizers.....	20	800
Fruits.....	25	1,000
Grain.....	20	800
Hides.....	3	300
Honey, sirup, etc.....	30	3,000
Lumber, rough and dressed.....	200	10,400
Merchandise.....	100	10,000
Oranges.....	400	16,000
Vegetables.....	63	5,000
Total.....	1,101	57,100

Estimated number of passengers carried by water—no lists kept.
Estimated percentage of total trade of neighborhood carried by water, 75 per cent.
Probable increase of trade were the improvement completed, 200 per cent.

IMPROVEMENT OF MANATEE RIVER, FLORIDA.

Manatee River rises in the southern part of Florida and flows in a westerly direction, emptying into Tampa Bay on its southern shore. For a distance of 12 miles from its mouth it has the characteristics of

an estuary. For 10 miles the settlements along its banks are almost continuous. They comprise the towns of Manatee, Hendrix, Ellenton, Palmetto, Braidenton, and Palma Sola. Oranges and vegetables are raised in large quantities. From the fine ranges along the upper river hides, wool, and sheepskins are exported. Phosphate deposits have been discovered along the river and mining operations are being carried on.

Before improvement in the estuary the general depth of the river varied from 7 to 20 feet. At the mouth there was a long shoal with a depth of 7 feet. Between Palmetto and Braidenton there was another bar covered by from 3 to 5 feet of water.

An examination of Manatee River with a view to its improvement was made in 1881. A report thereon, dated February 16, 1882, with plan of improvement is printed as part of Appendix K 25. Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers for 1882.

PROJECT OF IMPROVEMENT.

To form a channel 100 feet wide and 13 feet deep from Tampa Bay to Shaw and McNeil points, at an estimated cost of \$70,000. This project was changed in 1887 with a view to obtaining a channel 100 feet wide and 8 feet deep from Tampa Bay to Manatee. The reasons for this change, together with a map of the river, will be found on p. 1109, Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers for 1888. The revised estimate was \$73,000.

WORK DONE AND RESULTS OBTAINED.

The following appropriations have been made for this work:

Act of—	
August 2, 1882.....	\$12,000
August 5, 1886.....	11,000
August 11, 1888.....	5,000
September 19, 1890.....	6,000
July 13, 1892.....	6,000
Total.....	40,000

In 1890 the modified project was completed. The appropriation of \$6,000, made September 19, 1890, was not considered sufficient to permit the extension of the project, and was held until the appropriation of July 13, 1892, made the sum available \$12,000.

An examination made in June, 1892, showed that the cuts made during and prior to 1890 had been well maintained and that a clear channel 100 feet wide and from 8 to 9 feet deep existed over the entire length. At the same time an examination was made of the outer bar and of the bulkhead lying in the mouth of the river between Snead and Shaws points. It was found that an available channel depth of more than 9 feet already existed on the outer bar, and that a cut through the bulkhead above referred to could be so located that advantage could be taken of the direction of the currents, so that its permanence would be reasonably assured. The steamboat men were very anxious to have this cut made, as it would materially shorten and straighten the channel and avoid the necessity of crossing a long stretch of water having a depth of only 8 feet. In view of these facts, it was decided to adhere to the original project of 1882, confining operations for the present to making a cut 100 feet wide and 12 feet deep at mean low water through the bulkhead at Snead Point. A cut at this point was adopted because of the immediate advantage it would give the trade of the river as far

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ANNUAL REPORTS, WAR DEPARTMENT

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1915

REPORT OF THE
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
U. S. ARMY

1915

—
IN THREE PARTS
PART 1



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1915

APPROPRIATIONS	
[For last five fiscal years only]	
Oct 26 1912, contributed by local interests	\$20,000.00
July 1, 1914, balance unexpended	4,459.40
July 1, 1915, balance unexpended	4,459.40

CONSOLIDATED	
Amount expended on all projects to June 30 1915:	
New work	131,125.55
Maintenance	

Amount expended during fiscal year ending June 30	1913	1914	1915
New work	\$27,972.13	\$3,153.42	
Maintenance			

APPROPRIATIONS	
[For last five fiscal years only]	
July 25 1912	\$20,000.00
Mar. 4, 1913	4,000.00
Oct. 26 1912, contributed by local interests	20,000.00
July 1, 1914, balance unexpended	12,874.45
July 1, 1915, balance unexpended	12,874.45

16. SARASOTA BAY, FLA.

Location.—Sarasota Bay is a shallow sound on the west coast of the peninsula of Florida, separated from the Gulf of Mexico by a chain of low sand keys. At its northern end it connects with the southern extremity of Tampa Bay. (See U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey chart No. 16.) The improvement includes Little Sarasota Bay, a smaller sound immediately to the southward.

Original condition.—Sarasota Bay is about 20 miles long and from one-half mile to 3 miles wide. The natural depth varies from 4 to 13 feet, with deeper channels near the passes connecting the bay with the gulf. Little Sarasota Bay is about 10 miles long and from 300 feet to three-quarters mile wide, with depths varying from 1 to 5 feet. It is connected with Sarasota Bay by a narrow waterway about 3 miles in length, formerly known as "The Mangroves." The entire waterway is obstructed by oyster bars, sand flats, and some bowlders. Before improvement the minimum usable depth in the channel in Sarasota Bay was 5 feet at mean low water, except in two reaches aggregating 5,400 feet in length, where the depth was from 3.5 to 4.3 feet. In little Sarasota Bay the usable depth was not over 1 or 2 feet, while the channel between the two bays was dry at low water.

Previous projects.—None.

Present project.—This project was adopted in part by Congress in the river and harbor act of September 19, 1890, and is based on plans and estimates presented in report of Capt. W. M. Black, Corps of Engineers, dated November 27, 1889 (H. Ex. Doc. No. 61, 51st Cong., 1st sess.). The project presented by Captain Black contemplated a channel 5 feet deep at mean low water and 100 feet wide through Sarasota Bay from Tampa Bay to the town of Sarasota, and 3 feet deep and 75 feet wide from Sarasota to Caseys Pass, at the southern extremity of Little Sarasota Bay, the improvement to be effected by dredging, at an estimated cost of \$37,500. Only that part of the

project from Tampa Bay to Sarasota was adopted by the act of September 19, 1890. The estimated cost of the work required was \$10,500; increased in September, 1892, to \$17,500. By the river and harbor act of June 3, 1896, the extension of the improvement to Caseys Pass was authorized. The cost of the entire work was then estimated at \$55,000. By the river and harbor act of March 2, 1907, the improvement was extended to Venice, about 2 miles east of Caseys Pass, at the head of a small sound called Dona Bay. To cover the new work the estimated cost was increased to \$70,000, and in June, 1911, it was again increased to \$95,000. The project as modified provides for a channel 100 feet wide and 5 feet deep at mean low water through Sarasota Bay from Tampa Bay to Sarasota and 75 feet wide and 3 feet deep at mean low water through Little Sarasota Bay from Sarasota to Venice. The estimated cost of the work is \$95,000. The length of the section included in the project is about 38 miles. The tidal variation is 1.5 feet.

Operations and results prior to the fiscal year.—Channels 100 feet wide and 5 feet deep at mean low water were dredged through obstructing bars and shoals in Sarasota Bay, completing the project channel not less than 100 feet wide and 5 feet deep from Tampa Bay to Sarasota. Channels 3 feet deep at mean low water, and from 18 to 58 feet wide, averaging 50 feet, were dredged through bars and shoals between Sarasota and Venice. The total expenditure in this work was \$97,589.20, of which \$75,677.87 was for original work and \$21,911.33 was for maintenance.

Operations and results during the fiscal year.—There were no field operations during the year. The expenditures were in part payment for U. S. dredge *Sarasota* and outfit, and for contingencies. The amount expended during the fiscal year was \$7,647.43, all of which is chargeable to work of maintenance.

Condition at end of fiscal year.—The project is about 85 per cent completed. Bulkhead cut, at the entrance from Tampa Bay, and Long Bar cut, in Sarasota Bay, remain in good condition, affording the full project depth and width. Longboat cut, in Sarasota Bay, is shoal, affording only 3 feet. This cut, however, is not now in use, but the boats are using the natural channel by way of the upper end of Long Key, in order to touch at landings on the key. In this channel there are scattered bowlders and rocks, which are dangerous, except to navigators thoroughly familiar with the channel. In Little Sarasota Bay the dredged cuts remain in good condition with an available depth of about 3 feet. The maximum draft that can be carried over the shoalest part of the improvement is 5 feet from Tampa Bay to Sarasota, 3 feet to Caseys Pass, and 3 feet to Venice. The total expenditure under the present project, to June 30, 1915, has been \$105,236.63, of which \$75,677.87 was for original work and \$29,558.76 was for maintenance.

Local cooperation.—None is required by the appropriation act. Local parties have built wharves, some of considerable length, to take advantage of the improvement, and these are commonly open to general use of the community.

Effect of improvement.—This improvement has contributed materially to the development of the Sarasota Bay region by making a regular transportation service possible, and by reducing the cost of

transportation to the markets. Before the railroad entered the territory the water route was the only means of communication with the supply and distribution centers. The entrance of the railroad has lessened the importance of the water route, but its existence has kept freight rates 25 to 50 per cent below what they would probably have been without it.

Proposed operations.—Available funds are believed to be sufficient to complete the improvement and to maintain it during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1916. The following estimate for the fiscal year 1917 is submitted:

For operation of U. S. dredge *Sarasota* and other plant, for maintenance of improvement..... \$2,500

Commercial statistics.—The water-borne commerce on the waterway during the calendar year 1914 amounted to 10,574 tons, valued at \$526,016, consisting of fish, gasoline, ice, lumber, and miscellaneous articles. The extension of the railroad in the Sarasota Bay country has materially affected the volume of boat traffic.

Comparative statement.

Year	Tons	Value
1912.....	24,462	\$1,300,905
1913.....	17,947	660,330
1914.....	10,574	526,016

Financial summary.

Amount expended on all projects to June 30, 1915:

New work.....	\$75,677 87
Maintenance.....	29,558 78
Total.....	105,236 65

Amount expended during fiscal year ending June 30	1913	1914	1915
New work.....	\$10,117 04		
Maintenance.....			\$7,647 43

APPROPRIATIONS

[For last five fiscal years only]

July 25 1912.....	\$13,000 00
Mar. 4. 1913.....	13,000 00
July 1, 1914, balance unexpended.....	27,453 55
June 30, 1915, amount expended during fiscal year, for maintenance of improvement.....	7,647 43
July 1, 1915, balance unexpended.....	19,806 12
Amount that can be profitably expended in fiscal year ending June 30, 1917, for maintenance of improvement.....	\$2,500 00

17 MANATEE RIVER, FLA.

Location.—This river rises in the northeastern part of Manatee County, in the western part of the peninsula of Florida, and flows westwardly, emptying into Tampa Bay at its southern end near the

entrance. (See U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey chart No. 17.) Its total length is about 50 miles. The section under improvement extends from the mouth to Rye, a distance of 22 miles.

Original condition.—For the first 12 miles above the mouth the river is a tidal estuary from one-half mile to 1 mile in width. From the head of this estuary to Rye the width decreases from about 600 feet to about 80 feet. The entrance is obstructed by sand flats and bars. Before improvement the depth over the bar at the entrance was from 7 to 8 feet at mean low water. Inside the estuary the general depths varied from 7 to 20 feet to as little as 3 feet near the upper end. Above the estuary the depths ranged from 1½ to 14 feet. The limiting depths were 7 to 8 feet over the bar; 6 to 7 feet to Palmetto, 7 miles above the mouth; 3 to 5 feet to Manatee, 8½ miles above the mouth; and 1½ feet to Rye, 22 miles above the mouth. The head of navigation is the bridge at Mitchellsville, 2 miles above Rye, and the length of the navigable portion is 24 miles.

Previous projects.—The first project providing for a channel 100 feet wide and 13 feet deep over the bar, and up the estuary as far as Shaws and McNeills Points, was inaugurated in the river and harbor act of August 2, 1882. A modification of this project providing for an 8-foot channel to Rocky Bluff (later limited to Manatee), was approved by the Secretary of War on December 15, 1886. A further modification, providing for a cut-off into Terra Ceia Bay, was adopted by the river and harbor act approved June 3, 1896. For scope of previous projects, see Appendix, page 1829. The amount expended on all projects prior to the commencement of operations under the present project was \$69,350 80, of which \$53,707 60 was for original work and \$15,643 20 was for maintenance.

Present project.—The present project was adopted by Congress in the river and harbor act of March 3, 1905, and is based on plans and estimates printed in House Document No. 117, Fifty-eighth Congress, second session. The project contemplates the continuance of the improvement of the river under the project then in force and its extension to provide a channel 100 feet wide and 9 feet deep from McNeills Point to Rocky Bluff, a distance of 8 miles, and 15 feet wide and 4 feet deep from Rocky Bluff to Rye (Brownings Landing), a distance of 10½ miles. The former projects, thus continued in force, provide for a channel 100 feet wide and 13 feet deep from Tampa Bay to McNeills Point, a distance of 4½ miles, and for a cut-off 100 feet wide and 6 feet deep from the river into Terra Ceia Bay, a distance of 0.66 mile. The plane of reference is mean low water in the lower river and mean low stage in the upper, nontidal portion. The improvement is to be effected by dredging obstructing shoals. The estimated cost of the new work proposed was \$53,710, and the total cost of the improvement, including the old projects continued, was estimated, in 1905, at \$140,052. No approved estimate of cost of maintenance has been made, but maintenance is now estimated at \$5,000 per annum. The length of the section included in the project is 22 miles in the river and 0.66 mile in the Terra Ceia cut-off. The tidal variation is 1.6 feet at the entrance, 1.3 feet at Rocky Bluff (11½ miles above the mouth), and is perceptible at Rye (22 miles above the mouth) at times of low water in the upper river. The variation in water surface in the upper river due to freshets is about 3 feet.

¹ Exclusive of the balance unexpended July 1, 1915.

ANNUAL REPORTS, WAR DEPARTMENT

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1916

REPORT OF THE
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS

U. S. ARMY

TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR

1916



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1916

714 APPROPRIATIONS

[For last five fiscal years only]

July 25, 1912.....	\$20,000.00
Mar. 4, 1913.....	4,000.00
July 1, 1915, balance unexpended.....	8,414.96
July 1, 1916, balance unexpended.....	8,414.96
July 1, 1916, outstanding liabilities.....	14.00
July 1, 1916, balance available.....	8,400.96

CONTRIBUTED FUNDS

Amount expended on all projects to June 30, 1916:

New work.....	\$15,540.51
Maintenance.....	

Amount expended during fiscal year ending June 30	1914	1915	1916
New work.....	\$1,554.94		
Maintenance.....			

APPROPRIATIONS

[For last five fiscal years only]

Oct. 26, 1912, contributed by local interests.....	\$20,000.00
July 1, 1915, balance unexpended.....	4,459.49
July 1, 1916, balance unexpended.....	4,459.49

CONSOLIDATED

Amount expended on all projects to June 30, 1916:

New work.....	\$137,125.55
Maintenance.....	

Amount expended during fiscal year ending June 30	1914	1915	1916
New work.....	\$3,153.42		
Maintenance.....			

APPROPRIATIONS

[For last five fiscal years only]

July 25, 1912.....	\$20,000.00
Oct. 26, 1912, contributed by local interests.....	20,000.00
Mar. 4, 1913.....	4,000.00
July 1, 1915, balance unexpended.....	12,874.45
July 1, 1916, balance unexpended.....	12,874.45
July 1, 1916, outstanding liabilities.....	14.00
July 1, 1916, balance available.....	12,860.45

¹ Increased by expenditure of \$6,000, previously carried as Charlotte Harbor and Caloosahatchee River from Puntarasa to Punta Gorda.

Location and description.—Sarasota Bay is a shallow sound on the west coast of the peninsula of Florida, separated from the Gulf of Mexico by a chain of low sand keys. At its northern end it connects with the southern extremity of Tampa Bay. (See U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey chart No. 16.) The improvement includes Little Sarasota Bay, a smaller sound immediately to the southward. Sarasota Bay is about 20 miles long and from one-half to 3 miles wide. Little Sarasota Bay is about 10 miles long and from 300 feet to three-quarters mile wide. It is connected with Sarasota Bay by a narrow waterway about 3 miles in length, known as "The Mangroves."

Original condition.—The natural depth in Sarasota Bay varies from 4 to 12 feet, and in Little Sarasota Bay from 1 to 5 feet. The entire waterway is obstructed by oyster bars, sand flats, and some bowlders. Before improvement the minimum usable depth in the channel in Sarasota Bay was 5 feet at mean low water, except in two reaches aggregating 5,400 feet in length, where the depth was from 3.5 to 4.3 feet. In Little Sarasota Bay the usable depth was not over 1 or 2 feet, while the channel between the two bays was dry at low water. The mean range of tide is 1.5 feet.

Previous projects.—None.

Existing project.—The existing project was adopted in part by the river and harbor act of September 19, 1890, which provided for a channel 5 feet deep from Tampa Bay to Sarasota. (H. Doc. No. 61, 51st Cong., 1st sess., and Annual Report for 1890, p. 1615.) It was modified by the river and harbor act of June 3, 1896, which extended the improvement to Caseys Pass, at the lower end of Little Sarasota Bay, the depth of the extension being fixed at 3 feet. It was further modified by the river and harbor act of March 2, 1907, which extended the 3-foot channel to Venice. As modified, the project provides for a channel 100 feet wide and 5 feet deep at mean low water from Tampa Bay through Sarasota Bay to Sarasota and 75 feet wide and 3 feet deep at mean low water through Little Sarasota Bay to Venice. The improvement is to be effected by dredging through shoals. The originally estimated cost was \$37,500 for the work from Tampa Bay to Sarasota, increased to \$55,000 to cover the extension to Caseys Pass, and to \$70,000 to cover the extension to Venice. In 1911 the estimate was again increased to \$95,000. The length of the section covered by the project is 38 miles. The mean tidal variation is 1.5 feet. For latest published map see House Document No. 844, Sixty-third Congress, second session.

Operations and results during the fiscal year.—Examinations of the channel were made and tide gauges were established and read. Part of the cost of care and repair of the dredge *Sarasota* was charged to this improvement. The amount expended in this incidental work was \$1,616.55, chargeable to maintenance.

Condition at the end of the fiscal year.—The project is about 85 per cent completed. Channels 100 feet wide and 5 feet deep at mean low water have been dredged through shoals in Sarasota Bay, completing the project to Sarasota. Channels 3 feet deep and from 18 to 58 feet wide, averaging 50 feet, have been dredged in Little Sarasota Bay. To complete the project the channels in Little Sarasota Bay must be widened to 75 feet. The controlling depth at mean low

716 water is 5 feet from Tampa Bay to Sarasota, and 2½ feet to Venice. At extreme low tides of winter these depths are reduced 1 foot. The total expenditure under the existing project has been \$106,853.18, of which \$75,677.87 was for new work, and \$31,175.31 was for maintenance.

Local cooperation.—None.

Effect of improvement.—This improvement has contributed materially to the development of the Sarasota Bay region by making a regular transportation service possible, and by reducing the cost of transportation to the markets. The entrance of the railroad into this territory has lessened the importance of the water route, but its existence has kept freight rates 25 to 50 per cent below what they would probably have been without it.

Proposed operations.—Funds now available will be applied to dredging and removal of bowlders, for maintenance, as required, and to widening the channels in Little Sarasota Bay when the needs of commerce require this to be done. The work will be done by hired labor with the U. S. dredge *Sarasota* and attendant plant.

At present the width of the channel in Little Sarasota Bay is sufficient for the small commerce carried by the boats that use the light-draft channel provided. Pending an increase in the commerce, or the placing of larger boats on the run, no work that can not be done with the funds available is contemplated, and no estimate for additional funds is submitted.

Recommended modifications of project.—On March 18, 1914, the Chief of Engineers recommended further improvement to the extent of providing and maintaining a channel 100 feet wide and 7 feet deep at mean low water from Tampa Bay to Sarasota, at an estimated cost of \$92,000, with \$3,000 annually for maintenance. (See H. Doc. No. 844, 63d Cong., 2d sess.)

Commercial statistics.—The water commerce for the calendar year 1915 consisted of fish, fruit and vegetables, gasoline, ice, plants and shrubs, and miscellaneous merchandise. The tonnage for the year amounted to 8,554 tons, valued at \$585,088, a reduction from the tonnage of the previous year of 23.6 per cent. The water-borne commerce of this locality has been steadily declining for some years. The traffic is handled in light-draft steamers and gasoline boats to and from Tampa.

Comparative statement.

Calendar year	Tons	Value
1913	17,947	\$666,930
1914	10,574	520,014
1915	8,554	585,088

Financial summary.

Amount expended on all projects to June 30, 1916:	
New work	\$75,677.87
Maintenance	31,175.31
Total	106,853.18

Amount expended during fiscal year ending June 30	1914	1915	1916
New work		\$7,647.03	\$1,616.55
Maintenance			

APPROPRIATIONS

[For last five fiscal years only]

July 25, 1912	\$13,000.00
Mar. 4, 1913	13,000.00
July 27, 1916	2,500.00
July 1, 1915, balance unexpended	19,806.12
June 30, 1916, amount expended during fiscal year for maintenance of improvement	1,616.55
July 1, 1916, balance unexpended	18,189.57
July 1, 1916, outstanding liabilities	100.00
July 1, 1916, balance available	17,789.57
Amount appropriated by river and harbor act approved July 27, 1916	2,500.00
Balance available for fiscal year ending June 30, 1917	20,289.57

17. MANATEE RIVER, FLA.

Location and description.—This river rises in the western part of the peninsula of Florida and flows westwardly, emptying into Tampa Bay at its southern end and near the entrance. (See U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey charts Nos. 16 and 17.) Its total length is about 45 miles. For the first 12 miles above the mouth the river is a tidal estuary from one-half mile to 1 mile in width. From the head of this estuary to Rye, 22 miles above the mouth, the width decreases from about 600 feet to about 80 feet. The river is tidal as far as Rye (22 miles). Above Rye the fall is slight and the current is moderate. The drainage area is about 436 square miles.

Original condition.—Before improvement the depth over the bar at the entrance was from 7 to 8 feet at mean low water. Inside the estuary the general depths varied from 7 to 20 feet to as little as 3 feet near the upper end. Above the estuary the depths ranged from 1½ to 14 feet. The limiting depths were 7 to 8 feet over the bar; 6 to 7 feet to Palmetto, 5½ miles above the mouth; 3 to 5 feet to Manatee, 7½ miles above the mouth; and 1½ feet to Rye, 22 miles above the mouth. The head of navigation is the bridge at Mitchellville, 2 miles above Rye, and the length of the navigable portion is 24 miles. The range of tide is 1.6 feet at the mouth and is perceptible at Rye.

Previous projects.—None.

Existing project.—The existing project was adopted in part by the river and harbor act of August 2, 1882, which provided for the improvement of the entrance from Tampa Bay to McNeills Point. (See Annual Report for 1882, p. 1319.) It was modified by the river and harbor act of June 3, 1896, which provided for a cut-off