

Today

100 Years Ago—

Jernigan First Citizen—

Holden Was No. 2—

Some Land Bargains

By Martin Andersen

OUR CENTENNIAL celebration this week really commemorates the arrival of Aaron Jernigan, who settled not in Orlando but in an area somewhere between Lake Gatlin, site of the fort and Lake Jessamine. In that same section settled W. H. Holden, the second white permanent resident of the county. The lake is named in his honor. He lived there so it became known as Holden's lake and then, Lake Holden.

Jernigan arrived in 1842 and Holden the next year.

So today's observance is more or less in Jernigan's honor. However, there were white settlers a few years prior to 100 years ago, but the Seminoles on rampage in 1840 burned their houses, drove them out.

Many of them may have found refuge at Fort Maitland, which was established in 1835 at the present site of the town of Maitland.

FORT GATLIN, which was more of a stockade of pine fence and a block house than a fort, was near the present palatial home of the Louis Orr's and Jernigan's cattle ranch must have encompassed all of Cypress Point, the old Bourne place. Roy Crane, author of the cartoon hero Wash Tubbs, and his family live in a \$50,000 home there now, adjoining the old Bumby grove which is in itself some 60 or 70 years old and now owned by Mr. Marsh.

MR. JERNIGAN established the first postoffice, which was nearer Fort Gatlin, than it was to the present Orlando. However, his duties as postmaster did not interfere with his cattle business as mail came in only twice a month.

That's a far cry from Mr. Crane's hectic nightly rush to the post-office with the product of his day's cartooning, all tied up in air-mail stamps and special delivery markings.

At least, it indicates a change in the tempo of Orlando 100 years ago and today.

The world around Lake Gatlin, Holden and Jessamine has changed since 1842. The winds lap up the water against the shore line, but neither the winds, nor the water nor the shoreline are related any more than we the people who live on the banks of the lakes descendants of the cotton planters and Indian fighters of the '40's.

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