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Automobile drive

Winter Park Board of Trade

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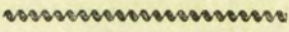
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HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT OF WINTER PARK

Automobile Drive
Courtesy of Winter Park
Board of Trade
To Visiting Delegates



This drive covers one of the most beautiful regions in Florida, and begins on Kentucky avenue in front of Carnegie Library and the campus of Rollins College. It turns north almost immediately on to Interlachen avenue, named after the famous city in Switzerland and meaning "between the lakes." This avenue runs almost the entire length of Winter Park, and is lined on both sides with fine residences between Lakes Virginia and Osceola. The Baptist Church is to be seen at the right and on the next corner the Episcopal Church, and opposite is the site of the new Woman's Club building.

On the next corner we turn into New England avenue, where the handsome homes of Mr. J. K. List and Commissioner Schultz may be seen to left and right. Farther along the house occupied by Mr. Irving Bacheller, famous author of "Eben Holden," "A Man for the Ages," etc., on the right. After making a sharp "S" turn the drive continues east on Osceola avenue, named after the famous chief of the Seminole Indians, who made this section his chosen camping ground. Going slightly down hill this avenue runs on a narrow strip of land between Lake Virginia on the right and Lake Osceola on the left, to a bridge which links these lakes as well as others, thus making it possible to navigate nearly fourteen miles from lake to lake and around the shores.

Just past the bridge, entrance is made on the left to the beautiful "Palms," estate of Mr. E. H. Brewer, of Courtland, New York. Here the drive, lined with Canady date palms follows the eastern shore of Lake Osceola closely. On the right may be seen at first, fine gardens and a

glimpse of Lake Mizell, then as the driveway rises, the residence, the concrete pergola, and vine covered coloniade. One is suddenly plunged from this scene of fine landscape gardening into a labyrinth of "hammock" vegetation, in almost an original state of wildness, but yet relieved by an extensive rose garden on the left. Just beyond come occasional glimpses of the eastern arm of Lake Osceola and upon leaving the "hammock" the eastern gateway of the estate leads to another avenue lined with very fine groves.

On the right is a small round body of water called Sylvan Lake, while on the left another glimpse of Lake Osceola may be had. Turning sharply northward, the cars enter beautiful "Lovers' Lane" shaded completely by great pines and oaks, and leading to a bridge where on the left the eastern arm of Lake Osceola and the large estate of Mr. W. C. Comstock of Chicago, comes in sight.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Comstock came here some forty years ago, and planted many of the magnificent trees to be seen. At that time the settlement was on the east shore of the lake and was called Osceola. Where the town now stands were virgin woods of oak and pine. Entrance through the south gate of this estate is made and the private driveway passes the residence and, after a fine view of Lake Osceola and the "Seminole Hotel" in the distance on the left another bridge is crossed and between camphor trees, one issues by the north gate upon Palmer avenue.

Here one turns and drives directly west, passing famous "Alabama" estate on the right, while on the left is to be seen the attractive grounds and villas lining the northern shore of Lake Osceola. Mr. L. A. Hake's grove, first on the left, contains the original "Temple" orange tree, the mother of many groves of budded trees bearing this famous variety of fruit.

The blue and cream stucco Italian villa, the home of Miss Eva Purdy, of New York, is to be seen on the left with a fine view of the lake, then the attractive home and grounds of Mr. Caldwell, of Wheeling, W. Va. Just beyond we again cross a bridge over the continuation of the stream connecting the lakes. This three-fourths of a mile in length, makes one of the most enchanting canoe trips imaginable and leads from Lake Osceola to the larger Lake Maitland to the North.

Beyond, passing the "Anchorage" grove, owned by Mr. E. W. Packard, of Greenwich, Conn., on the right and turning sharply to the left between pretty villas, one arrives at the loop drive in front of the beautiful Seminole Hotel, with its tropical grounds, on a point jutting out into Lake Osceola. Thence, after swinging around the circle the drive continues due west on

AUTOMOBILE DRIVE
COURTESY OF WINTER PARK
BOARD OF TRADE
TO VISITING DELEGATES
1919-1920

Since this leaflet was printed by the Rollins Press, it was printed in 1919 or after for that year, "Twenty Winter Park business men ... put the Rollins Press plant in practical operation and it opened for business." (MacDowell's "Chronological History of Winter Park, p. 127)

The leaflet was printed before 1921 for reference is made to the site of the new Woman's Club building and the "Woman's Club ... held its first meeting in the ... new Woman's Club Building in March, 1921" (MacDowell, p. 139)

The leaflet also refers to the "Alabama estate" and in 1921 "the Kronenberger subdivision 'Alabama' opened up." (MacDowell, p. 136)

"Colfview Terrace was opened in 1921" (MacDowell, p. 136) and it is not mentioned in the leaflet describing the drive down Webster Avenue.

Dorothy Shepherd Smith
October, 1969

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Webster avenue, passing the Country Club and Pulsifer Circle on the left, as well as the splendid nine and eighteen-hole golf course, the largest but one in the Stat, and probably the best.

Turning sharply south on the Dixie Highway, that great road connecting Jacksonville with Tampa, the business section of Winter Park, the fine park and railroad station, are passed on the right and one appreciates the spirit of this community, which has created a center which cannot be matched in all Florida for a place of its size. Passing substantial business blocks we see the fine high school building on the left and the town hall opposite on the right and soon we leave Winter Park behind.

Following the Dixie Highway we come to the Florida Sanitarium, and Seventh Day Adventists' settlement, on the left, and on the right a very beautiful bit of pine forest.

Soon we come to Orlando, a city famous for its attractive avenues, its lakes and its progressive development. First beyond the railroad crossing we enter North Orange avenue, lined with great trees and handsome homes, and leading through the main business section and through South Orange avenue to the right around Lake Lucerne, (named after the famous Swiss Lake), thnc turning north again on Main stret to Central avenue, and East on Central avenue, until the drive around Lake Eola is reached, then turning to the left we arrive at Robinson avenue, which we follow to North Orange avenue.

Turning north we return to Winter Park, where we enter New England avenue again, passing the Congregational Church and the site of its new building at the corner of Interlachen avenue. Following down Interlachen, the Virginia Inn, another of Winter Park's splendid hotels is to be seen at the next corner of the Boulevard, facing Lake Osceola. The Methodist Church is on the left and farther on is to be seen the fine winter residence of Mr. C. H. Morse, of Chicago, whose park is to be seen on the right, facing Lake Osceola and abounding with choice varieties of trees, shrubs and flowers. Here an interesting totem of an Indian Chieftan's head carven on an ancient cypress bears witness to the days when Osceola and his warriors pitched their camp on the lake shore. A little farther on the drive is concluded at the attractive Country Club house on the golf links.

It would be hard to find such consistent beauty, good paving, fine homes, and evidence of enterprise as one sees on this drive anywhere else in Florida, for the same distance and it is an indication of the splendid future awaiting the whole region.

Winter Park
Florida



The Home of
ROLLINS COLLEGE



ROLLINS PRESS PRINT, WINTER PARK