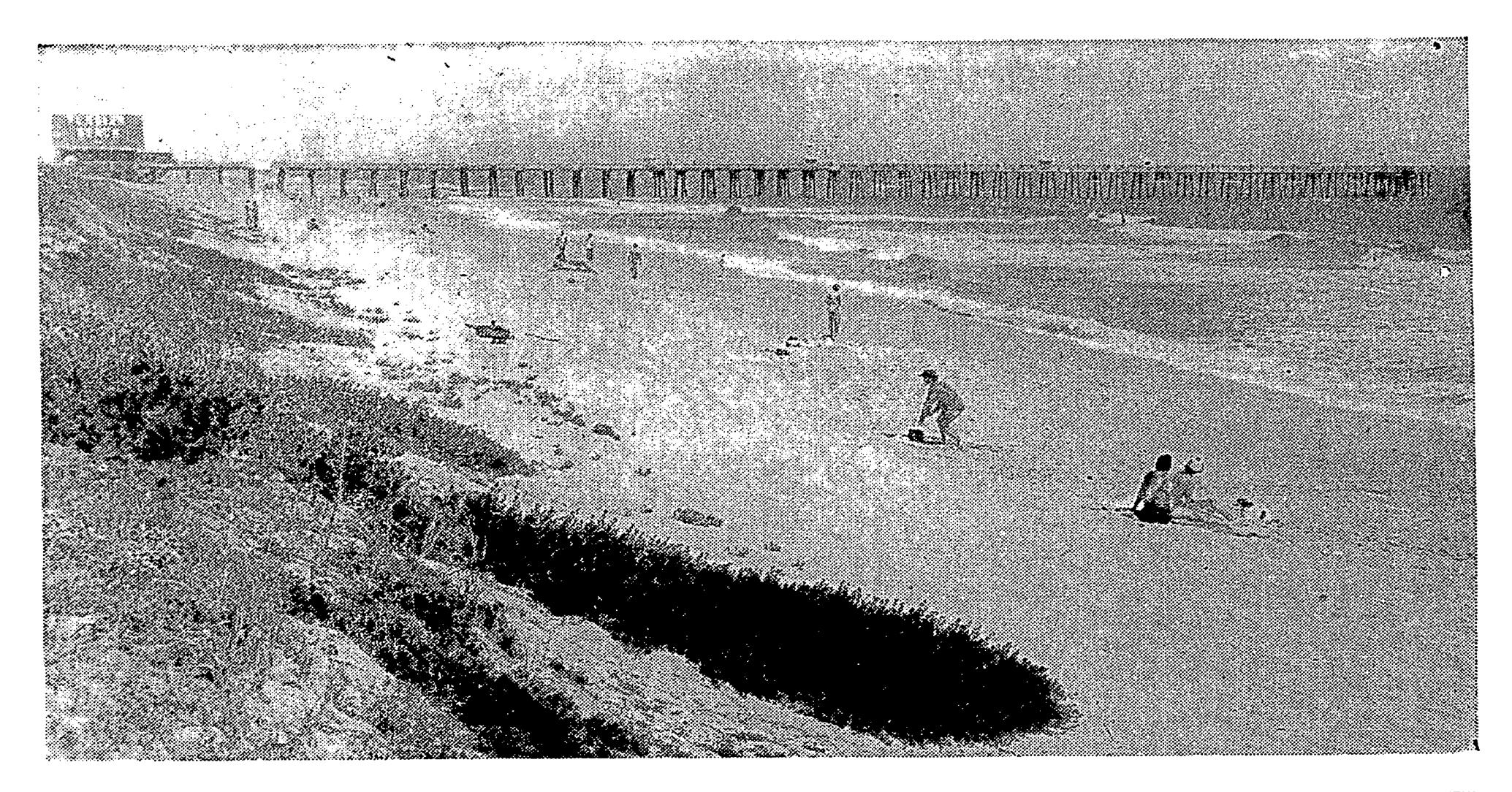
## Flagler Beach Has More Sand Than People



THEO C. HEIN LONG AND NARROW—An uncrowded section of the 10-mile-long stretch of ocean frontage in Florida's Flagler Beach.

By C. E. WRIGHT

LAGLER BEACH, Fla.

—Not all seaside areas in Florida are overcrowded, not even during the summer months, when millions of people from outof-state and inland Florida flock to the beaches. This small community, lying 15 miles south of Marineland and 15 miles north of Ormond Beach and with 10 miles of ocean frontage within its corporate limits, is one such place.

Flagler Beach and the county in which it is situated were named for Henry M. Flagler, the pioneer railroad and hotel builder who had a great deal to do with the early development of Florida's east coast. But the magic touch that brought fame and fortune to many Florida communities passed by this area. By Automobile

The railroad that Flagler built—the Florida East Coast Railway.—passes eight miles to the west of the ocean

highway. There is no passenger service on that line now, so all of Flagler Beach's visitors come and go by automobile.

The "Main Street" of Flagler Beach is State Route AlA, which hugs the beach so closely that, during some very severe storms, the highway has been closed to traffic. Many motorists who are not in too much of a hurry take this ocean route, rather than the faster major highways, because of the expansive views it provides.

## Left Behind

In the early 1920's, Flagler County, including the beach section, became involved in the Florida land boom. Most of the other areas that were hit by the depression that followed the boom recovered in time; however, Flagler County was somehow left behind despite its location between bustling Daytona Beach and historic St. Augustine, both of

which have many more visitors.

The very fact that Flagler Beach has lagged in resort development gives it a certain advantage for those low-budget vacationists who enjoy being near the ocean. Water sports naturally predominate here, with bathing, surfing, boating, fishing and even water-skiing on the nearby Intracoastal Waterway the leading attractions.

A fishing pier in Flagler Beach extends into the ocean for 852 feet. The cost to fish all day is 65 cents; for a month, it is \$5.20. Tackle can be bought or rented, and live bait is on sale. Among the varieties caught from this pier are Spanish and king mackerel, sea trout, bluefish, sea bass, drum and flounder. There is also good surf fishing.

Surfing is also a popular sport along this long beach. The contour of the ocean floor at this point is said to be

conducive to the creation of the long, big waves that surfers like to ride. A number of state and regional surfing contests have been held here.

## Sailing on Lake

But all water sports are not confined to the ocean. Gore Lake, which is six miles inland, offers fresh water fishing, boating and water-skiing. A good deal of sailboating is done on this fairly large lake. Also, the Intracoastal Waterway offers many opportunities for water sports.

Flagler Beach is now oriented largely to a tourist economy. With less than 1,000 residents, those who are not employed in agriculture or in the woodlands derive their livelihood directly or indirectly from tourism. There is one 60-room hotel and 18 motels; all face the ocean and are within a stone's throw of the beach.

There are no chain motels and none that can be classified in the luxury class. Most of them are small and individually owned, but those looking for bargains will find few oceanfront spots in Florida that compare.

Lodging rates range from \$4 to \$10 a day a couple, even at the height of the summer season. Kitchenette apartments, fully furnished, are available a short walk from the beach. They rent for as low as \$35 a week.

## Surrounded by Forests

Flagler Beach is long and narrow—about 10 miles long and a mile wide—with the town limits ending at the Intracoastal Waterway. Much of the area surrounding Flagler Beach is dense forest, mostly pinelands, in which there are deer and other game.

There is no manufacturing industry of any importance here. For many years, the Lehigh Portland Cement Company had a large plant nearby, but it was closed a few years ago.