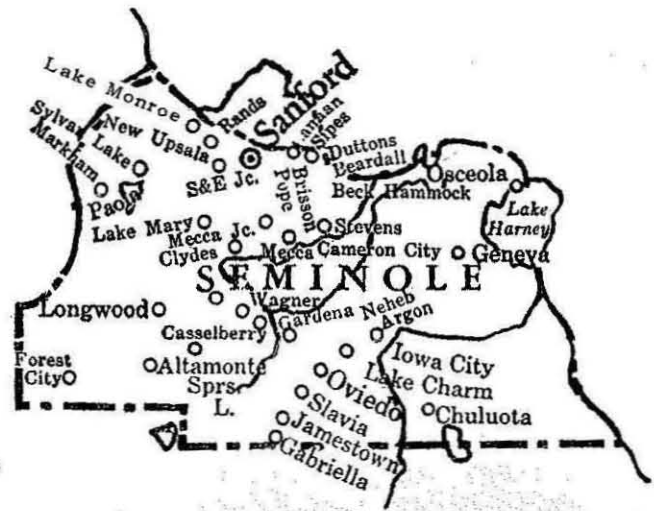


Seminole County

COUNTY SEAT: *Sanford*

POPULATION: 40,000

INCORPORATED CITIES: *Altamonte Springs, Casselberry, Longwood, Oviedo, Sanford.*



SEMINOLE COUNTY, one of the smallest counties in the State, is located in Central Florida. It has an area of 225,280 acres. It is bordered by Volusia, Lake, Orange, and Brevard counties and has only 352 square miles of territory. Sanford, the county seat, is 20 miles north of Orlando, 40 miles southwest of Daytona Beach, and 80 miles northeast of Lakeland, on the St. Johns River and Lake Monroe.

The elevation above sea level is 30 feet at Sanford. Average annual rainfall is 50.51 inches, with the heaviest rain in June, July, and August. Annual average temperature is 72.1 degrees, with an average low of 61.6 degrees in January and an average high of 82.1 degrees in August.

General agriculture is the county's main source of income and principal activity. Allied industries such as fertilizer manufacturing, precooling and food processing, and ice manufacturing are also important sources of income.

The leading and most important agricultural enterprise is celery growing. A number of other truck crops, including lettuce, peppers, romaine, escarole, cabbage, cauliflower, string beans, eggplant, and endive, are produced and shipped in large quantities. The principal farm crops are corn and forage. In 1954 there were 789 farms in the county embracing 182,305 acres of farm lands; 5,915 acres were planted to vegetables

in 1955-56. Sanford is the location of a State Farmers' Market.

The highlands of the county produce citrus of good quality, with 9,700 acres planted to citrus in 1955-56. Grapefruit and other small fruits are also grown. Fern growing has been a productive industry for many years, and shipments are made throughout the year to florists in the United States and Canada. The production of azaleas is also a major agricultural pursuit, particularly at Casselberry. There are 133,900 acres of commercial timberlands in the county, 67.2 per cent of the total county area, and income from this source is of great importance. Mineral resources include peat and mineral water.

The Sanford Naval Air Station, the U. S. Navy's only Heavy Attack Training Unit, is located at Sanford. The entire Farm Team System of the New York Giants trains here. There are two public libraries in the county, one at Sanford and one at Longwood. There are approximately fifty-five churches. There are two golf courses.

Assessed valuation of Seminole County in 1956 was \$53,761,779. Retail sales totalled \$28,081,000, and banking resources amounted to \$23,200,000. Annual wages in 1956 totalled \$9,234,786. Effective buying income was \$1,104 per capita and \$39,065,000 for the county.

Quail, duck, turkey, dove, deer, and bear are found in this section. Fresh-water bass, perch, bream, catfish, and jack are caught here.

There are twenty elementary and secondary schools in the county, with an enrollment of 8,094 pupils in 1956-57. There are seventy-five hospital beds available. A daily newspaper, the Sanford Herald, is published in the county.

U. S. highways 17 and 92 and Florida highways 46, 415, 419, 426, and 441 enter the county. Rail service is provided by Seaboard Airline Railway and Atlantic Coast

Line, and bus service is available by Greyhound Lines.

Seminole County, formed in 1913, was named for the Seminole Indian tribe which came to the Florida peninsula in the early 1700's. During the Indian wars, Fort Mellon was located at the present site of Sanford; a monument now marks the site of the fort and Fort Mellon Park commemorates the name of Captain Mellon, killed here in action against the Indians. The county seat was later developed by General Sanford, the United States Minister to Belgium during the War Between the States.

