



Mud bathing with the radioactive mineral mud, near spring outlet (below).



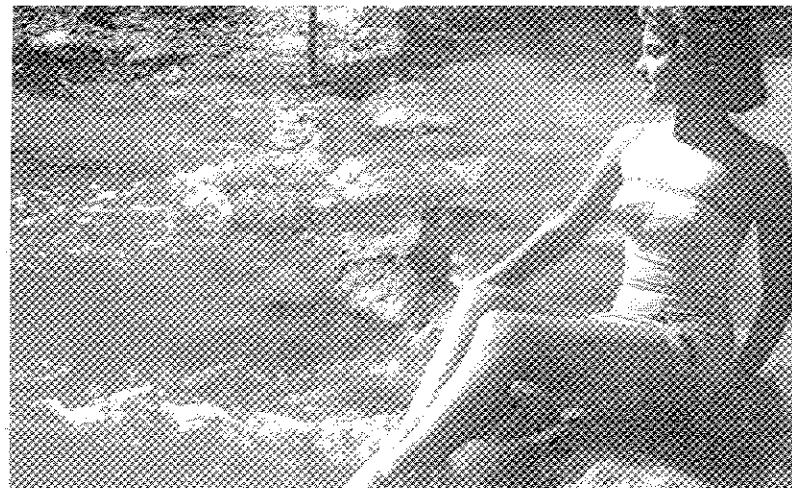
LIVE

HEALTHIER,
HAPPIER,
LONGER!

at
Warm Mineral Springs



(Left) Aerial view of Spring and Beach.



(Above) Spring outlet, where 9,000,000 gallons flow daily.

10' x 120' HOMESITES
\$790.00 up

BEAUTIFUL 2 BEDROOM
MASONRY HOUSE and LOT
\$7,990.00

On Fine Asphalt Road

3 BEDROOM FROM
\$10,990.00



Seven years later another journey was attempted, this time they sailed up the west side of the Florida coast where a landing was made in what is now known as Charlotte Harbor. Davis *5, says, "Ponce sailed up the beach looking for a harbor," and Huerrera *6, says, "He sailed west, northwest." Davis describes his journey via Dry Tartugar or Jefferson Island. It does not seem possible to construe this in any other way than his search for the harbor described by Ortiz. Here the Indians, under Carlos, told him they knew of the fountain, but they were quite hostile and sent Ponce de Leon northward, where they ambushed him. As the party fled for their lives Ponce was mortally wounded by an arrow in the thigh. The wound became infected, or was caused by a poison arrow, and Ponce de Leon returned to his ship and died as a result of his wounds. This is said to have occurred in May or June, 1522. So ends the story of the life of Ponce de Leon, and his search for the "Fountain of Youth."

Healing Qualities of "The Fountain"

Waters, to have any of the healing qualities described by the Indians and Friar Ortiz, would have to contain certain mineral salts needed by the body that would have an alkalizing effect in the system and have a laxative action in the body.

Physicians know that one of the causes of sickness in the human family is a lack of minerals and mineral salts which the body must have for good health. They also know that sickness is usually accompanied by an over-acid condition, and the treatment for many diseases is today one of alkalizing the body. Constipation is known to be associated with most diseases and usually grows worse the older a person becomes.

For the past fifty years the people living on the lower west coast of Florida have known of a spring of clear, warm, salt water about one mile from the Myakka River. This spring has a year round temperature of 87 degrees fahrenheit and comes from deep in the heart of the earth, its depth never having been plumbed. U. S. engineers sounded it to a depth of 2,900 feet, but a shortage of line prevented them from reaching the bottom. The flow was estimated to be approximately 17,000 gallons every three minutes, or 9 million gallons daily.

The walls of this spring give the appearance of being solid and composed of material of volcanic origin. The waters have been analyzed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and contain silica, iron, calcium, magnesium, sodium and other minerals. On a dark night fluorescent shafts of light may be seen darting this way and that from its depths.

The spring was inaccessible formerly, but with the building of the Tamiami Trail it is now about one mile from a good road. This spring is hidden among the palms and palmettos, as described by Ortiz, and is visited annually by hundreds of people who will attest to its qualities.

While no medical records of cures are available, I personally know of a number of people who declare that they have obtained relief from rheumatism, arthritis and neuritis by bathing in its waters and drinking them. One man makes an annual pilgrimage to lose weight and declares he has lost as much as forty pounds in a winter season, during which time he bathes in the spring and drinks its waters. Another declares he lost a pound per day.



Float effortlessly in the 87°, healing mineral water. Ideal conditions for hydro-therapy — an obvious reason why Ponce de Leon believed this to be a youth restoring spring.



Many Indian tribes passed the word along about the magic water of the eternally hot spring... through them the story reached DeLeon

is now known as El Jobean. Being of a curious nature Father Ortiz set himself to quizzing the natives by sign language as to their destination and the purpose of their journey.

The Chief pointing up the river, traced an outline of their course in the sand of the beach, and taking the Friar by the arm led him to a sheltered camp. There he saw a motley array of the aged, halt, lame, sick and blind, some of them evidently on their last journey. Returning to the beach the Chief proceeded as best he could to tell the Friar that on the morrow they would resume their trip and that before sunset they would come to the place where their journey would end. Here it was that in ancient times the Great Spirit had placed a mountain that flamed, and afterward, taking compassion on His red children and taking note how they sickened and died, had caused the fiery mountain to sink, and warm healing waters to gush from the earth. The Priest gathered from the Chief that he would return shortly with all the aggregation of aged and sick members of the tribe made well again by the magic of the waters he had mentioned.

Friar Ortiz goes on to describe the resumption of the journey, saying, "we journeyed probably three quarters of the next day, and then branched off from the river, taking a course winding and full of turnings; now the waters changed from brown to a greyish blue, and although it was salt, it was not the salt of the sea. We came finally where the low banks of the stream began to narrow and grow steep, and after some further progress, coming to a natural landing place, we disembarked."

Friar Ortiz speaks of the lame being carried on litters and how after a short journey across the fields they came to a large spring hidden among the palms and palmettos. He also gives a long and rambling account descriptive of the crater from which the stream came forth, giving the dimensions, the method of treatment used by the Indians, and the fact that the crater was apparently bottomless. He also gives a highly enthusiastic account of the cures effected, especially dwelling on several severe cases of what was evidently rheumatism, and several others that were described as "a bad humor of the skin and a running soreness of the eyes."

Except for some further references to the wonderful rejuvenating qualities of the waters on the aged, the journal seemed to stop at this point. Evidently that portion of it describing the escape and return of Ortiz to Porto Rico, his route and manner of getting back there, was retained by Ponce de Leon and in all probability worn out in constant use during his several attempts to locate the healing fountain.

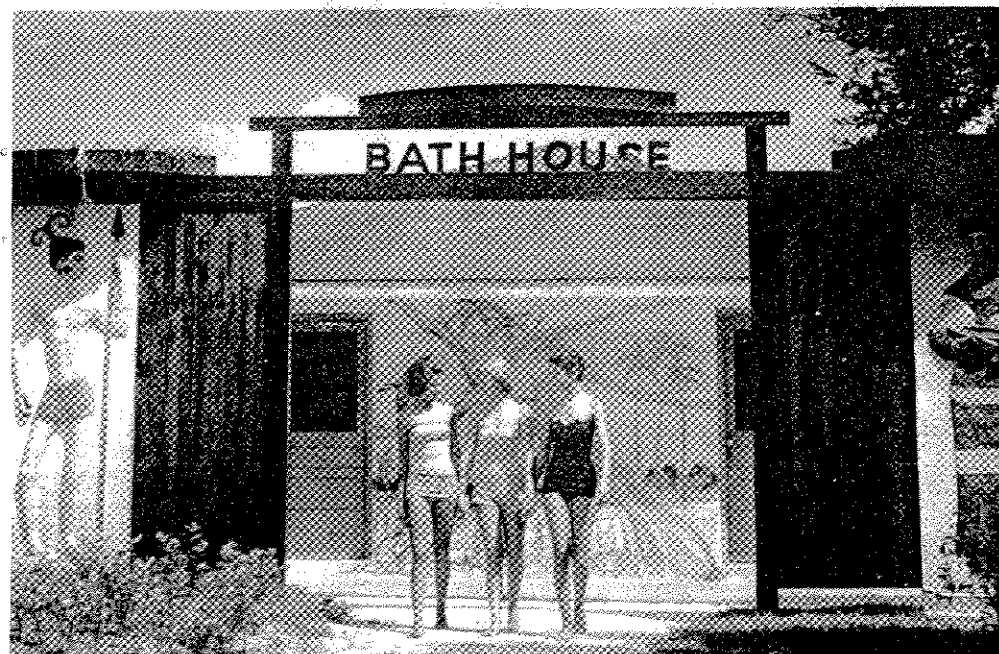
The Quest of Ponce de Leon

It is a matter of record that Pope Leo the X received word from Peter Martyn, *7, telling the Pope of the finding of Friar Ortiz. "Among the Islands of the North side of Hispanola (West Indies) there is one 325 leagues distance, say they who have searched the same in which there is a continual spring of running water of such marvelous virtue that the water thereof being drunk perhaps with some diet maketh old men young again. And here I would make protestation to Your Holiness not to think this to be said lightly or rashly, for they have so spread this rumor for a truth throughout all the court, that not only all the people, but of them who wis-

First, I would like to know how many people know about the Mineral Springs in Venice. I am referring to the people who have arthritis. I have had Oslio Arthritis for ten years and have taken all the wonder drugs with just temporary relief, also spent one winter in Tucson, Arizona. The climate while there helps me a lot, but returning to Michigan where I have lived all my life in a short time I was back where I started from with pains over my entire body. I then entered a clinic where I had X rays of all the bones in my body, plus several tests, at the end of a month in the clinic I was told I had Oslio Arthritis of the spine and almost every joint in my body, but that I would never be in a wheel chair but would have pain all my life.

Being connected with the medical profession all the working years of my life I knew a little about the score, "The sun and a warmer climate" where I could get a little relief. My first thought was to go back to Tucson. My husband and I talked it over and we decided to go to Florida first to see if that would be the answer and we would be nearer to our relatives and friends. We came down here the 1st of March and stayed until the last of April 1955; going to the Mineral Springs 4 or 5 times a week. I gained 18 pounds, could eat, sleep, and walk so much better. We returned to Michigan, sold our home, came to Florida and bought a home in the neighborhood of the Springs Oct. 1st, '56. We go to the Springs every day and I feel so much better in that short time. I don't say it is a cure, but it has given me with the help of God, the thing I have been looking for, "relief". I can not say enough for the Mineral Springs, but only hope more people will find it.

Gertrude Myers,
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* References

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4. Juan Ponce de Leon, by Frederick A. Ober.
5. History of Juan Ponce de Leon's Voyages to Florida, Source Records by Thomas Frederick Davis.
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8. Luyans, Natives of what is now the Bahamas.
9. The Landing of Ponce de Leon, Charles Bingham Reynolds.
10. Fray Antonio, the Scribe for Ponce de Leon, also the Priest of the Party.
11. Oviedo, The Spanish Historian.
12. Spanish Voyages of Discovery, Washington Irving.
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Excerpts from an article on Warm Mineral Springs written by Francis Malloy,
215 Constitution Avenue N.E., Washington 2, D.C.
who made a personal visit to interview these people.

"Talk to Iris Woolcock, artist-photographer from Brattleboro, Vermont, and she'll tell you how she broke her back in 1946 and went to the Springs to recuperate. 'I had phlebitis, pneumonia and pleurisy to further complicate things,' she says. 'But a year and a half later I drove, alone, a jeep pulling a 33-foot trailer over the Alaska Highway to Fairbanks. I feel I virtually owe my life to that water.'"

"William H. Brown, retired from the printing business in Monroe, Michigan, said when he came to Warm Mineral Springs in 1952, 'I couldn't stand up to shave, and couldn't walk 25 feet without resting, had to depend on two canes. Now I walk several blocks without stopping, and without any kind of stick.'"

"The George Morse family drove from Crockett, California, this year to join grandma, Mrs. L. D. Jones, who has found in the Springs the first relief from arthritis since she became crippled 30 years ago. 'I am very grateful,' says Mrs. Jones, simply."

And, as noted writer Anita Loos reports, in Harper's Bazaar, December 1953 — "About an hour's drive from town, (Sarasota) there is a cure establishment which, if it were in Europe, would be crowded with arthritic Americans. There are stores of miraculous cures . . . the place is attractive and there is a sulphur lake. If you're too rheumatic to swim, that's all right, because you can't sink anyway."

SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS OF WARM MINERAL SPRINGS WATER:

	PARTS PER MILLION
SODIUM AND POTASSIUM	5,162
MAGNESIUM	609
CALCIUM	512
IRON	TRACE
SILICA	6
SULPHATES	1,677
CHLORIDES	9,300
FREE CARBON DIOXIDE	6