

"Gram Says"

All the news; the Sputnik has been launched.

The Army, Navy and Air Force now at ease among themselves but each trying to be the first, the biggest and the best at launching another satellite.

Wonder if the government will finally come to life and realize our forces must work together to save ourselves from destruction if it hasn't wasted too much time already. Just because we have a satellite doesn't mean our problems are any less urgent.

Now a most interesting topic all over the U. S., our weather. Florida has surely suffered and it will take some time to recover.

The first freeze was damaging but there was hope of saving citrus fruit, which was more than enough to supply the trade. Vegetables were frosted and in low sections, destroyed. But the gardens and truck patches were in the process of replanting. Last week with a harder freeze and lower temperatures it left its toll. Smug pots burned but the cold from the North held its icy fingers tight in

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its grasp.

As we passed through the orange groves, the grounds were colored by the fruits which had been dropped. Tons and tons of luscious lemons, grapefruit, oranges and tangerines, work of the orchard men, destroyed over night.

In the vegetable districts farther south, as near Florida City and Homestead, the grounds are piled with tomatoes, peppers, beans, etc.

The migrant farm workers are now without work, penniless and hungry. The Red Cross is helping there.

Again there is the helpless conditions of the cattle men. The cattle are dying by the hundreds each day. February being the coldest month, and without grass, it is estimated a loss of at least 275,000 cattle will perish.

But today with a temperature of 60 degrees Tampa is celebrating "Gasparilla Day." The Pirate ships destroy the Navy war ships, enter the Hillsborough River and take over Tampa. The invasion schedule begins at 8 a. m. and continues through 4 p. m. Streets are crowded.

Here I sit with a bad back watching by TV. Forty bands and miles of beautiful floats.

We were delightfully surprised when Earl and Beulah Edmonds with their daughter, Mrs. Beck, husband and two sons from Washington, D. C., stopped to see us on their way South. We also had the John Norths who spent some time with us before going on farther South. Here we have many new friends, as well as old ones, and are never without activities.

The Community House is always open with a fire place alive and sparkling. There is a TV which can be used at any time. At night we play cards, bingo, have pictures and Saturday square dancing.

Fishing has not been good but Grand-dad was out twice and time caught too many.

We are comfortable and know by the weather man, that it is much colder up there. I do miss the beautiful poinsettias, hybiscus, azelias and camellias, which have always been a part of Florida winters but we have our tall pines, stately palms and live oaks, which are still trimmed with Florida moss, to grace our parks and avenues.

Here at our "Trailer Court" you can look across the troubled, uneasy waters of the bay and at sunset the heavenly colors are captured by the water and never can you ever see a scene so lovely.

So Florida will never lose her charm and interest to those who have spent many winters within her Sunshine State.

Gram, S. E. B.