



Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



CHULUOTA DIDN'T MAKE IT AS BOOM TOWN

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CHULUOTA --- You may take your choice on why Chuluota was named Chuluota. Either choice would be of Indian derivation.

There are some real Florida history buffs who live here, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mickler, who occupy the old house (photo) which the old Flagler railroad built for its local agent. The Micklers say Chuluota may mean "place where the foxes are," from the Seminole Indians.

On the other hand, J. Clarence Simpson, an expert of Florida place-names of Indian derivation, thinks the word may signify pine tree. The Greek "chule" is pine, and "Eto" is tree; although a second element has it that it might be "Ote" meaning island. From earliest times in Florida, an open area of pine surrounded by hardwoods has been called a pine island. And there are plenty of pine around here.

At any rate, this little community on State Road 419 in Seminole County is an interesting place. It has suffered many setbacks in its history, but keeps bouncing back for another life. And with the spillover from the Disney World project having its effects here, the town is blossoming again.

The Micklers' "homey" home is an aging, white, two-story, semi-Victorian structure. Besides being a very liveable home, it also is the mail order business house for the Micklers' Floridiana book trade. They've always been collectors of Florida books, maps and artifacts, and they eventually it into a business. In book shelves in every nook and cranny of the old house are stored 10,000, a probably many more, volumns---all about Florida.

Chuluota came into being about 1874 when Robert Mills came here and built a home on Lake Mills, named for himself. The town wasn't an instant success. But in 1910 the Florida East Coast Railway built a spur line from New Smyrna through Maytown, Lake Charm (now Oviedo), Chuluota, Bithlo and Kenansville. The spur also extended to Okeechobee. In 1913, C. D. Brumley came here to serve as agent for the Flagler road, to sell off land which the company had acquired. The homes now owned by the Micklers, was built on demand of Mrs. Brumley who wanted "a decent house!"

