

## 1925 Visit to Nevins Fruit Packing House

The Museum is a great place to discover what North Brevard was like in the old days. Here's an interesting quote from the 1925 diary of a part-time Titusville resident:

"January 7 - Wednesday...Grady [Wright] & I are all about in his car most all over town later all of us except Norris [Froscher] go in his big car up to Mims & into the big packing house there. I had no idea there was such a big one there & they were a lot of girls & men packing them & on leaving there they gave Grady a boxful of nice fruit tho the fruit was rejected. We then came on through the big Hammoc & we see so many Orange trees full of fruit & many that had been striped of the fruit Then on to the big packing house owned & operated J.J. Parrish then on home off of a fine trip."

Apparently, Mims had three packing houses near Hwy 46 and the Jacksonville, Tampa & Key West Railroad. The largest was called the Blue Goose. The reference to rejected fruit fits with the Indian River Fruit Label being a trademarked name, known for high quality and uniformity of their fruit. But what was this "Big Hamoc?" Turns out it is the moniker given to the expanse of low-lying area east of the Hwy 1 ridge to the Indian River Lagoon in the vicinity of Hammock Rd. This land had largely been cleared of its natural vegetation and cultivated for citrus production. Senator J.J. Parrish (1877-1948) owned and operated the Nevins Fruit Co. and his original packing house was not the one you see on Parrish Rd., but was actually at the end of Jay Jay Rd. by the RR tracks near the Lagoon.

11/20/11



Senator J. P. Phelan, Sr. and the family at harvest time in Tyndall Hammock 1911

