

January 1960

## Cable-drawn Ferry Collides with Progress, circa 1960s

Hampton Dunn

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/dunn\\_phototouring](https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/dunn_phototouring)

---

### Recommended Citation

Dunn, Hampton, "Cable-drawn Ferry Collides with Progress, circa 1960s" (1960). *Hampton Dunn Photouring Florida Collection*. 50.

[https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/dunn\\_phototouring/50](https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/dunn_phototouring/50)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Floridiana - General at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in Hampton Dunn Photouring Florida Collection by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@usf.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@usf.edu).



# Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



## CABLE-DRAWN FERRY COLLIDES WITH 'PROGRESS'

By HAMPTON DUNN

ORANGE SPRINGS --- This is Nowheresville, site of the busy operation of Florida's last cable ferry. The small, rickety vessel has been helping people, animals and vehicles to get from one side to the other of the enchanting Oklawaha River since 1882.

It is not far from the tiny community of Orange Springs, which sits astride SR 315 in Marion County, The ferry, route serves as a gateway to the great Ocala National Forest on the east side of the river. The ferry landing becomes a rallying point for hunters and fishermen going to the numerous camps in the area. A few folk live permanently in "Hog Valley" and "Cracker Landing" and their children use the ferry every day to go to school.

Bruce McRae, present operator of the ancient ferry, which chugs across the dark waters under power of a 5 h. p. outboard motor, looks a little sad as he relates that the old cable drawn ferry will have to make way for "progress" one of these days soon. The landing will be swallowed by a vast floodpan created by the Rodman Dam down river, part of the giant Florida barge canal project. However, it is expected a bigger and more powerful ferry will continue service over the wider course.

The ferry is a private enterprise amid the giant government projects, the forest and the canal. Frank Jordan operated the ferry from its beginning until 1934. A stoplight in the river halts boat traffic while the ferry trudges across stream with its car-go.

