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***Lightfoot, True Tales of a Pioneer Wanderer as Told to Marian Hobson Gruthers* by Marian Hobson Gruthers**

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Largo . . . Then 'Til . . . A History of Largo, Florida. By Largo Bicentennial Committee. Largo, 1980. Largo Litho, Inc. Maps. Photographs. Pp. 218. Cloth.

Largo . . . Then 'Til is the work of the Largo Bicentennial Committee chaired by the mayor, Thomas Feaster. Longtime Largo resident Sadie Johnson did much in compiling this book. The book has the format of a high school yearbook divided into sections of writings, photographs, and other primary source documents. The table of contents includes such divisions as: A Chronicle, Schools, Churches, Police, Recreation, Banks, Reminiscences and Civic and Fraternal Organizations. The section, A Chronicle, begins with family histories of the pioneer families and then continues with a summary of important events that happened year by year since. The collection of photographs and old documents make this a valuable resource for historians and history buffs alike.

“Reminiscences” is a delightful series of stories told by old timers of life in the last seventy or eighty years in Largo. Some of these stories come from the oral history library at Heritage Park, the Pinellas County Historical Museum located in Largo. The reader must remember that the facts presented in this section are only as good as the memories of the storytellers.

One interesting quote to those who now fish in the Tampa Bay Area was Taver Bayly's comment on local fishing at the turn of the century. “Fishing in those days was just wonderful. You cannot imagine today how it could be so good. We would go down to Bayly's Bluff – particularly in that spot – you could get all the stone crabs you wanted in no time at all. If Mother said she wanted a five-pound red fish, we would go to the mouth of McKay's Creek and with just a hand-line with a fiddler crab for bait, we would catch a ten-pounder, put it back, catch a little one, put it back until we caught one just the right size.” It is good that we have history books, because if you visited McKay Creek today you would never believe that this story could be possible.

There are several weaknesses in the book. One of these is a lack of an index. For a book of 218 pages it is very difficult to find a name or place. The lack of footnotes and bibliography also make it difficult to use for further research. Throughout the book there are corrections made by hand in ink which should have been corrected by the proofreaders.

Largo has grown from a town of several thousand people in 1960 to a city which now ranks as the fourteenth largest in the state of Florida. This book should contribute to the community's sense of pride and unity.

James E. Jones

Lightfoot, True Tales of a Pioneer Wanderer as Told to Marian Hobson Gruthers. By Marian Hobson Gruthers. Tampa, 1976. N.P. Photographs. Map. Pp. 147. Paper.

Lightfoot is a collection of stories about Thomas Claude Lightfoot, a pioneer who was born in 1893 in San Antonio, Florida, a community about twenty-five miles north of Tampa in Pasco

County. He moved at an early age to a homestead of 160 acres near Tampa in what is now Temple Terrace. He and his family later moved to Sarasota.

The booklet is arranged into twenty-four chapters which cover the various episodes in the life of Thomas Lightfoot. As of 1976, when the booklet was written, Thomas and his wife Mary celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

The episodes are based upon conversations with Thomas Lightfoot, materials gleaned from several Sarasota newspapers, and from Karl Grismer's book, *Story of Sarasota*. The chapters not only cover the career of Lightfoot, but major events in Florida history are mentioned which fill in the background of life in Florida before the turn of the century. Hunting and fishing trips were a part of any boy's life - but some adventures with chewing tobacco, panthers in the cypress and wild parakeets in the plum trees set these stories apart.

Lightfoot follows in the same vein as the Foxfire Books, in recounting the life of the frontier, when most of the necessities of life were produced on the farm. Anyone interested in this era will find a pleasant evening of entertainment here.

Joseph Hipp